



Sea Change

Welcome to a Brighter Future

Even before Barack Obama's inauguration the anxious pendulum had begun to swing toward real solutions to climate change and ocean acidification. And what profound relief to hear his vision for solutions expressed in terms of a sustainable economy. Sustainability is an ideal we are always challenged to define, and this is a chance to do so, step by step.

Anything contrary to a clean energy future we do at the ocean's peril. Disturbing sensitive habitats, fisheries and subsistence practices through offshore drilling, spilling tankers full of oil on their way to refineries, melting the polar ice cap, and acidifying sea water through too much absorption of atmospheric CO₂, all threaten the marine ecosystems we depend on.

We are looking for innovative ways to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels because they harm the environment and our communities from production to transporting to burning. We are looking for swift and strong action at the local, state and federal levels that hastens renewable energy development and rewards energy conservation. We are looking for clean energy jobs.

This calls for great celebration and deep citizen engagement. AMCC will share information, empower its members and enable your voice to be heard. We have much to look forward to, but need your help. Together, we can welcome a brighter future!



*“And so tomorrow,
as we take this campaign south and west,
as we learn that the struggles of the textile worker
in Spartanburg are not so different than the plight of the
dishwasher in Las Vegas; that the hopes of the little girl who
goes to a crumbling school in Dillon are the same as the dreams
of the boy who learns on the streets of L.A.; we will remember
that there is something happening in America: that we are
not as divided as our politics suggests; that we are one people;
we are one nation; and together, we will begin the next great
chapter in America's story with three words that will ring
from coast to coast; from sea to shining sea.
Yes. We. Can.”*

– Barack Obama

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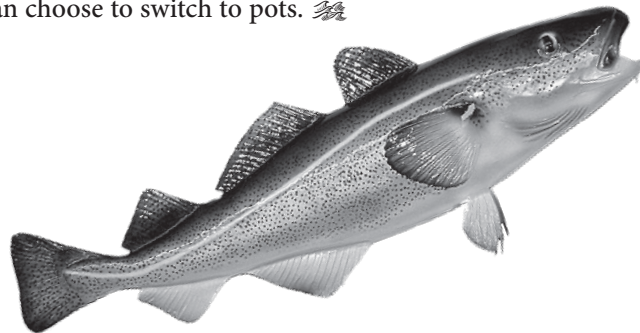
Cod: Everyone's Fish to Share

Pacific cod is bread and butter for fishermen of all types in the Gulf of Alaska. Cod is landed by factory trawlers processing fish at sea, smaller trawlers delivering to shore-based plants, and a fleet of local vessels using pots, longlines and jigs. While there is a total allowable catch that applies to all the fleets collectively, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is stewing over how to limit access to the fishery: 1) eliminate a certain number of federal fishing licenses and 2) divide the pie between trawl, longline, pot and jig vessels. These decisions may seem like technicalities but they have significant implications for fishing families and conservation.

In the fishery managers' quest to ensure access for historic participants in the fishery, it is important to find a balance that doesn't harm opportunities for working fishermen. This could happen by taking away permits from people who recently bought one but don't yet have a lot of history in the fishery or haven't used theirs every year.

Fishing for cod is the way into the business for many young fishermen – you don't have to buy quota to go fishing and you can fish cod from a skiff with an investment of a few jigging machines. Management options under consideration include 1, 3 or 5% initial allocation with a cap of 5% to the jig sector, which allows this sector to grow.

To meet conservation objectives AMCC is looking for ways to ensure that cod is harvested with low bycatch and low impact on habitat. We want to make sure cod is not locked up forever in gear sectors with the highest impact. Therefore we are promoting management measures that allow for more cod to flow into the lower impact sectors. This can be done by favoring cleaner gear sectors at the initial allocation and by creating a one-way valve through which, for example, trawl fishermen can choose to switch to pots. *SA*



AMCC'S PROGRAMS ARE CURRENTLY SUPPORTED BY THE GENEROSITY OF OUR MANY MEMBERS, INDIVIDUAL DONORS AND FOUNDATIONS, INCLUDING:

1Sky	Harder Foundation	The Ocean Foundation
444 S Foundation	Leighty Foundation	Packard Foundation
Alaska Charitable Trust	LUSH Fresh Hand Made Products	The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
Alaska Community Share	Marisla Foundation	Patagonia Foundation
Alaska Conservation Foundation	Microsoft Matching Gifts Program	Pew Institute for Ocean Science
Alaska Geographic	George H. & Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund	Rockefeller Family Fund
Grenold & Dorothy Collins Foundation	National Park Service	Surdna Foundation
Educational Foundation of America	Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc.	Thorensen Foundation
Ford Foundation	Oak Foundation	UAA
Gunzenhauser-Chapin Fund		Wiener Foundation
		Wolfensohn Family Foundation

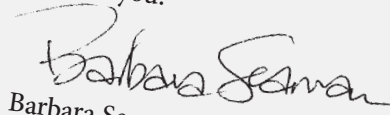
LETTER FROM NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AMCC

