



Sea Change

CATCH OF THE SEASON Delivers on Promise

AMCC sent out our much-anticipated first CATCH OF THE SEASON shipment to a charter group of thirteen subscribers in April. Unlike any other conservation program, CATCH OF THE SEASON delivers – for AMCC supporters, independent fishing families and the conservation of Alaska’s rich ocean bounty.

Introduced in our newsletter last fall, CATCH OF THE SEASON links AMCC’s generous contributors directly to the ocean resources we are working to protect. As a delicious premium for their support, program subscribers receive direct shipments of the highest quality, wild Alaska seafood up to four times each year. In addition to the best sustainably harvested seafood, each shipment includes “the story of your catch,” a handcrafted booklet featuring the fish, the fishermen, how, where and when the fish was caught, and what AMCC is doing to protect the fishery. There’s even a favorite recipe provided by the fishermen.

CATCH OF THE SEASON’s first shipment was a huge success. After a brief delay, due to historically bad weather conditions in Southeast, we were extremely fortunate to obtain troll-caught winter king salmon from Sitka harvested by Eric Jordan, a founding member of AMCC (see profile). One subscriber declared Eric’s fish to be the best she had ever eaten and others were planning dinner parties with family and friends – exactly the way CATCH OF THE SEASON will catch on!

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PHOTO: ALAN PARKS

Eric and Sarah Jordan sitting in front of their boat, the F/V I Gotta in the Alaska Native Brotherhood Harbor, Sitka. The Jordan family provided troll-caught salmon for AMCC’s first CATCH OF THE SEASON shipment.

Sitka is where I live, it’s my place. My grandfather crewed on merchant marine sailing vessels out of Norway. In 1941, my father came to Alaska on a herring seiner. He started trolling in a small wooden vessel in 1946. My mother got off the boat in August of ’49, I was delivered in September, and they took me back out on the boat the next March. So, for 50-some years now I have been on the water almost every season and I love it.

– Eric Jordan, Sitka

Eric is a founding member of the Alaska Marine Conservation Council and served for 20 years on the board of directors of the Sitka Conservation Society. He has been fishing since 1950, and his son Karl since 1980. The Jordan family prides itself in producing the highest quality sustainable, wild Alaska salmon using selective fishing techniques and superb handling and processing.

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CATCH OF THE SEASON *Delivers on Promise* Continued from page 1

With the help and coordination of Paula Terrel who works for AMCC in Juneau (and is also a salmon troller with her husband Dick Hoffman), the Jordan family's fish were skillfully and beautifully processed by Jerry's Meats.

Working with local harvesters and processors in traditional fishing communities, CATCH OF THE SEASON delivers on a fundamental promise: to serve conservation by promoting economic opportunities for those who care most about safeguarding the ocean – the small business owners whose livelihood and way of life depends on healthy wild fisheries.

Over time, CATCH OF THE SEASON will provide a self-sustaining revenue stream that allows AMCC to grow its membership and influence in working to protect Alaska's marine environment. We invite you to join with us in reaching this goal. Your subscription to CATCH OF THE SEASON is an investment in the long-term vision and conservation promise of this innovative and entrepreneurial program. To subscribe, turn to the back page of the newsletter.



PHOTO: KELLY HARRELL

Sitka, Alaska

CATCH OF THE SEASON Guiding Principles

CATCH OF THE SEASON will lead by example, making meaningful investments in the health of Alaska's wild fisheries and fishing communities. The program will:

- Empower fishermen, the stewards of the resource, by connecting them to new markets and opportunities.
- Support traditional fishing communities whose sustainable practices provide a competitive edge and enduring standard.
- Engage supporters of marine conservation in tangible new ways that lead to greater understanding and influence.
- Ensure adequate resources for work being done to conserve Alaska's world-class wild fisheries.
- Demonstrate an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit that delivers new energy and promise in the pursuit of community-based conservation. *✍️*

Climate Change and Ocean Acidification Likely to Impact Salmon

As we head into summer salmon season, we are reminded of how important salmon are to our way of life in Alaska. An irreplaceable mainstay of subsistence, the livelihood for many commercial fishermen and a favorite of sport fishermen, salmon are truly venerated in Alaska.

Because salmon spend part of their life cycle in freshwater and part in the ocean, they are sensitive to changes in either environment. Increasingly, it is becoming clear that warming stream temperatures as well as high concentrations of CO₂ in the ocean could threaten the long-term health of Alaska's world-renowned wild salmon populations.

WARMING STREAMS

Cook Inletkeeper, in partnership with the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, has been monitoring stream temperatures on the lower Kenai Peninsula since 2002. Monitoring has revealed that lower Kenai salmon streams are becoming warmer, frequently reaching temperatures above state-assigned standards set to protect fish. While change has historically been a constant and salmon species have adapted, the changes currently occurring are unprecedented in human experience, in both the rate and magnitude.

Various stages of salmon development, from egg and fry development to migration and spawning may be adversely affected by warming stream temperatures. Stress caused by high stream temperatures makes fish more susceptible to pollution, predation and disease.

