



## Lisa Fox, Fishery Area Biologist, Bases in Sand Point during Summer Fishing Season

Elisabeth (“Lisa”) Fox, Fishery Area Biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), is now stationed in Sand Point for the summer fishing season. Fox was hired for the job in early May, taking over the position formerly held by Matthew Keyse. Fox arrived in Sand Point on May 16<sup>th</sup>, and is looking forward to getting to know the community better.



Elisabeth (“Lisa”) Fox, fishery Area Biologist with ADF&G, is now based in Sand Point for the summer

“I’m looking forward to this new job,” she said. “It’s going to be a different position for me. I think it’ll be fun.”

Fox is already very familiar with the Aleutian Islands and the Alaska Peninsula. Her educational background includes a bachelor’s degree in biology from UAF and a Master’s degree in fisheries from the University of Washington. She started working for ADF&G in 2003, conducting weir work as a technician in Kodiak, where she grew up. Afterward, she worked four summers on the Alaska Peninsula as a biologist for a genetics research project, based in Sand Point. Following that position, she focused on finishing up her graduate degree. After graduating with her Master’s degree, she worked in Anchorage as a fisheries geneticist for three years. When she and her husband started a family, they decided to move back to Kodiak. Her daughter is now 2 ½ years old. Shortly afterward, she landed the job in Cold Bay as an assistant biologist for the last two summers.

“I was the assistant for Matt Keyse for two seasons,” she said. “I was mostly assisting him with harvest reporting and aerial surveys. I didn’t have as much contact with the

town (of Sand Point) or the fleet. I made it over to King Cove a few times, but I didn't make it to Sand Point much. Now I'm here in Sand Point."

Fox will report on everything that happens during the fishing season and will do whatever preparation work is needed for the following year later in 2016.

"The first opening for the June fishery (for setnetters) is June 7<sup>th</sup>," she said. "When we start seeing fish come out of the water, we'll start knowing what's going to happen as far as timing, volume and size of fish. I had one gentleman tell me recently that chum salmon was caught during subsistence fishing, so I'm getting reports about what people are seeing."

Fox said as far as later in the summer, the pink salmon forecast appears to be fairly strong. She said in recent years, the even years have been poor for pink salmon runs. However, that could be changing.

"There hasn't been a whole lot of harvest," she said. "So they've been building back up. The winter conditions for juvenile pink salmon rearing in the winter of 2014/2015 were really warm. That's typically good for pink salmon survival, at least in freshwater. So if that is all correct, then it should be a decent pink year, which would be the first time in a while that an even year has been good for pinks."

Fox said that even though ADF&G doesn't put out a forecast for sockeye in the South Peninsula, there is a forecast that goes out for Chignik.

"That will kind of determine some of the fishing opportunities in the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM)," Fox said. "The early run for Chignik is looking good as far as the forecast. The late run is looking about average, so there should be some fishing opportunity for fish that are bound for Chignik."

Fox said ADF&G is planning to hire someone to fill her previous position (assistant biologist) based in Cold Bay during the summer. In addition to that position, there's also an assistant biologist stationed in Sand Point.

"Between the three positions (hers included), we do aerial surveys on everything from Kupreanof to Dutch Harbor," she said. "We also survey all around Unimak Island, everywhere up to Stepovak Bay. It's such a huge area that we can't fly all the surveys with just two people, so we're going to try to get that vacant position filled as soon as possible."

Fox said without the three positions filled, it would be difficult to complete all the survey work necessary to keep the fisheries as active as they have been.

“Hopefully, we can fight to keep all three positions,” she said.

She acknowledges that with the dire budget situation the state faces, cuts are coming to all departments within the State of Alaska.

“To make up for some of the cuts that are coming our way, we’re going to do the Dutch Harbor food and bait test fishery as a revenue generating fishery,” Fox said. “Then we’ll do our standard Shumagin Islands immature test fishery (in early July, before the post-June fishery begins). We’re hoping to get a little bit of revenue there.”

Fox said not much changes for her with regard to managing sockeye harvest in the area from the Beklofski Bay section to the Mino Creek – Little Coal Bay section. During the last Board of Fisheries meeting (Feb. 23 – 29, 2016), the Chignik Advisory Committee proposed setting up a new Dolgoi Island Section Management plan similar to the management scheme currently used in the SEDM, which is based on the seasonal harvest of sockeye in the Chignik Management Area L. Instead, the Board passed substitute language which requires tallying sockeye harvested in the area based on fish ticket data.

“As for me, that just means I’m going to be monitoring how many fish are harvested in a specific set of statistical areas,” she said. “Then once 191,000 sockeye are harvested in the larger area, we’ll close a smaller portion of that Dolgoi Island area until July 26th, when the allocation period with Chignik is over.”

For now, Fox is gearing up for a pre-season meeting with Area M fishermen. **That meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Aleutians East Borough building in Sand Point.**

“We’re basically going over staff introductions,” she said. “I know most of the people here, but just in case some haven’t met me, they’ll know who the new manager is. We’ll go over the season and how it’s going to operate. Then we’ll make ourselves available to answer questions.”

Fox will be in Sand Point until the end of August or the first week in September. Currently, she’s living in the “pilot house,” in part of a duplex. Soon, she’ll move into a new duplex, which was previously used as an old apartment/office building used by ADF&G biologists, until it was demolished last year and a new one was built.

“Once it’s finished, I’ll move into a brand new place with my family when they get here (during the first week of June),” she said.

For now, Fox is preparing to manage a busy fishing season.

“Hopefully, everybody feels comfortable coming by, talking with me and introducing themselves, if I don’t see them at the pre-season meeting,” she said. “I’ll be in the Sand Point office and will be happy to talk to anybody.”

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**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Time: 2:30 p.m.

**SAND POINT COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be conducting a preseason fishery stakeholder’s meeting at the Aleutians East Borough building in Sand Point at 6:00 p.m. Friday, May 27. We will teleconference with both King Cove at the Harbor House and False Pass. The purpose of this meeting is to provide all interested parties an opportunity to discuss the upcoming salmon season with ADF&G staff.

Topics covered will include:

- 2016 salmon outlook
- 2016 management strategy
- 2016 department test fisheries
- Other topics as time permits

To obtain further information, please contact the Sand Point Fish and Game office at (907) 383-2066.

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## Sand Point Advisory Committee To Meet

The Sand Point Fish and Game Advisory Committee will be holding a public meeting in Sand Point at the Aleutians East Borough Building on Friday, May 27, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Agenda items will include the following items:

- Follow up from Board of Fisheries Meetings
- Misc. Items

For further information contact Frances Leach. To be added to the electronic email notices for Sand Point AC Meetings, please email to the address at the bottom of this notice with your request.

Advisory committees are local groups that meet to discuss fishing and wildlife issues and to provide recommendations to Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game. All meetings are open to the public. Advisory Committees are intended to provide a local forum on fish and wildlife issues. Their purpose includes: 1) developing regulatory proposals, 2) evaluating regulatory proposals and making recommendations to the appropriate board, 3) providing a local forum for fish and wildlife conservation and use, including matters relating to habitat, 4) advising the appropriate regional council on resources, and 5) consulting with individuals, organizations, and agencies.

If you are a person who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in any of these public meetings, please contact Frances Leach at 907-465-4046 no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting, to make any necessary arrangements.

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