Dear members and new friends,

I am so pleased to have been chosen as AMCC's new executive director! As you might imagine, the learning curve is incredibly steep but the work is worthwhile and intensely gratifying. Since my arrival on June 16th, I have been very busy, re-organizing records, meeting partners, hearing program briefs, filling absent staff positions and getting to know fisheries politics, management and the history of the development of coastal Alaska. I also must fill some pretty big shoes! My predecessor, Eric Siy, brought many skills to the job. He is a brilliant fundraiser, and a true visionary and trying to meet the bar he set certainly won't be easy. Due to the rapid growth of programs and to the seriously precarious economy, I have my work cut out for me as the primary fundraiser for AMCC. After six months on the job, I've hired four qualified staff people, put our budget back on track, re-negotiated changes to our Bristol Bay program, intent on making this promising entrepreneurial effort successful, while Catch of the Season program, intent on promoting marine conservation. It will take awhile for me to learn everything I need to know about my new job and I am eager to learn. Fortunately for me, AMCC has an impressive and knowledgeable staff, wonderful science advisors and contractors in place to teach me!

As members and friends, I imagine you'd like to know more about me and how I'm qualified to lead this fine organization. By way of a brief summary, I moved from upstate New York to Alaska in the summer of 1979 to work for a lodge in Kachemak Bay, where I first began to learn about and be fascinated by the marine world around me. From there I worked at two more "wilderness" lodges, and then worked onboard a dragger/shrimp trawler in Shelikof Strait, tendered for herring and then for salmon in Norton Sound and Prince William Sound, and tendered for salmon between Seward and Kachemak Bay. In my early years here I received my 100-ton ocean operator's license, ran the passenger ferry *MV Danny J*, and I also spent a couple of months crabbing in the Bering Sea before settling in on the south side of Kachemak Bay to raise two children. My family and I lived somewhat of a "bush" existence where we grew and caught much of our food, carried water by the bucket and had no electricity for almost 10 years. My husband and I set-net fished for salmon in Kasitsna Bay, tendered for salmon there too, delivered the mail twice a week to south-side residents and we built traditional wood skiffs. I also was employed at Tutka Bay hatchery for several seasons - the open skiff ride every day being easily one of the best all-time commutes to work! I still enjoy telling folks that my daughter - now returned from college - lives on the same houseboat we called home for almost 28 years - although instead of floating, it's now high and dry on the Homer bench. We moved to Homer for winters starting in 1995 and full-time a couple of years later. While in Homer, I grew Kachemak Heritage Land Trust from its infancy into a very successful land conservation organization during my 18-year tenure. In brief, there you have it. Not only does my name fit the job, but I hope you'll agree that my background does as well! I know a bit about fishing, a bit about boating, and a bit about successfully running a non-profit conservation organization. I love Alaska, and am committed to the guiding principals of Alaska Marine Conservation Council. I welcome any and all advice you, as supporters, care to share. Please feel free to call or email me anytime and I look forward to your involvement as we strive to protect our rich and diverse marine resources and the fishing livelihoods and coastal community culture we rely on.

Thank you!


Barbara Seaman



Geologic Carbon Sequestration: A Solution to Global Climate Change?

Global climate change is compromising the health and integrity of marine resources on which people depend. We know adverse changes will increase without urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Some of the changes include: (1) increasing acidification of oceans; (2) altering of the vertical mixing of oceans and thus impacts on the marine food web; (3) moving of large-scale fisheries; (4) warming rivers and adverse impacts on salmon; (4) increasing coastal erosion; and (5) losing subsistence opportunities and indigenous cultural practices.

To mitigate global change we must reduce emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. One of the technologies being discussed by federal legislators and policy-makers is “geologic carbon sequestration” (GCS). Basically, GCS is designed to store carbon dioxide for long time periods (centuries) in underground geological formations. Suitable underground formations might include depleted oil and gas wells and unmineable coal seams.

The reason carbon sequestration is being researched stems from experiences of oil and gas companies in reinjecting carbon dioxide to enhance oil and gas recovery. Such reinjection under conditions of high pressure displaces some oil and gas from the wells that otherwise would not be recoverable. Some of the information obtained from enhanced oil recovery indicates that reinjection done with appropriate technology and in appropriate geological formations might, in fact, sequester carbon dioxide for sufficiently long time periods and, therefore, play a significant role in mitigating global climate change.

However, there often is confusion about the status and prospects of carbon sequestration on the part of both the public and some politicians. More specifically, some people equate enhanced oil recovery with carbon sequestration and, therefore, assume that reinjection of carbon dioxide for the purpose of enhanced recovery is tantamount to carbon sequestration. It is not.

It is important to understand that the technologies developed to reinject carbon dioxide into oil, gas, or unmineable coal seams for enhanced recovery were designed for the benefit of oil and gas companies (i.e., enabling them to extract more oil and gas). However, technologies for enhanced recovery were not designed to ensure that the reinjected carbon dioxide would be adequately sequestered for purposes of mitigating global climate change.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is the lead agency for assessing carbon sequestration. It is conducting and supporting feasibility research and is involved with the design and operation of demonstration projects because carbon sequestration seems promising based on the experiences with enhanced oil recovery. (It is important to note here that the only DOE funded research and development project – the Future Generation Project – was recently cancelled by DOE due to financial costs and problems with development of the technology.)