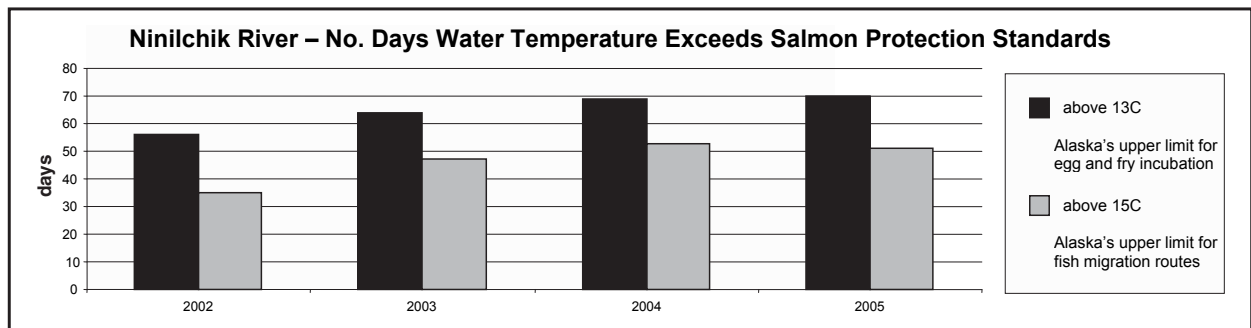
The study also notes that there is a close relationship between water and air temperatures in salmon streams on the lower Kenai. As climate

models predict continued warming air temperatures, the warming of salmon streams is expected to continue.

There is no consistent, long term regional or statewide temperature data for Alaska streams. Cook Inletkeeper's salmon stream monitoring project is the only systematic water temperature data collection occurring in Alaska and it only began five years ago. The Department of Fish and Game casually collects water temperature data at weir sites, but not in a standardized way. Insufficient data make it

In 2005, the temperatures in the studied streams exceeded Alaska state standards for egg and fry incubation on more than 80 days.

difficult for policymakers and other interested parties to craft knowledgeable and effective responses to climate change that increase watershed resilience and ensure healthy populations of Alaska's wild salmon stocks. For more information about the Salmon Stream Monitoring Program, contact Sue Mauger at: (907) 235-4068 x24 or by email at sue@inletkeeper.org.



OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



PHOTO: USFWS

Another threat to the long-term health of Pacific salmon populations is the increasing acidification of the ocean. It was long assumed that because the oceans are so vast with over 1.3 trillion cubic kilometers of seawater, their chemical balance could not be altered by atmospheric inputs. Yet, in the past 200 years, the world's oceans have absorbed nearly half of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced by fossil fuel burning, making the surface layers of our oceans almost 30% more acidic. Ocean acidification is one of the least expected and most insidious consequences of rising atmospheric CO₂ levels, thus the reason it has been called the "sleeping giant of global warming."

Among the organisms most vulnerable to the adverse effects of acidification are pteropods, delicate mollusks important to the ocean-phase diet of salmon and other fish species. Experiments with pteropods in sealed jars first alerted scientist Victoria Fabry to the phenomenon of

ocean acidification. During her experiments she noticed that the pteropod shells were dissolving. She concluded that carbon dioxide respired by the pteropods was lowering the pH of the seawater and dissolving the calcium carbonate of their shells. Fabry joined other scientists in asking whether increasing the CO₂ concentration of the atmosphere could have a similar effect on sea life in the oceans.

If we do nothing to curb CO₂ emissions, the amount of acidity in the surface layer of the ocean may triple by the end of this century. An increase of this magnitude could be devastating for species that depend on calcium carbonate for formation of their support structures, such as mollusks and crustaceans. In an upcoming issue of *Sea Change*, we will explore in more depth the most recent scientific understanding of ocean acidification and potential impacts on marine organisms and marine food webs in Alaska.

Limacina helicina is a pteropod that is important to the diet of salmon during their oceanic phase.

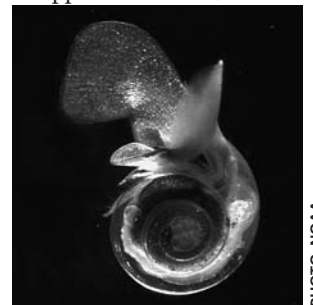


PHOTO: NOAA

New Measures to Reduce Bycatch in the Bering Sea Upheld in Federal Court

In 2006 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted a new requirement, known as Amendment 79, that bottom trawl vessels in the Bering Sea retain a minimum percentage of their catch as a means of reducing waste. Bottom trawl vessels drag nets across the seafloor and catch both fish they are targeting as well as many other species that are discarded dead. The new federal regulation requires Bering Sea and Aleutian Island bottom trawl catcher/processor vessels that are over 125 feet long to retain an increasing portion of their overall catch. It requires that vessels retain at least 65% of their catch in 2008 and increases to 85% by 2011. While some vessels are already retaining 65% or more, others throw away over half of their catch at times.

In May 2006, Legacy Fishing Company and Fishing Company of Alaska filed suit in the District of Columbia District Court to overturn Amendment 79 and its implementing regulations important for monitoring and enforcement. The companies are based in Washington State but fish in Alaska waters. They claimed that the bycatch reduction measures would be too costly.

In response to the suit, Oceana and the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, with legal representation from Earthjustice, joined the federal government in defending Amendment 79 and its benefits for the marine ecosystem. We told the court that the federal government is right to mandate a decrease in the amount of fish bottom trawlers are currently throwing overboard. The vessels are discarding fish deemed uneconomical because they are the wrong sex, size or species. The affected trawlers target mainly rock sole, yellowfin sole, flathead sole, and Atka mackerel and dump more bycatch overboard than any other segment of the North Pacific groundfish fishery.

In March of this year, the federal district court upheld Amendment 79 and ruled that bottom trawl vessels operating in the Bering Sea must reduce the amount of fish they throw overboard as waste in the process of targeting the most valuable fish.

