



Fish News

Oct. 18, 2011

Congressional Sea Lion Hearing in Seattle Focuses on Fishing Restrictions

Yesterday, the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing in Seattle focusing on the controversial fishing restrictions federal officials claim are needed to help Steller sea lions survive in western Aleutian waters

Congressman Doc Hastings (R - Washington) is requesting NOAA to re-examine the research that prompted NMFS to impose stricter fishing regulations last January. Hastings said those regulations caused an estimated loss to the commercial mackerel and cod fishing industry of at least \$44 million a year and 250 jobs. Hastings said despite the fact that Congress has appropriated more than \$150 million for Steller sea lion research, NOAA is still unable to answer questions regarding whether the commercial fishing industry is limiting food available for Steller sea lions.



The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing in Seattle yesterday on the controversial fishing restrictions in western Aleutian waters.

Congressman Don Young (R - Alaska) said the fisheries service is making regulations with limited information. Furthermore, he said that while it's clear the closures and

restrictions will have devastating effects on the fishermen and fishing communities, it's still unclear whether the sea lions will benefit from the more stringent regulations.

[Read more - ADN article](#)

Alaska's House & Senate to Address Salmon Management in A-Y-K Tomorrow



A hearing on salmon management in the A-Y-K will be held at the Dena'ina Center tomorrow (Oct. 19, 2011) at 2:30 p.m.

A hearing tomorrow at Anchorage's Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center will focus on salmon management in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (A-Y-K) Region. The meeting is being hosted by the Alaska House Special Committee on Fisheries in conjunction with House and

Senate legislators. The hearing will be led by Steve Thompson (R - Fairbanks) and Rep. Bob Herron (D - Bethel). The group

will listen to testimony from state departments, village councils, commercial industries and the public. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will also present information on management and funding for salmon fisheries, community involvement in management decisions and local input regarding policies.

The meeting will begin at 2:30 tomorrow (Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011) at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center - Conference Room 3, 2nd floor. The Dena'ina Center is located at 600 W. Seventh Avenue in downtown Anchorage. For more information, visit the link below.

[Read more - press release](#)

Aleutia Schedules Meeting in Sand Point, King Cove Focusing on P. Cod LLP Lease Program

Aleutia is holding a public meeting at the end of the month regarding the new Pacific cod LLP lease program the National Marine Fisheries Service has developed. Under the

program, Aleutia will lease a limited number of P. cod LLPs (14 in Sand Point and nine in King Cove) on a yearly basis to eligible harvesters. During the meetings, Aleutia representatives, including fisheries consultant Denby Lloyd, will discuss the program, along with proposed selection and eligibility criteria for those interested in leasing an LLP. A limited number of telephone lines may be available for those unable to attend the meeting in person. Those who cannot attend are encouraged to submit written comments by October 31, 2011.



Aleutia is conducting meetings in King Cove and Sand Point on the new P. cod LLP lease program.



Sand Point meeting:
10 a.m. on Wed., Oct. 26, 2011
AEB building

King Cove meeting:
1 p.m. on Thurs., Oct. 27, 2011
King Cove Harbor House

For more information, please contact Audrey Foster at Aleutia at (907) 383-5909.

AEB Fishermen's Meeting in Seattle Scheduled to Meet Nov. 17th at Silver Cloud Hotel

Next month, the Aleutians East Borough will host its annual fishermen's meeting in Seattle at the **Silver Cloud Hotel** across from CenturyLink Field (formerly Qwest Field). **The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Nov. 17, 2011.** AEB's Natural Resources Director Ernie Weiss and Fisheries Consultant Sam Cotten will be on hand while fishermen discuss how the summer salmon fishing season went. Fishermen are also encouraged to bring up any other issues they'd like to discuss. The AEB fishermen's Meeting is traditionally held every year during the Pacific Marine Expo (a.k.a. Fish Expo) event at CenturyLink Field so fishermen can have the opportunity to discuss issues of concern.



The AEB Fishermen's Meeting will be held at the Silver Cloud Hotel at 10 a.m. on Nov. 17, 2011.

NPFMC Meeting in December to Focus on P. Cod Season Changes, Chinook Bycatch



During its December 2011 Anchorage meeting, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC or Council) will take a first look at a proposal to consider other federal changes to the Pacific cod seasons. A year ago, the council required staff to produce a discussion paper on the subject of changing the opening date for P. cod trawl in the Western Gulf of Alaska. Later, the Council asked staff to expand the paper to include the entire Gulf of Alaska and all gear types.

Another concern raised by some local fishermen is having to choose between starting Jan. 1st for pot cod and fishing in the state tanner crab fishery that begins Jan. 15th. One suggestion has been to postpone the pot season (federal) until sometime after the state tanner season. A discussion paper on this issue will be presented during the December meeting. Interested fishermen may want to consider expressing their views on the possible season date changes during this meeting.

Other issues at the December Council meeting include:

- Final action on the GOA Halibut PSC
- Final action on GOA P. cod Jig Fishery Management
- Discussion paper on GOA Chinook Bycatch - all trawl fisheries
- Final action on Salmon FMP.
- Final action on CQE in Area 4B.

For more information, visit the link below on the three meeting outlook. If you'd like to get in-depth information on what happened during the October meeting in Unalaska, another link is provided below.

[Three Meeting Outlook - NPFMC](#)

[News & Notes - Oct. 2011 NPFMC newsletter](#)

You are reading FISH NEWS, published quarterly by the Aleutians East Borough to help keep the lines of communication open among Alaska's commercial fishing interests. If you would like to have FISH NEWS delivered to you via e-mail subscription, send an e-mail message to ltanis@aeboro.org . For more information about our fisheries, our people, and our communities, please visit us at www.aleutianseast.org, www.aebfish.org and check out our blog at <http://aebfishblog.blogspot.com/>.