Following are some (not all) examples of the status of carbon sequestration:

1. Only certain geologic formations are currently deemed adequate. Generally speaking, suitable formations are layers of porous rock that are capped by a layer of impermeable rock above where carbon dioxide would be sequestered.

2. Currently, there are no methods or techniques to adequately measure and monitor the leakage of carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere over time periods sufficient to mitigate climate change (approximately 1,000 or more years).

3. The risks of carbon dioxide reinjection in inducing seismic activity are not adequately known; neither are the risks of seismic activity on the integrity of sequestration sites.

4. The risks of carbon dioxide contamination of ground water or potable water are not adequately known and need to be more fully assessed. For example, if carbon dioxide escapes into groundwater or potable water the acidity of the water increases and this can mobilize both toxic heavy metals as well as toxic organic compounds.

5. The risks of carbon dioxide leakage on both land and aquatic plants and animals are not adequately known and need to be more fully assessed.

6. There is no regulatory framework for carbon sequestration. For example, there are no standards on what level of various risks are acceptable; there are no regulations on whether or to what extent oil and gas companies are responsible for leakage of carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere or into aquifers; there are no regulations on whether or to what extent oil and gas companies are responsible for transboundary pollution or other problems that might occur across jurisdictional boundaries such as states or countries; there are no regulations on the time for which oil and gas companies are responsible for damages that might occur into the future.

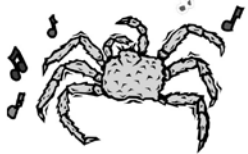
Is global carbon sequestration a technology worth researching? Yes. But it is not yet a proven technology. Further, enhanced oil recovery is not the same as carbon sequestration as some people and politicians mistakenly believe. Consequently, those concerned with reducing carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere need to understand the differences between the two. And, more importantly, they need to oppose efforts to develop the use of so-called “clean coal” unless and until there are secure methods to sequester carbon that have been rigorously demonstrated.

Combustion of coal produces very high greenhouse gas emissions. Because of vast amounts of coal, primarily in the U.S., China, and Russia, if these large coal deposits were to become a significant source of energy for the future, carbon sequestration would need to be virtually 100% secure to prevent the release of dangerous levels of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In a coal-based economy, the escape of about only 0.8% of the sequestered carbon dioxide likely would result in no improvement over today’s greenhouse gas emissions and, in fact, might seriously exacerbate the future health of people and the planet. A higher rate of leakage would worsen the situation in the decades and centuries ahead due to serious and irreversible effects of the leakage. ❧

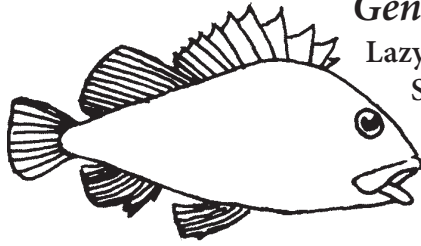
The risks of carbon dioxide leakage on both land and aquatic plants and animals are not adequately known and need to be more fully assessed.

KODIAK NEWS

**Thank
you
for
making
the
second
annual**



**OCEAN
BOOGIE
a success!**

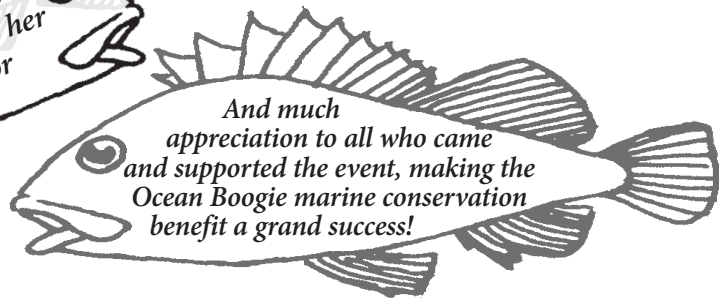
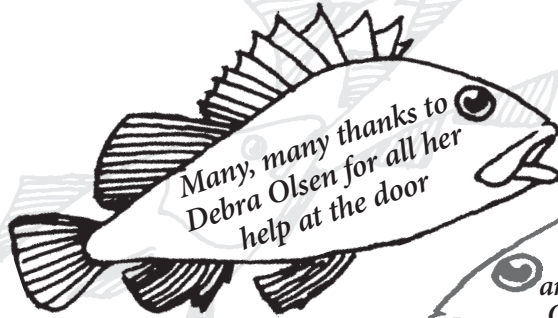


Generous donors to our silent auction:

Lazy M Leather • Organic Hair Design • Catch Your Eye
Stained Glass • The Treasury • Viva Mexico Imports
• 58% North • Lisa McCormick Jewelry • Wild Iris
Baskets • Pete Wedin • Theresa Peterson • Eva Holm
• Steve and Martha Branson • Claudia Anderson
• Kip and Leigh Thomet • Wendy Metzger

More thanks to those that made the evening a delight:

Tony's, the fishermen's bar
Joel Martine of Mill Bay Coffee for the fine array of seafood
The fabulous band – Mutinous McSkank



Thank you to Lisa Hupp of Kodiak for doing an exemplary job in compiling the carbon emissions inventory report for the City of Kodiak and the Kodiak Island Borough Assembly.