AMCC has been working to reduce wasteful bycatch since our inception in 1993. Many positive improvements have been made. However, the Bering Sea bottom trawl fishery has escaped new rules

several times over the years by arguing that the cost of clean fishing is too high and that even excessive levels of waste should be permitted as the cost of doing business. The reality that over 150 million pounds of wasted fish and other marine life are thrown over the side of Bering Sea bottom trawl vessels every year is unacceptable to most Alaskans. The court ruling is important because it established that the conservation mandate to reduce bycatch is a paramount obligation. The judge wrote that the regulation properly balanced the competing factors in the Magnuson-Stevens Act (to minimize bycatch and to minimize cost to industry).

After many years of tracking bycatch statistics, supporting community concerns, proposing bycatch reduction measures and testifying before the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, this victory which sets at least a minimum standard in the Bering Sea fleet is long overdue. ❧



PHOTO: NOAA

New requirements, upheld by the federal court, to reduce wasteful fishing will save 110 million pounds of fish from being thrown overboard every year as bycatch.

Update on National Offshore Aquaculture Legislation

The federal government is continuing its push to allow fish to be farmed (raised in at-sea pens) in federal waters, 3-200 miles offshore. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) transmitted their draft legislation to Congress in March. The bill, "The National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007" was introduced by the House Natural Resources Committee on April 25 at the request of the Administration.

AMCC is one of more than 50 conservation and fishing groups throughout the nation working diligently to stop the proposed legislation as currently drafted. Much of NOAA's offshore aquaculture research is aimed at farming carnivorous finfish species such as halibut and black cod. AMCC is opposed to offshore aquaculture for finfish species because of the risks it poses to marine ecosystems and the potential negative social and economic impacts to coastal communities. NOAA's draft legislation falls far short of addressing the serious environmental, social and economic concerns surrounding the permitting and regulation of industrial scale fish farming operations in the open ocean.

Governor Sarah Palin recently released the State's position on offshore aquaculture. The State is requesting a five year moratorium on any permitting until thorough environmental and socio-economic studies have been completed. In addition, the State is asking that any offshore aquaculture legislation prohibit permitting for finfish, such as salmon, halibut, and black cod. The State also advocates that resources and emphasis be placed on the management of healthy wild fisheries, an approach that AMCC also supports.

After hearing concerns voiced by representatives of the Alaska Marine Conservation Council and Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association, the National Farmers Union adopted a policy at its annual meeting opposing the development of industrial-scale offshore finfish aquaculture because it is "detrimental to the family fishermen and local economies of historic fishing communities." (See related article "National Farmer's Union Adopts Policy Opposing Offshore Aquaculture" and policy statement on page 5). ❧



National Farmer's Union Adopts Policy Opposing Offshore Aquaculture

In March, former AMCC board member Michael Brooks represented AMCC at the National Farmer's Union annual meeting. The following interview touches on some outcomes of that meeting as they relate to AMCC's work and also explores some of Michael's other efforts to bring together fishermen and farmers in Alaska.

AMCC: How did it come about that the Alaska Marine Conservation Council became a member of the National Farmers Union (NFU)?

Michael: We didn't just wake up one day and decide to join the NFU. It was a deliberate and collaborative process beginning three years ago at a meeting in Portland, Oregon with representatives of AMCC, Fish Heads, Environmental Defense Fund, Cape Cod Hook Fishermen's Association and the National Farmers Union. There were about fifteen of us gathered around the table and our task was to discuss the possibilities of forming a coalition of people who deal with the production and harvest of food.

AMCC: What are some of the similarities between fishermen and farmers and the challenges they face?

Michael: There are some areas in which there is tremendous resonance between both groups. Both fishers and farmers place high value on the small family unit and maintaining the way of life of small communities – it doesn't matter whether they are a farm village in Middle America or a coastal village in Alaska. Both groups are undergoing a consolidation of their traditional stakeholder positions by large corporate and industrial entities. Both are faced with a rapid depletion of the area in which they make their living and a change in the lifestyle that they've known for generations.

AMCC: Given these similar challenges, how are we stronger by joining forces?

Michael: By coming together we have an enormous increase in our numbers. You can imagine AMCC, with a membership of 800 suddenly being affiliated with the National Farmers Union which has a standing membership of 243,000.

AMCC: You recently returned from the NFU annual meeting where you represented AMCC. What were some key outcomes of that meeting?

Michael: Again, we're talking about increasing our ability to effect change at a national level. We were able to have included in the 2007 Farm Policy Manual – the official publication of the National Farmer's Union – a policy opposing offshore aquaculture (See NFU policy statement). Farmers understand what happens when a CAFO (a combined animal feeding operation) moves into their neighborhood and so during my deliberations with the policy board I used that as an illustration. What would happen if a CAFO moved in next to your house in Paduka, Iowa? Well, you get groundwater pollution, you get horrible stench and your property value goes down. So a similar thing happens in the ocean because really offshore aquaculture is the equivalent of a CAFO...raising massive amounts of fish (in at-sea net pens) is akin to raising chicken or pigs in close confinement on land.

AMCC: What is happening on the local level in relation to fishermen and farmers?

Michael: Last year, AMCC supported (through a letter of support) the creation of the Alaska Cooperative Development program, a program designed specifically to help small fishing businesses and Alaskan farmers come together to secure advice, education and in some instances funding to bring the idea of a cooperative into existence. We are in the first stages of the creation of something that will be known as the Alaska Harvester's Cooperative and that will give farmers and fishermen an opportunity to direct market their products together.

AMCC: Is there an Alaska Chapter of the National Farmer's Union?

Michael: Yes, I'm working with the local chapter and we're engaged in a mutual effort to rebuild and strengthen the demographic base of that chapter. We're working together to rebuild membership and to secure grants to make the Alaska Harvester's Cooperative happen.

AMCC: How can AMCC members help? How can they support fishermen and farmers?

