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# Fish News

May 18, 2012

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## **Copper River Salmon Season in Full Swing**

Commercial fishermen are busy trying to net a healthy chunk of change as they haul in the well-known Copper River salmon. The season began yesterday morning. However, some fishermen reported that the run was off to a slow start.

According to a MSNBC/KTUU news story, a fisherman reported hearing someone on the radio quote the price of king salmon at \$6.50 per pound. The salmon caught yesterday was processed in Cordova later that day and then shipped off to Seattle at 2 a.m. this morning.

[Read more: MSNBC/KTUU article](#)

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## **FREE Safety Training Scheduled for Commercial Fishermen in King Cove and Sand Point**

Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) will offer a fishing vessel safety and drill conductor course in King Cove on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, and a second course at the Sand Point School on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. These courses are 1-day, 10-hour training sessions focusing on the U.S Coast Guard training requirements for commercial fishing

vessels. They are available FREE to commercial fishermen, thanks to funding from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Alaska Department of Commerce and Community Development and the U.S. Coast Guard.



Please register in advance by contacting AMSEA in Sitka at 888-508-3287, toll-free. More information and online registration is available at [www.amsea.org](http://www.amsea.org).

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## Council to Take Final Action on GOA Halibut PSC during June Meeting



Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Halibut PSC (Prohibited Species Catch) will be one of the major issues during the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's meeting in Kodiak next month. The Council is planning to take final action during its meeting, scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> in Kodiak. The Council is scheduling 20 hours on this topic. Visit the

following link for more information: [GOA Halibut PSC](#).

### **Other items:**

- Final Action on Pribilof BKC Rebuilding Plan.
- The Council amended the agenda earlier this week, removing the BSAI crab management issues.

Visit the following link for more information: [June 2012 Council Agenda](#)

# **AEB's Natural Resource Director Nominated to NPFMC's Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee**

Aleutians East Borough Natural Resources Director Ernie Weiss has been appointed to serve on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee. Ernie was notified earlier this month that Council Chairman Eric Olson approved his nomination to the Committee. Ernie is also a member of the Council's Advisory Panel.



**Ernie Weiss**



**The first SSLMC is scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup> via teleconference.**

The Council recently reconvened the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee (SSLMC). The Committee's objective is to develop an alternative or alternatives for consideration in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for Steller sea lion mitigation measures in the western and central Aleutian Islands.

The first meeting of the SSLMC will be held at 9 – 11 a.m. on May 31, 2012 via teleconference. Larry Cotter will serve as chairman. Visit the following link for the [SSLMC agenda](#).

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## **WASSIP Informational meeting 10 a.m. Friday, June 1, 2012 in Sand Point**

*Video-conference to King Cove, audio link to other participating  
Aleutians East Borough (AEB) Communities  
Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon*

A *Young Fishers Program* presentation by the AEB Natural Resources Department in cooperation with the Aleutians East Borough School District (AEBSD) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

ADF&G is coordinating with the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP) signatory groups to organize informational meetings in the various fishing

regions to re-introduce the WASSIP program in anticipation of reports that will be released in September 2012. WASSIP signatories include Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Aleut Corporation, Aleutians East Borough, Association of Village Council Presidents, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Bristol Bay Native Association, Concerned Area M Fishermen, Kawerak, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

WASSIP is a comprehensive program to sample commercial and subsistence chum and sockeye salmon fisheries in coastal marine areas of western Alaska, from 2006 through 2009. This unprecedented genetic sampling study includes salmon fisheries from Chignik Bay to Kotzebue Sound, stretching over 3,000 km of shoreline. During the four years of fishery sampling, approximately 320,000 samples were collected and some 156,000 samples will have been analyzed by the ADF&G Gene Conservation Laboratory to detail stock composition of fishery harvests.

Those who plan to attend and participate in the meeting include: Eric Volk with ADF&G, Denby Lloyd, member of the WASSIP Advisory Panel; Pat Martin, CAMF's representative on the WASSIP AP; AEB Natural Resources Director Ernie Weiss; and AEB Fisheries Consultant Sam Cotten.

The Young Fishers Program is a collaborative effort of the AEBSD Career & Technical Education program and the AEB Natural Resources Department. Earlier this year, as part of the AEB Young Fishers program, the AEB sponsored two students and an AEBSD teacher/chaperone to attend the Alaska Sea Grant Young Fishermen's Summit in Juneau. The Summit covered topics of interest to Alaska fishermen, including methods for participating in fisheries regulatory and legislative processes. AEBSD video and audio links to AEB communities for this informational meeting in Sand Point is a continuation of the effort to involve young fishers in the fisheries regulatory process.

Following the WASSIP informational meeting, Alaska Peninsula Salmon Fishery Manager Aaron Poetter will hold the 2012 AEB June Salmon Pre-season informational meeting, and will also be available to answer questions about the AEB/ADF&G Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) genetic salmon sampling study. Other area fisheries consultants and processing representatives have been invited and may attend the meeting. The meeting will be held in Sand Point at the AEB offices, video linked to the school in King Cove. Other site locations will be announced when determined.

For more information [www.aebfish.org](http://www.aebfish.org) or contact Ernie Weiss at [eweiss@aeboro.org](mailto:eweiss@aeboro.org), 907-274-7557.

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