COMING UP IN KODIAK:


Patagonia Wild and Scenic Film Festival February 27th 7:00 at the Gerald C. Wilson Auditorium Choral Pod. Sponsored by AMCC, Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Sustainable Kodiak.

AMCC and other Kodiak organizations are planning events for the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Events begin March 14 and go through April 1. For more information, call Stacy Studebaker at 486-6498.

NEW CD RELEASE

Another fabulous Kodiak event was the release of a new CD by *Waterbound*, a fluctuating group of Kodiak musicians that has been writing and recording original songs about Kodiak, the fishing industry, marine conservation, and other maritime subjects since 1993.

The "new" recording is a mix of 15 songs from their first two recordings that have been out of print for some time ("Life on the Island" and "Sometimes a Great Ocean"). Since people have been badgering them for years to reprint them, and rather than let them die forever, they decided to revive them and combine them under a new title, "An Alaskan Maritime Retrospective." All of the songs except one traditional sea shanty were written by Stacy Studebaker and Brad Stevens.

The new recording went on sale November 22nd, just in time for Christmas at the Harborside Coffee Shop. AMCC will continue to sell the CDs at events and through our offices and half the proceeds will go to AMCC. Now these are musicians who walk their talk! If you'd like a CD and live in Kodiak, give Theresa Peterson a call at 486-2991. If you'd like one mailed to you, call our Anchorage office at 907-277-5357 and for \$14.00 (\$2.00 for S&H) we'll drop one in the mail for you. Thanks so much to Stacy and Jane for donating to AMCC through their beautiful music! 



Stacy Studebaker and Jane Eisemann with the new CD.



Bering Sea Project

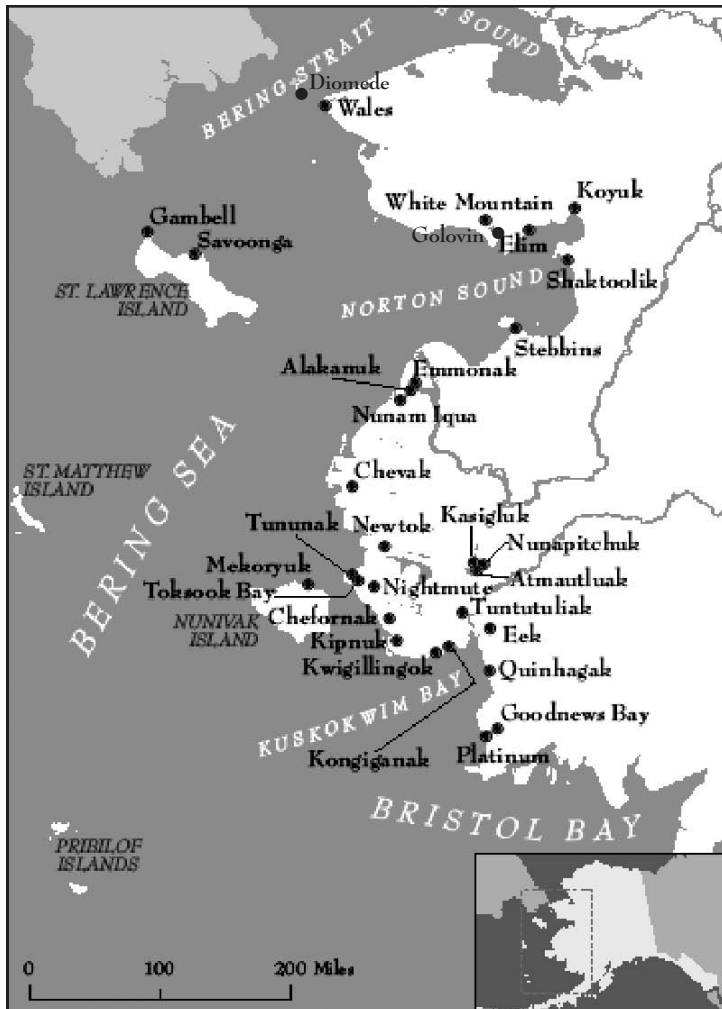
In 2007 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council established a northern boundary for bottom trawling as a precautionary measure to prevent movement of fleets into unfished areas as temperatures warm and fish move into more northern waters. In 2011 federal fishery managers intend to adopt a plan for the northern Bering Sea that will include protections for marine mammals, endangered or threatened species, crab populations and subsistence. Areas not protected may become open to bottom trawling under a special permit and commercial scale fisheries might develop in the future. The Northern Bering Sea Research Plan represents an opportunity to merge traditional knowledge and science to meet cultural and conservation needs.

The Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group formed in 2007 to support Alaska Native Tribes in putting together a fishery management proposal. AMCC was invited to assist with a mapping program to illustrate areas Tribes select as important for sustaining traditional subsistence ways of life. Below is a chronology of the Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group efforts.

JUNE 2007

Bering Sea Tribal Governments take action:

- 25 Tribes submitted resolutions to North Pacific Fishery Management Council to protect subsistence resources and sensitive areas from bottom trawl fishing.



As of December 2008, these Tribes are formal members of the Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group. Tribes wishing to join must pass a resolution and designate an Elder to represent them. Sample resolutions are available.

- Federal fishery managers establish northern Bering Sea bottom trawl boundary and commit to developing a long-term plan for the northern Bering Sea by 2011.

- Tribes invited to provide traditional knowledge to help shape the plan.

SEPTEMBER 2007

- Eight Tribes established Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group to unite all Tribes in developing a northern Bering Sea plan.

TODAY

One Voice by 32 Tribes

- 32 Tribes along the Bering Sea coast are represented by Elders Group through tribal resolutions.

- Elders Group earns support from Kawerak (Norton Sound/ Bering Strait region) and Association of Village Council Presidents (Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta region) through memoranda of understanding.

- Supporting resolution passed by Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

Each member Tribe is represented by an Elder who serves on the Board of Directors. The Elders Group is administered by the Native Village of Kwigillingok.

Executive Committee: Chair – David Bill, Sr., Toksook Bay; Vice-Chair – David O. David, Kwigillingok; Secretary – Frank Fox, Quinhagak; Treasurer – Dick Lincoln, Tununak; Honorary Member – John Phillip, Kongiganak; Kawerak Region Representative – Charlie Saccheus, Erim; Executive Director – Arthur Lake, Tribal Administrator of the Native Village of Kwigillingok; Coordinator/interpreter/traditional knowledge interviewer – Fred Phillip, Natural Resource Director of the Native Village of Kwigillingok; Additional interviewer – Andrew Kiunya, Native Village of Kwigillingok

- Board of Directors met in September 2007 and January 2008, to adopt the Treaty (by-laws), Policies & Procedures, and to establish board committees.

- Regional summits in Bethel and Nome will be scheduled in the near future.

- Gathering of archival information and interviewing of Elders and active hunters to map subsistence hunting, fishing and food gathering have begun and will continue in all the participating villages.

- Meetings with the bottom trawl industry were held in Kwigillingok, Bethel and Anchorage.

- Elders Group representatives met with National Marine Fisheries Service and North Pacific Fishery Management Council staff in December to discuss procedures for tribal consultation.

- Meetings between fishing industry and the full board will be scheduled in the future.

- The Native Village of Kwigillingok and the Science Department at the Kwigillingok School are working together to involve students with the mapping and documenting project to assist the Elders Group and get experience working with science.

For more information please contact: Arthur Lake, Executive Director, kwkadmin@starband.net, (907) 588-8114; Fred Phillip, Coordinator, fredgkwk@yahoo.com, (907) 588-8912; Muriel Morse, Western AK Outreach Coordinator for AK Marine Conservation Council, muriel@akmarine.org, (907) 277-5353; Dorothy Childers, Fisheries Program Director for AK Marine Conservation Council, dorothy@akmarine.org, (907) 277-5357

BRISTOL BAY UPDATE

Bristol Bay Development Threats Highlighted at this Year's Fish Expo

Thousands of people flocked to Seattle's Qwest Field Center this past November to attend Pacific Marine Expo (aka Fish Expo) – the largest marine trade show on the west coast. Fishermen, boat builders and others who came to peruse the numerous aisles of engines, gear and other nifty tools of the trade also had the opportunity to educate themselves on the industrial development threats facing Alaska's fish-rich Bristol Bay. A large, open-pit, gold and copper mine is proposed at the headwaters of Bristol Bay while 5.6 million acres of vital, fish habitat at the southern end of the bay are slated for offshore drilling in 2011.

The Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) and other organizations working to promote a vision for this global fisheries stronghold that does not include leaky oil pipelines and toxic tailings ponds occupied a sizeable section of the "Alaska Aisle" at Fish Expo this year. AMCC's booth highlighting our program dedicated to protecting Bristol Bay from offshore drilling was located next to the Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association (AIFMA), the Renewable Resources Coalition, Trout Unlimited and the World Wildlife Fund booths. Together, we demonstrated that there is passion and strong will behind efforts underway to attain a brighter future for Bristol Bay. The resulting support we received from fishermen and others who came through the show was overwhelmingly. Hundreds of fishermen signed petitions, AMCC signed up many new members and the countless thanks for our work were bestowed.

AMCC also spearheaded the second annual Bristol Bay and

Bering Sea fishermen's reception during Fish Expo co-sponsored by our booth neighbors listed to the left and also by Nunamta Aulukestai, an association of eight Native village corporations from Bristol Bay.