Michael: Look around you in your own communities to see who is doing what. Engage with people, and further develop the dialogue between the two communities (fishermen and farmers) because there are so many areas in which we have like desires and interests.

National Farmer's Union Policy on Offshore Fish Farming – Adopted March 2007

The development of industrial-scale offshore finfish aquaculture is detrimental to the family fishermen and local economies of historic fishing communities. We oppose:

1. Promotion of offshore aquaculture operations that displace traditional fishing practices and onshore infrastructure;
2. Inefficient use of marine resources as feed within such operations;
3. Federal subsidies to promote, sustain, or further develop such operations; and
4. Marine fishing operations that are not community-based and do not contribute to the promotion of locally and sustainably caught wild seafood.

National Farmers Union contacts:

Rob Wells, National Farmers Union, Alaska Chapter: (907) 746-5585, P.O. Box 490 North Main St., Wasilla, AK 99654.

Sarah Gallo, National Farmers Union Government Relations Representative: (202) 554-1600, 400 North Capitol St., NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20001. sgallo@nfudc.org

Bristol Bay Inside the Beltway: Fishing, Community Representatives Make Headway on Offshore Drilling in Washington, D.C.

In March, AMCC coordinated a delegation of commercial fishermen and local community representatives to meet with members of Congress about proposed offshore oil and gas development in Bristol Bay. For many Congressional staff and members of Congress, this was the first they had even heard of Bristol Bay and they were impressed that Alaskans had traveled in person to voice their concern.

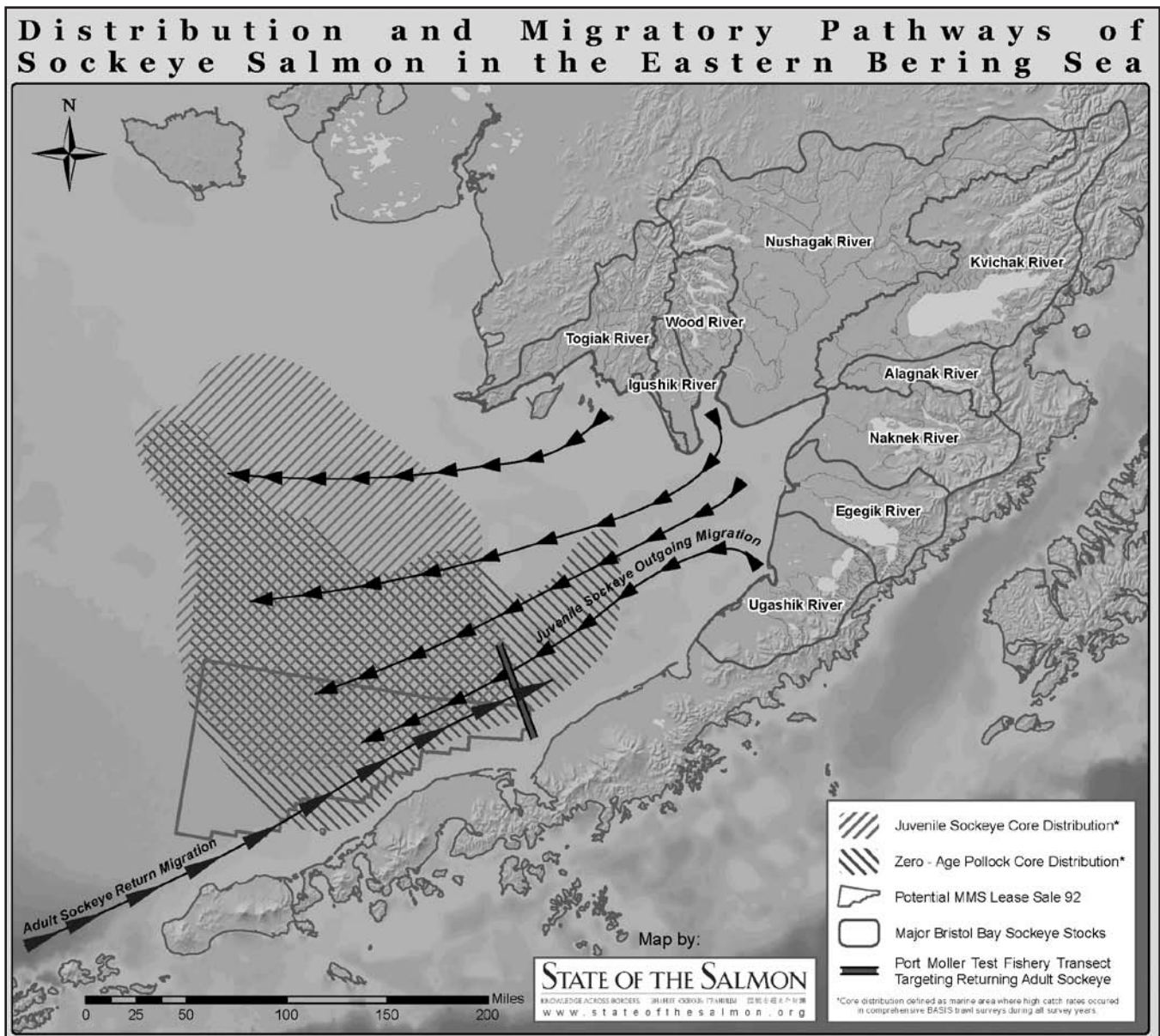
The delegation included AMCC board member Terry Hoefferle from Dillingham, Karen Gillis of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Marketing Association, Dave Harsila of the Alaska Independent Fishermen's Association, Tom Tilden of Curyung Tribal Council and Mike Davis, a former state legislator and long-time Bristol Bay fisherman. AMCC board member Karl Ohls, who currently lives in D.C., also represented AMCC in meetings and served as a local guide.

