



Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit to be held virtually online this year

AEB will pay registrations for eligible applicants to attend the summit

The Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit (AYFS) *was* scheduled to be held in Anchorage this coming December. However, like many public meetings this year, the AYFS has now moved to an online only format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Aleutians East Borough has been sponsoring a seafood raffle with the help of local processors to help fund a limited number of applicants travel and lodging to attend the event. Since the AYFS has moved to an online format, the AEB will now just pay the AYFS registration fee for eligible applicants.

To apply for the AYFS registration, interested young fishers from AEB communities should submit a letter of interest and a summary of fishing industry experience to the Borough Clerk, Tina Andersen by **4PM, Friday October 15**. Submit materials in person at the Borough office in Sand Point, by FAX to 907-383-3496, or by email to tanderson@aeboro.org.

The Seafood Raffle to help fund this event is still on. Raffle tickets can be purchased for ten dollars at AEB offices in Sand Point, King Cove and Anchorage. Drawings for the cases of seafood and other prizes will be held during the November 2021 regular AEB Assembly meeting.

The online AYFS will be held December 6-9, 2021.

More information on the Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit can be found at <https://alaskaseagrant.org/event/2021-alaska-young-fishermens-summit/>

October Fishery Management Meetings to Determine Outcomes Important to the AEB

October is the beginning of the 2021/2022 cycle of local fishery management meetings for both the State and Federal fisheries. Meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) begin this week and the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) Work Session is October 20-21. Both the NPFMC and the Board had planned on

October to be the first in-person meetings in over 18 months, but both have moved to online meeting formats due to the ongoing pandemic.

For the NPFMC, we are closely watching two October agenda items: Bering Sea/Aleutian Island (BSAI) crab and BSAI Pacific cod. Surveys show BSAI crab stocks struggling. Bristol Bay Red King Crab season will be closed this season. Opilio is likely to be declared overfished and we should find out this week if there will be a Bairdi crab season in the BSAI.

The NPFMC is also expected to take final action on a rationalization program for BSAI trawl catcher vessel Pacific cod. The 173 written comments submitted for this agenda item indicate the extreme interest and concern over the program. The AEB Assembly passed a resolution in August asking the NPFMC to not take final action until in-person meetings resume, since the program has been developed only in a virtual online format, without any in-person interaction. The AEB has been advocating for strong sideboards as part of the program, so program participants do not gain an unfair advantage over other local WGOA groundfish fishermen. For more information on the NPFMC go to <https://www.npfmc.org/>

For the Board of Fish, the 2021/2022 meeting cycle includes Prince William Sound, Southeast and Yakutat finfish and shellfish, and statewide shellfish. At the Work Session this month the Board will consider 14 agenda change requests (ACRs) to consider other out of cycle fishery issues. Two ACRs submitted by Chignik residents, ACR 6 and ACR 7 would further restrict salmon fishing in the Dolgoi area and the Shumagin Islands section. The AEB submitted comments agreeing with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff comments that these 2 ACRs do not meet the Board's own criteria to accept ACRs, and should not be accepted. Written comments will be accepted by the Board up until the Work Session begins and during the meeting. Oral testimony will not be accepted at the Work Session meeting. For further information on the Board of Fish Work Session go to: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.main>

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