Given top billing was a panel discussion entitled, "Rigs in the Nation's Fish Basket? What Fishermen Should Know about Offshore Drilling in Bristol Bay and the Southeast Bering Sea." AMCC's Kelly Harrell moderated the panel which featured



Fish Expo panelists – Back row (l-r): Tilden, Kinsey, Stocker, Goll. Front row: Colburn, Paine, Harsila

Captain Keith Colburn from the popular *Deadliest Catch* show; Bristol Bay fishermen and long-time advocate Tom Tilden; Executive Director of the United Catcher Boats, Brent Paine; AIFMA President, David Harsila; a representative of the Norwegian Coastal Fishermen's Association, Ian Kinsey; ocean noise expert Michael Stocker; and the Regional Director of the federal Minerals Management Service, John Goll.

AMCC and our partners chose to organize the panel after the Minerals Management Service (MMS) – the federal agency in charge of offshore oil and gas leasing decisions – refused

to meet the requests of fishing groups and Washington State Congress members to hold a scoping meeting on the proposed oil and gas lease sale in Bristol Bay in Seattle during Fish Expo. MMS has held public meetings in various communities throughout Alaska on this issue but would not do so in Seattle despite the fact that hundreds of Bristol Bay and Bering Sea fishermen live in the area and attend Expo. The panel served to provide background information on the issue and to highlight some diverse voices for protecting the region. ❧

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR BRISTOL BAY IN THE NEW YEAR

This past year, the rising price of gas at the pump led to abrupt and powerful pressure on Congress to expand the areas of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) available for oil and gas leasing. The push to "drill baby, drill" was so successful that the lower-48 OCS moratorium that had protected the Atlantic and Pacific coasts from offshore drilling for 27 years was not renewed in 2008. While Bristol Bay leasing plans were not worsened, the political climate hampered opportunities for advancing protections for the region.

The incoming Obama administration, however, offers a new vision for our energy future. As renewable energy development advances and focus is placed on a green economy and jobs, we will be looking for a redirection away from fossil fuel dependence. As Congress and the new President revisit national offshore drilling policy, the public must demand a sound, scientifically-based approach that does not open up new, ecologically important waters such as Bristol Bay to offshore drilling. AMCC will be working with partners on executive and legislative options for halting the proposed 2011 lease sale and realizing permanent protection for the nation's "fish basket."

The Bristol Bay Protection Act, the bill AMCC helped build support for on Capitol Hill, will need to be reintroduced in a similar form in the new Congress. The House of Representatives

and the Senate versions of the bill (H.R. 1957 and S. 1311) would both permanently prohibit oil and gas drilling in Bristol Bay and garnered substantial support over the past two years. In addition to a stand-alone bill for permanent protection, Congress will have the opportunity to add Bristol Bay back to the areas protected under the national OCS moratorium if they choose to reinstate it.

President Obama has expressed tentative support for some offshore drilling but has pledged to review the massive expansion of areas of our nation's coast made available for drilling under the Bush administration. We strongly feel that once the President and his new team at the Department of Interior consider the facts around Bristol Bay drilling, it will become very clear that oil and gas development in the nation's last wild, fisheries stronghold is not wise energy or economic policy.

Bristol Bay Needs You!

GIVE: Go online to www.akmarine.org and donate to help support this important program.

TAKE ACTION: Go to <http://www.akmarine.org/our-work/protect-bristol-bay/take-action> to find out ways you can help ensure that Governor Palin, Congress, and President Obama support Bristol Bay protection. ❧

Board News

Farewell to:



Oliver Holm

Thank you to Oliver Holm for his long service on the AMCC Board of Directors. Oliver is well known for his encyclopedic knowledge of Alaska fisheries. He served on the Advisory Panel to the very first North Pacific Fishery Management Council and has been chair of the Kodiak Fish & Game Advisory Committee for over

20 years. We are grateful for the time and generous membership support he has given AMCC over the years both on and off the board and hope we can still count on Eva's culinary creations at future pot lucks!

Dennis Lekanof

Thank you to Dennis Lekanof for serving the AMCC board. Dennis is from St. George Island and a strong advocate for subsistence, local fisheries and protection of marine mammals that the Aleut people depend on. Dennis, you are always welcome to use the AMCC office in Anchorage when you travel in from the Pribilofs. Stay in touch!

AMCC's November Board of Director's meeting was held in Kodiak. Many thanks go out to all who gave their time, energy, good food and volunteerism to AMCC. A special "Thank You!" to those who housed board members and staff:

Oliver and Eva Holm
Dave Kubiak and Debra Olsen
Stosh and Claudia Anderson
Kip and Leigh Thomet
Mike and Tracy Anderson
Walter and Linda Sargent

And gastronomic thanks to some of the incredible cooks: Leigh Thomet for providing the smoked salmon chowder and Dave Kubiak and Debra Olsen for providing the venison stew for lunches during the board meeting. Many thanks to super-staffer Theresa Peterson for her outstanding effort and patience with travel details.

The BOD meets again Feb. 27-March 1 in Anchorage.