Over the course of three packed days, delegates met with more than

25 Congressional offices including personal meetings with Senators Lisa Murkowski and Ted Stevens and Congressman Don Young. With detailed maps spread before them, fact sheets in hand and rich personal experience to draw from, the group educated members of Congress and their staff on the economic, ecological and cultural importance of Bristol Bay's renewable marine resources. They highlighted the significant overlap of the proposed lease sale area with vital habitat and fishing grounds for salmon, red king crab, herring, halibut, pollock and cod. In addition, they underscored the importance of the resources to Native communities, fishermen and fishing families whose livelihoods and way of life are so intimately connected to the health of Bristol Bay fisheries and coastal resources.

After learning of the value of the fisheries (more than \$2 billion

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Bering Sea Habitat Conservation: The Case for a Northern Bottom Trawl Boundary

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering whether or not to establish a northern boundary for the bottom trawl fleet in the Bering Sea. In June they will make a final decision based on an environmental assessment now being finalized by fishery analysts.

A priority for Bering Sea habitat conservation is to contain the bottom trawl footprint by creating the boundary. This is an important conservation approach in light of ecological changes under way in the Bering Sea due to warming temperatures and dramatic loss of sea ice in the northern region. The concern is that with warming temperatures, commercially valuable fish species may occupy increasingly more northern waters which will invite fleets to expand trawling into new habitats and sensitive areas.

Climate change and its associated ecological upheaval is an important reason for applying special precaution in the northern Bering Sea:

- The northern Bering Sea supports sensitive marine species, such as the threatened spectacled and Steller's eiders (listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act), walrus and ice-dependent seals that are already under stress from climate change. Loss of sea ice is changing the ecosystem, raising a new degree of uncertainty in terms of evaluating effects of fisheries. Preventing new sources of impact is important for promoting resilience in the northern Bering Sea.

- Stock assessment surveys have not been conducted in the

northern Bering Sea. Effects of fisheries will be impossible to measure if new large scale fishing effort moves into new places without a baseline or an ability to track trends.

- Traditional subsistence use of marine and coastal resources is fundamental to Yupik and Inupiaq cultures in the Bering Sea. Establishing a northern boundary at this time provides some safeguards while the larger issues of managing fisheries in a changing ecosystem can be addressed.


At the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in March, representatives from Kuskokwim Delta villages and the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP – the regional Native non-profit representing 59 villages) displayed maps showing subsistence use areas that are affected by bottom trawl fisheries. An agreement was reached between the villages and the industry for a temporary boundary combined with a 2-year window for the tribal councils and elders to work on measures to protect subsistence resources and habitat.

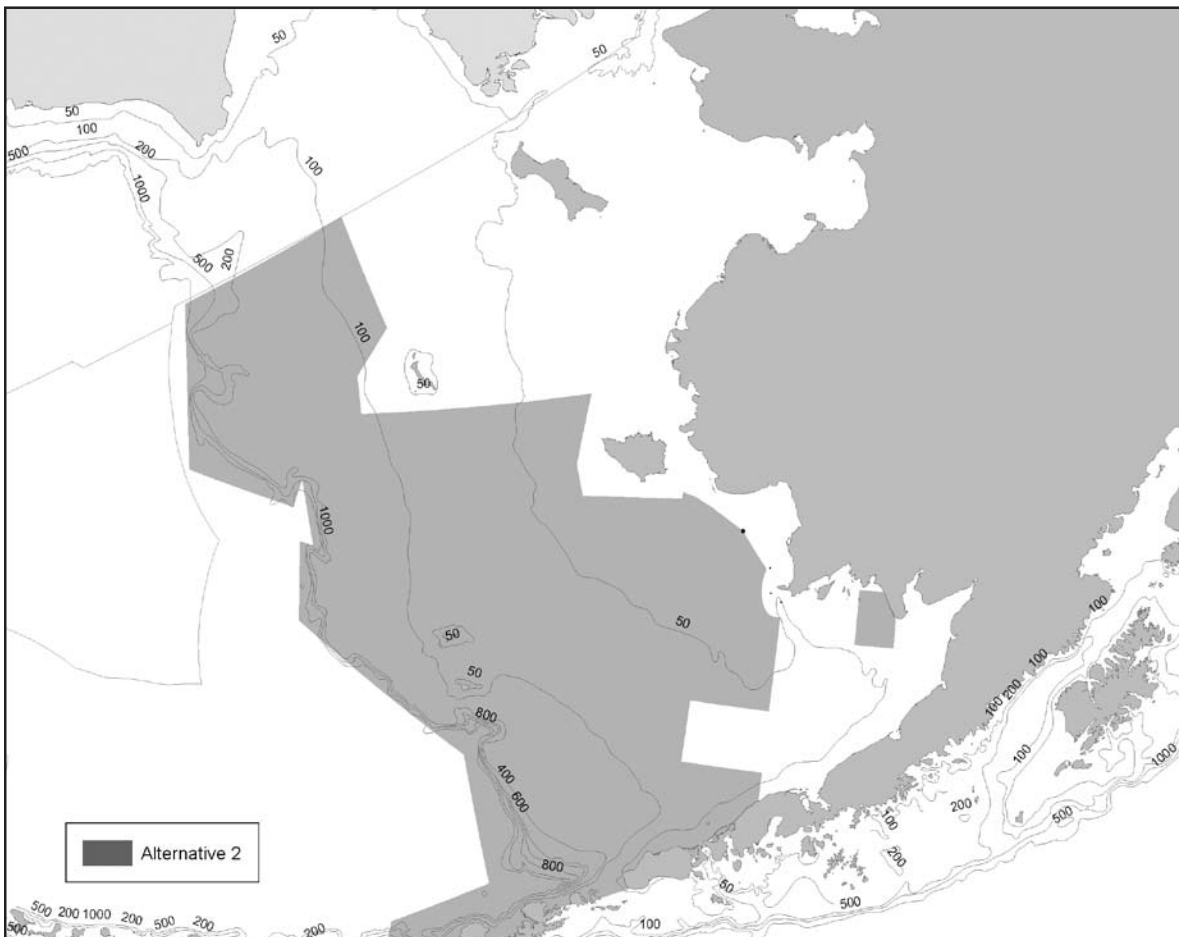
The June decision is not inclusive of subsistence concerns raised by the Kuskokwim villages but a 2-year review would provide an opportunity for a modified boundary that is more comprehensive in its purpose.

The environmental assessment contains other alternatives and options. For a full description, see http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/BSHC/BSHC407alts.pdf.

The other alternatives and options include:

- Status quo (no changes in management)
- Small nearshore closures around St. Lawrence Is., St. Matthew Is. and Nunivak Is./Kuskokwim Bay area
- No boundary but a requirement to raise bottom trawl gear 2½ inches off the seafloor
- Designation of the northern Bering Sea as an experimental fishing area, open to bottom trawling by special permit

Alternative 2 offers the best protection for the northern Bering Sea while leaving open nearly all the fishing grounds used by the fleet since 1990. 



Staff News

Welcome



Lauren Krueger

Formerly an AMCC intern, we are happy to welcome Lauren to AMCC as our new part time Membership and Administrative Assistant. A recent graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Lauren received her Masters degree in Northern Studies with a concentration in global environmental policy. Welcome, Lauren!



Muriel Morse

Muriel joins AMCC as our new Western Alaska Outreach Coordinator. She is from Koyuk in Norton Sound and over the past 15 years has worked in a range of capacities with Alaska Native organizations including Kawerak, Maniilaq and the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. Muriel brings her experience in small communities and a deep appreciation of

her Inupiaq culture to AMCC's efforts to work with coastal communities on shared marine conservation concerns in the region.



Kate Prengaman

Welcome to our summer conservation intern, Kate Prengaman! Kate comes to us from Virginia where she is completing her degree in Biology and Environmental Science at the College of William and Mary. During her internship, Kate will be using her science and writing background to support AMCC in communicating the latest scientific research

on topics such as fisheries and climate change to our members. We are looking forward to working with Kate this summer! 🌿

Bristol Bay Inside the Beltway *Continued from page 6*

dollars annually¹) as compared to the relatively low estimates of oil and gas potential (\$7 billion over the 25-40 year lifespan of the project²), most Congressional staffers were astounded that the federal government is aggressively pursuing oil and gas development in Bristol Bay's fish-rich waters. Many of the offices that the group met with agreed that there is too much at stake to risk the long-term health of Bristol Bay. "The visit helped lay the groundwork for restoring protection for Bristol Bay. Wheels are now in motion to do something concrete in Congress," said AMCC board member Terry Hoeffler.

President Bush removed the executive ban on offshore drilling in Bristol Bay this January, paving the way for the federal government to hold lease sales currently proposed in 2010 and 2012. AMCC continues to play a leading role in defining the stakes and coalescing diverse interests in a strategic effort to restore long-term protection for Bristol Bay.

Many Thanks:

- **Scott Brennan** of Alaska Resources Coalition, **Caitlin Higgins** of Alaska Conservation Association and **Mike Litzow** of the National Marine Fisheries Service Kodiak Laboratory for presenting to our board of directors during our February meeting in Anchorage.
- **Deborah Williams, Dr. Jeff Short** and **Bob Pawlowski** for contributing their expertise as panelists for our ComFish fishery forum on climate change. Thanks also to the **Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak** and the **Environmental Protection Agency** for co-sponsoring the forum.
- **Alan, Mindy, Ella and Hoxey Parks** of the **Alaska Ridgetop Inn** for their hospitality and for providing a comfortable and lovely place for our staff retreat.
- **Pete and Debra Wedin** of **Captain Pete's Alaska** for taking AMCC staff members on a day-long winter king salmon charter on a glorious January day in Kachemak Bay.
- **Claire, John, Aubrey, and Fern LeClair** for being such gracious hosts of our second annual board and staff crab feast and to **Harvey Goodell and Wendy Beck** for providing the delicious Kodiak tanner crab.
- Bear biologist **Larry VanDaele** for presenting to the Old Harbor School on behalf of AMCC's marine ecology education partnership with Old Harbor.
- **Chris Sannito** of **Wild Source** for the tasty sampler of smoked salmon and black cod.
- **Karen Gillis, David Harsila, Terry Hoeffler, Tom Tilden** and **Mike Davis** for making the long trip to Washington, D.C. to voice community concerns over proposals to drill for oil and gas in Bristol Bay, and to **Karl Ohls** for his indispensable help to the delegation while they were in D.C.
- **Stacy Studebaker, June Horn, Sally Troxell** and **Theresa Peterson** for contributing original artwork for the 2nd annual "Honoring our Past by Protecting our Future" AMCC fundraiser at **Mill Bay Coffee & Pastry** in Kodiak, and a very special thanks to **Martine and Joel Chenet**. 🌿



Captain Pete.