Welcome to:



Switgard Duesterloh

Switgard is based in Kodiak, and has a diverse background in marine aquatic and fisheries sciences, with a masters degree in biology from the University of Oldenburg, Germany. Her other interests and education include terrestrial/marine interactions, global climate change, quality science education, propagation of healthy environments and healthy lifestyles, and sustainable energy projects.



Mark Munro

Mark has lived in Alaska for over 25 years, first coming from Maine for summer cannery work, then changing residency to work in journalism and eventually, fishing. He currently fishes Bristol Bay with his wife, Lisa, who has a set net site, along with their two children. In the off season, Mark and his family

reside in Homer where he operates a small single pilot air taxi service. His interest in being on the AMCC board stems from a desire to retain the working waterfronts and fishing opportunities of coastal Alaska.



Paul Olson

Paul has worked on commercial fishing boats in Southeast Alaska since first arriving on a seine boat as a child in the 1970s. He now lives in Sitka with his partner Toni, two retrievers and a cat. They own and operate a salmon power troller. He moonlights as an attorney during the off-season and works with

regional conservation and fisheries groups. 🌿

Many Thanks to:

Michelle Ridgway served on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Advisory Committee for many years as the conservation representative. She retired from this post in December. We appreciate her ability to see below the surface of so many issues, skills as a scientist to study the tall stack of complex documents at every meeting, and strong commitment to conservation and community concerns. The time Michelle dedicated to service on the Advisory Panel will no doubt be applied to conservation in other valuable ways. Thank you, Michelle. 🌿

Staff News

Welcome to:



Barbara Seaman

Executive Director (*see director's letter on page 3*)

Barbara has been in Alaska almost 30 years and brings a wide array of skills to her new position as ED for AMCC. Well-known in Alaska's non-profit world, Barbara has a history of positive growth changes in all she takes on. She has a huge job to fill and we have faith that her vast skills and resources will help her make AMCC an even better organization. Welcome aboard, Barbara!



Celeste Novak

Outreach/Communications Director

Celeste has spent the last 20 years in Homer, serving as ED to the Homer Chamber of Commerce, business manager to author Shelley Gill, and owner/operator of a small restaurant on the Homer Spit, and has now migrated north to Anchorage to work for AMCC. After participating in fishing derbies, book production and halibut tacos, she will now focus on the efforts of marine conservation. Here's to good communications, Celeste!



Samantha Vongprachonh

Membership and Development Assistant

Samantha has just signed on as AMCC's new Membership and Development Assistant. Samantha has extensive background in accounts payable, most recently working with the State of Alaska at DEC and prior to that, as an accounting clerk for the Municipality of Anchorage.

Join us in welcoming Sam in our Anchorage office.




Dr. John Lemons

Climate Change Organizer

Dr. John Lemons has been a department chair at three universities and has authored over 100 articles on conservation of biodiversity, national park management, climate change, high-level nuclear waste disposal, the role of science in public policy and the precautionary principle, environmental ethics, sustainable development, and environmental education in higher education. In addition, Dr. Lemons has authored and received numerous grants and project funding awards. We look forward to working with Sky and Dr. Lemons on the vast issue of climate change.



Travis Robinson, Finance Manager

Travis has lived in Alaska since 1997 when he came to work for Americorp/VISTA. Travis brings a broad background of technical knowledge, budget development and financial expertise to his job as Finance Manager. He has a soft spot in his heart for the humanities as they relate to human dignity and respect for diversity as well as his firm belief that the environment can be saved through education. In addition to these traits he also brings a love of animals, cooking and traveling to his well-rounded life. Welcome to AMCC, Travis! 

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Offshore Aquaculture

AMCC JOINS FISHING AND CONSERVATION GROUPS TO HALT PRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED (GE) FISH

It is little known that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) currently has the authority to allow the production of genetically engineered fish. In fact, as species of transgenic fish are already being developed around the world; there is at least one pending application before FDA for approval of a GE Atlantic salmon designed to grow as much as 10 to 30 times faster than normal salmon. It is widely acknowledged that such a GE fish, if approved, would serve as brood stock for farmed salmon.

Alarming, the FDA has now developed draft guidelines outlining how the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) plans to use its authority under the New Animal Drug Provisions of the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) to oversee GE animals, including GE or transgenic fish.


On November 18, 2008, AMCC, together with other fishing and conservation organizations sent a joint letter to the Food and Drug Administration that states at the outset, "We strongly urge FDA not to approve any applications for transgenic fish because of the foreseeable potential negative impacts to human health, the environment, and fishing communities."

What can you do? Write the Alaska Congressional Delegation and ask them to send the message to the FDA that approval of GE fish is not acceptable.

OFFSHORE FISH FARMING LEGISLATION STALLS IN CONGRESS

For the past several years, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has waged a relentless fight to authorize and promote fish farming in U.S. federal waters (from 3-200 miles offshore). In two consecutive sessions of Congress, NOAA, on behalf of the Bush Administration, has found sponsors in the House and the Senate who introduced legislation that would authorize this activity. The provisions in the legislation have favored and promoted the fish farming industry and have done little to nothing to establish strong environmental and socioeconomic standards that would protect coastal communities.

AMCC, together with the Alaska Trollers Association and the United Fishermen of Alaska, have taken a lead on this issue and joined with conservation, fishing and food safety groups nationwide to oppose this legislation. The State of Alaska has also developed a strong position in opposition to the proposed legislation. Our groups have spent time in Washington, D.C. both testifying and talking with our congressional delegation and other members of Congress. With the globalization of our economy, it would be shortsighted to say "I don't care what happens in other states as long as there is no fish farming off Alaska's coast." On the contrary, Alaska would be at risk from offshore fish farming, both economically and environmentally **even if it didn't occur in our federal waters, in the same way that we were impacted by fish farming in Washington and British Columbia.**

Our efforts have paid off. The legislation did not see the light of day in the last Congress and hopefully, the new Administration will not pursue this issue. AMCC will continue to monitor the issue. 

WHAT'S ON DECK



1 CLIMATE. 1 FUTURE. 1 CHANCE.

AMCC and 1Sky have partnered together because we share a basic commitment to building and reinforcing the main themes and moral imperatives of the national 1Sky platform: building a clean energy economy with broadly shared economic opportunity, passing responsible federal climate policy that reduces emissions deeply enough to prevent dangerous climate disruption, and preventing major new investments in polluting coal plants that make global warming worse. To that effort, AMCC and 1Sky have hired a Climate Change Coordinator, Dr. John Lemons (see bio on page 9).

The AMCC/1Sky global climate change campaign (www.1Sky.org) is seeking volunteer "allies" who will assist AMCC by participating in climate change meetings with legislators, media events, national calls to action, volunteer recruitment, letter writing to key politicians, and other activities that support the 1Sky platform and campaign. The allies can be conservationists, fishermen, concerned citizens and community leaders. Please contact John Lemons at AMCC for more information (tel. 235-1086, john@akmarine.org).

THERESA PETERSON APPOINTED TO THE NORTH PACIFIC COUNCIL'S ADVISORY PANEL


Congratulations to Theresa Peterson, AMCC's Kodiak outreach coordinator, just appointed to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Panel. Theresa has worked in a variety of fisheries for over 25 years. Her family currently participates in halibut, salmon, cod and the Tanner crab fishery around Kodiak Island. She has represented AMCC on bycatch and habitat issues as well as working with local fishermen on ways to sustain opportunity for community-based fleets and crew.

CREWMAN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Since 2002, representatives of the Crewman's Association have been endeavoring to effect change in the recognition of crew of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island (BSAI) Crab Rationalization Program. At the December 2008 meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), crew considerations are navigating into uncharted waters.

The NPFMC has put on their agenda, through the BSAI Crab Advisory Committee, the discussion of formation of a Regional Fisheries Association, or RFA, comprised of working fishermen, boat owners, skippers, and crew. The RFA would be allocated a portion of crab quota for use, not ownership. Contained in the reauthorization of the Magnusen-Stevens Act, Regional Fisheries Associations are yet untried, but are designed to be able to include processors, fishermen, and fisheries-based businesses.

There is a Crab Advisory Committee meeting: January 14, 2009 at the Anchorage, Hilton, 500 West 3rd Avenue, Birch/Willow Room, Anchorage, Alaska 9:00am to 5:00.

The meeting will be to discuss potential Regional Fishery Associations intended to benefit crew and a privately funded loan. The issue will be discussed at the NPFMC meeting in Seattle the week of February 2, 2009. 

Giving Opportunities

AMCC works hard to find grant funding for all our programs, but we need your support. Local members and donations show our grantors that the resource-users support our work. Please give.



NEVER AGAIN.

Donate today to the Alaska Marine Conservation Council and help us match grant monies for our work protecting Bristol Bay from oil and gas drilling!
www.akmarine.org



Want to Join?

Membership

I want to help sustain and restore our marine resources.

Please sign me up!

- \$25 Individual
- \$35 Family
- \$50 Supporter
- \$100 Contributor
- \$250 Sustainer
- \$500 Benefactor
- Other

Sign Me Up!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Boat Name _____

Mail to: **ALASKA MARINE CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

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MISSION OF THE ALASKA MARINE CONSERVATION COUNCIL:

Protecting the natural diversity and integrity of Alaska's marine ecosystems by working with coastal communities whose well-being depends on healthy oceans.



Alaska Marine Conservation Council



GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- A healthy and diverse marine ecosystem has intrinsic value.
- People are a part of and depend upon a healthy and diverse marine ecosystem and have responsibility for maintaining it.
- Marine resource management must be comprehensive and incorporate indigenous, scientific, and experiential knowledge.
- The utilization of resources in the marine ecosystem must be managed to prevent over-exploitation, destruction, and neglect of these resources and associated habitats.
- Coastal residents have a valuable and unique perspective on the marine ecosystem and have the right to meaningful and influential participation in decisions.



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