CC is soon to publish an ecological report highlighting fish, crab, seabirds, waterfowl and marine mammal species that rely on Bristol Bay and southeastern Bering Sea waters. The report will include a number of maps like the Distribution and Migratory Pathways of Sockeye Salmon map on page 6, that show the overlap of the proposed lease sale area with important habitat.

Endnotes:

1. This economic value is an approximate assessment of the Ex Vessel value of the fisheries that could be affected by oil and gas leasing and development in the portion of the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area currently targeted for leasing.

2. Minerals Management Service (August 2006) *Proposed Program, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, 2007-2012*. 🌿

Travelogue



Kelly Harrell at the wheel while Captain Pete sets hooks.



Diana DeFazio, Katie Cullen and Dorothy Childers.

JANUARY

Staff retreat, Homer

Anchorage staff members spent two days in Homer recharging and planning for the year ahead. Prior to getting down to business, we were treated to an all day winter king salmon charter with board member Pete Wedin. The retreat ended with a moonlit drive back to Anchorage when exceptionally high winds grounded all airplanes in and out of Homer.

MARCH

ComFish, Kodiak

In addition to having a booth at Alaska's largest fishery trade show, AMCC sponsored two community fishery forums – one on the impacts of climate change on fisheries and coastal communities and another on the risks posed by proposed offshore oil and gas development in Bristol Bay. Both forums were well-attended and well-received by attendees. Thank you to our panelists and co-sponsors for your time and dedication.

Biological Diversity's Marine Working Group meeting, Portland, Oregon

AMCC Friends of Bristol Bay Project Director, Kelly Harrell, and Volunteer Science Advisor, Dr. Jeff Short were invited to present at the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity's Marine Working Group Meeting (March 26-29). Kelly presented on the ecological and economic value of Bristol Bay's intact ecosystem and the risks associated with offshore oil and gas development and Jeff discussed the impacts of climate change on Alaska's marine ecosystems and fisheries. AMCC's leadership and expertise on these issues were a valuable contribution to the Marine Working Group.

Washington, D.C.

A delegation of fishing and Native leaders traveled to Washington, D.C. to urge Congress to restore protection for Alaska's Bristol Bay. The five-member delegation spent three days on Capitol Hill and met with more than 25 Congressional offices informing decision-makers of the economic, ecological and cultural value of the resources at risk if offshore oil and gas development is allowed. (See article, *Bristol Bay Inside the Beltway* on page 6).

2007 INTERNATIONAL SMART GEAR COMPETITION

\$30,000 GRAND PRIZE
Two \$10,000 RUNNER-UP PRIZES

Entry Deadline: July 31, 2007

What is your innovative idea for reducing bycatch?

Go to www.smartgear.org for competition information and entry details.



WHAT'S ON DECK

.....
May 3-5 ▪ Homer
International Bering Sea Forum meeting

♦ ♦ ♦

May 10-13 ▪ Homer
Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

♦ ♦ ♦

May 4-31 ▪ Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage
59th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

♦ ♦ ♦

June 2 ▪ Anchorage
Alaska Oceans Festival

♦ ♦ ♦

June 4-12 ▪ Sitka
North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting

International Whaling Commission Coming to Anchorage

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) and its technical committees will have their annual meeting in Anchorage from May 4-31. Seventy-three nations are members of the IWC which governs commercial whaling, aboriginal whaling and whaling under scientific permits. In 1982, the IWC established a moratorium on all commercial whaling around the world. Significant issues at the May meeting include: 1) safeguarding the moratorium, 2) approval of the Eskimo subsistence bowhead whale quota and 3) scrutinizing the validity of scientific permits issued to Iceland and Japan.

The present IWC chair is Dr. William Hogarth from the U.S. and the Vice-Chair is Mr. Minoru Morimoto from Japan. International NGOs meeting certain criteria are eligible to observe the IWC meeting. AMCC staff, Dorothy Childers, will attend the Scientific Committee as an observer.

For more information about the IWC: <http://www.iwcoffice.org>

If you are in Anchorage, family activities include:

- May 27 at 2:00: "A Whale of a Parade"
- May 27 at 3:00: Aerial art event, following the parade, in which people form the shape of a giant whale and it is photographed from the air.
- May 27 at 1:00 through May 31 at 5:00: Whales Broadcasting Corporation, a large tent with multi-media information open to the public on K Street outside the Captain Cook Hotel where the IWC meeting is held.

For more information, contact Melanie Duchin, Greenpeace in Anchorage at 277-8234.

AMCC STATEMENT ON THE ALASKA NATIVE BOWHEAD WHALE HUNT APRIL 2007

Bowhead whales of the Bering Sea, Chukchi and Beaufort Sea region have been central to the subsistence way of life – cultural, spiritual and nutritional health – of Alaska indigenous peoples for countless generations. However, in the early 1800s commercial whalers came to Alaska and hunted the bowhead whale population down to low numbers, which later resulted in the whale being listed under the Endangered Species Act. Recognizing that their cultural heritage was at risk, Inupiaq whaling captains worked with scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service in the early 1980s to establish an agreement to cooperatively manage the indigenous bowhead hunt and to carry out joint research. Combining scientific and local knowledge improved whale census methods to show there were more whales than originally estimated by the government alone. The co-management agreement between the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the federal government has advanced conservation and supported subsistence opportunities.

The Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) supports efforts by Alaska Native communities to protect the bowhead whale and its habitat from environmental threats such as offshore oil and gas development and the effects of global climate change. We recognize the right to a subsistence way of life including a responsible and sustainable bowhead whale hunt.

AMCC urges the International Whaling Commission to adopt the subsistence bowhead whale quota recommended under the co-management agreement between the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service at the May 2007 meeting in Anchorage. ❧

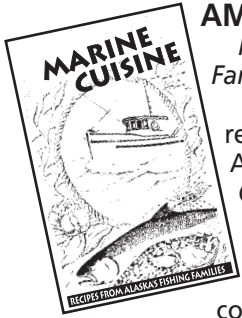


*Subsistence whaling near
Barrow, Alaska.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES BROWER.

Merchandise For Sale

Consider giving a gift to your family or friends that is also a gift towards marine conservation. All proceeds benefit AMCC's work to protect habitat, prevent overfishing, and reduce bycatch.



AMCC Cookbook

Marine Cuisine: Recipes from Alaska's Fishing Families

Share the bounty of Alaska's rich marine resources with your friends and neighbors with Alaska Marine Conservation Council's *Marine Cuisine* cookbook. This publication features over 65 recipes for a variety of seafoods and includes sauces, sides, and desserts. The book also features profiles on Alaska's fishing communities, AMCC members, and Alaska marine species.

\$12.95 plus shipping. Add \$2.00 for shipping for first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy. Special bulk rate of \$6.50 each plus shipping for orders of 10 or more.

Living Marine Habitats of Alaska

From coastal waters to mysterious offshore environments, *Living Marine Habitats of Alaska* provides a glimpse into the wide diversity of the North Pacific and Bering Sea habitats and ecosystems. Learn about kelp forests, eelgrass meadows, sea whips and sea pens, cold-water corals, pinnacles and seamounts, king crab nursery grounds, and the Bering Sea ice edge!

With full color photographs and informative text, this 16 page book explores some of the important habitats that make up the North Pacific and Bering Sea ecosystems. Published by Alaska Marine Conservation Council and Alaska Sea Grant.

First copy FREE; additional copies \$5.00 each. Price includes shipping.



Canvas Hats

Let your friends know you support Alaska Marine Conservation Council by wearing an AMCC hat! These also make great gifts. Each hat sports the AMCC logo on front and "Catch Fish Protect Habitat" on the back. All hats have a khaki crown. Please specify blue or green brim. \$10 plus \$1.50 shipping.



PHOTO BY ANITA ROBERTS

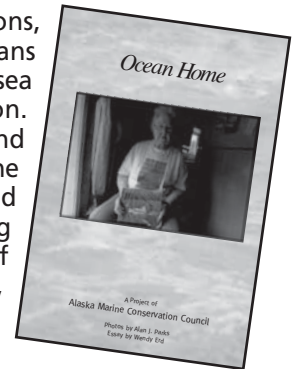
Tote Bag

These all purpose carry-alls are always in demand. Artist Terry Josey's illustration of the intricate web of sealife makes a great coloring project for kids, too. Value priced and well-made of durable cotton canvas and teal colored handle. \$7.50 plus \$1.50 shipping.



Ocean Home

Explore the values, traditions, thoughts and actions of Alaskans whose lives are sustained by the sea in this documentary publication. *Ocean Home* features black and white photographs by Homer fine arts photographer Alan J. Parks, and an essay by poet Wendy Erd weaving together the lives and values of coastal Alaskans. \$10 each copy, includes shipping.



Make Marine Conservation Your Lasting Legacy

You can help safeguard the future health of Alaska's marine environment and the people who depend on it by making a permanent, long-lasting gift to AMCC's endowment. Your gift can also provide you with significant tax and financial benefits.

Gifts to AMCC's endowment continue to earn money long after you've written the check. An endowment is like a very small Permanent Fund: contributions go in and annual investment earnings come out or are reinvested. Earnings provide a source of steady, reliable income to AMCC, which can be reinvested in years of abundance and drawn upon in times of need.

Please make endowment donations to The Homer Foundation with "AMCC Fund" written on the memo line, and mail to the AMCC office. For more information about the endowment and ways to include AMCC in your financial planning, please contact the office (277-5357). Although AMCC does not give tax or legal advice, we can provide referrals to financial planning agents to help you maximize your financial benefits.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO AMCC'S ENDOWMENT:

- **Give cash** – this is simple! Cash gifts can include recognition of and memorials to friends and family members who themselves have valued and benefited from Alaska's marine heritage.
- **Add AMCC as a beneficiary** of your life insurance policy.
- **Give by bequest.** Put AMCC in your will.
- **Establish a charitable remainder trust.** This allows you to receive lifetime income while providing AMCC with a future gift.
- **Give appreciated property** (real estate, stocks, boats).

Want to Join?

Membership

I want to help sustain and restore our marine resources.

Please sign me up!

- \$25 Individual
- \$35 Family
- \$50 Organization/Business
- \$100 Contributor
- \$250 Major Donor
- \$500 Benefactor
- I would like to contribute more than money

Sign Me Up!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Boat Name _____

E-Mail _____

Mail to:

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

PO Box 101145 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1145

Phone 907-277-5357(Kelp) • Fax 907-277-5975

CATCH OF THE SEASON

Yes! I want to subscribe to CATCH OF THE SEASON and support AMCC's work to conserve Alaska's wild fisheries while also promoting community-based opportunities for fishing families.

Please indicate the level of your support:

- \$700 (one seasonal shipment)
- \$1,400 (two seasonal shipments)
- \$2,100 (three seasonal shipments)
- \$2,400 (four seasonal shipments)

Please note: the tax deductible portion of your gift is \$400 per seasonal shipment.

Is It Time For You To Renew?

The address label on this newsletter includes your membership expiration date. Please check it and make sure your membership is current. The AMCC Anchorage office sends out renewal reminders, but it saves the organization money and resources if you renew early. Thank you.

Please make checks payable to the Alaska Marine Conservation Council. Your contributions are tax deductible.



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