



Sea Change

Climate Perils Prompt Alaskans to Act

News that Alaska's polar bears are doomed, confirmed predictions of dramatic sea ice loss in the Arctic by 2050 and documented impacts of reduced food supply in the Bering Sea are just a few of the growing number of climate change concerns making the headlines. Yet amid this deeply troubling news, there is promise as individuals, cities and boroughs, the state legislature, and our governor act to address an unprecedented threat.

GOVERNOR PALIN STEPS FORWARD ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Responding to the climate threat, Governor Palin has created the Alaska Climate Change Sub-Cabinet, committing Alaska to take decisive action in addressing both the causes and effects of climate change in our state. As the Administrative Order makes clear, "coastal erosion, thawing permafrost, retreating sea ice, record forest fires, and other changes are affecting, and will continue to affect, the lifestyles and livelihoods of Alaskans." With the Governor's leadership, Alaska can help set the pace in finding solutions to climate change.

"This [climate change] strategy should include building the state's knowledge of the actual and foreseeable effects of climate warming in Alaska, developing appropriate measures and policies to prepare communities in Alaska for the anticipated impacts from climate change, and providing guidance regarding Alaska's participation in regional and national efforts addressing the causes and effects of climate change." Administrative Order No. 238



PHOTO: ALAN PARKS

Homer Global Warming Task Force member Dan Lush drives to meetings in his Toyota Prius gas-electric hybrid. Pictured in the background is Homer's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified public library. See page 2 for more on how Homer is tackling climate change.

INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES PLEDGE TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Alaskans are frontline witnesses to climate impacts and, by virtue of living in a remote state, are significant contributors to the problem. Greenhouse gas emissions are caused primarily by carbon dioxide (CO₂) released into the atmosphere when fossil fuels are burned and are recognized as the single greatest contributor to global warming. Our "carbon footprint" is made greater because of heavy reliance on fossil fuels to transport goods, transport ourselves and heat and light our homes in Alaska's cold, dark winters. At the same time, we have vast untapped potential for clean, renewable energy such as wind and geothermal.

Concentrating on just these sorts of challenges and opportunities, and recognizing the imperative to act, a number of Alaskan communities have joined the Cities for Climate

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Climate Perils Prompt Alaskans to Act *Continued from page 1*

Protection Campaign spearheaded by ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – also known as Local Governments for Sustainability). The campaign has almost 700 members worldwide, including five in Alaska (Homer, Anchorage, Kodiak, Juneau and Fairbanks). This initiative empowers local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve livability within municipalities. Member cities make a commitment to conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, set reduction goals, develop and implement a climate action plan and monitor progress. See www.iclei.org/usa and www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/ for more information.

Homer Leads by Example

Even prior to joining the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign in March, the City of Homer had taken an important step towards addressing climate change causes and effects. In January, the City Council formed a Global Warming Task Force to develop its own Climate Action Plan. Helping to catalyze this formal action was Mayor Hornaday's attendance at the 2006 U.S. Conference of Mayors' climate change summit coupled with a community gathering organized by AMCC to share information on the science of climate change and ocean acidification (a major threat to marine organisms also caused by CO₂ emissions).

Since its formation, the task force, led by AMCC staff Alan Parks, has focused on developing measures to help Homer reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions. This summer, Chris Ellington, a Yale architecture student, was hired by AMCC to pull together all the data for Homer's greenhouse gas emissions inventory. The task force will present its final recommendations to the Homer City Council in December.

Citizen Groups in Action

Complementing local government efforts are a number of citizen groups that are actively tackling climate change in their communities. "Sustainable Homer" is a grassroots effort that fosters community-wide education and action by households and businesses. The Sitka Global Warming Group meets monthly to explore practical solutions for reducing your carbon footprint. Meetings have focused on topics such as "electric car conversion" and "how to prepare your home for winter." See www.sitkaglobalwarming.org

The statewide Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) has raised awareness through its 3-2-1 Campaign. Now a partnership with the Alaska Association of Student Government, the campaign has launched anew with a pledge that better reflects rural realities while still meeting the same CO₂ reductions. The Pledge is to unplug 3 electronic appliances when not in use, bring 2 reusable plastic or canvas bags when you go shopping and replace 1 regular use incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb. See www.ayea.org.

Turn to page 4 for suggestions for becoming part of the solution today.



WHAT AMCC IS DOING

AMCC's work to address the critical issue of climate change includes:

- Working with scientists, subsistence harvesters, fishermen and natural resource managers to understand the effects of warming oceans and ocean acidification;
- Working with western Alaska communities to limit the extent of bottom trawling in the Bering Sea to protect habitat and subsistence as climate change causes fish populations to move north;
- Sharing sound science with coastal communities, catalyzing and supporting community initiatives to address the problem and working with coastal residents to call for local, state and federal action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Providing fishermen and other vessel owner's cooperative research opportunities to help fill important gaps in scientific understanding.

For more information, or to become involved in any of these efforts, please contact Martha Levensaler, Climate Change Project Director at (907) 277-5344. Email: martha@akmarine.org.

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Bering Sea Canyon Expedition

In August, a 33 member team – from ship's captain to engineers to biologists, technical crew and others – explored the deep canyons of the Bering Sea from the Greenpeace vessel *Esperanza*. Using underwater cameras mounted on Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and single-person submarines, the five pilots on the team completed 25 dives in Pribilof and Zhemchug Canyons, down to a maximum depth of 1,950 feet. The following are excerpts from marine biologist Michelle Ridgway's blog in which she describes some of the marine life they encountered above and below the surface. To read Michelle's full blog go to: <http://michelleridgway.vox.com/>



PHOTO: COURTESY GREENPEACE

Team of Bering Sea Canyon Expedition Submarine Pilots: Kenneth Lowyck (Belgium), Michelle Ridgway (Alaska), John Hocevar (Texas), Timothy Marshall (California) and David Guggenheim (Washington, D.C.).

ZHEMCHUG CANYON LIFE

August 5, 2007 at 1:04 AM

It has been a big day. We traveled west through the night across the southern Bering Sea to the rim of Zhemchug Canyon...considered perhaps the largest submarine canyon in the world....

Now I am overwhelmed ... the diversity of species we have seen today is staggering. Highlights include a wonderful array of corals ... delicate soft "mushroom" corals, *Paragorgia* bubble gum coral, *Swiftia* a gorgonian coral, and the lovely quill pen coral – a tall arching feathery orange species. We filmed and/or collected at least a dozen sponge species, as well as innumerable invertebrates and fishes....

FIN WHALE FRENZY AT THE SHELFBREAK

August 8, 2007 at 12:32 AM

Throughout our expedition in the southern Bering Sea, we have been incredibly blessed with excellent weather and the constant company of marine mammals and birds. Last night we had *lots* of company! As yet another productive day of undersea exploration wound down, and the ship slowed for the evening, we were joined by hundreds of seabirds.

Light and dark-phase northern fulmars (hundreds), mottled petrels (dozens) and albatross (9 total) gathered around the *Esperanza* in a huge flock. Some aggregations of birds were clearly feeding. Among the smaller birds, we spotted first two blackfooted and then a short tailed abatross. Within half an hour, three more short tailed albatross ...then a Laysan's albatross joined

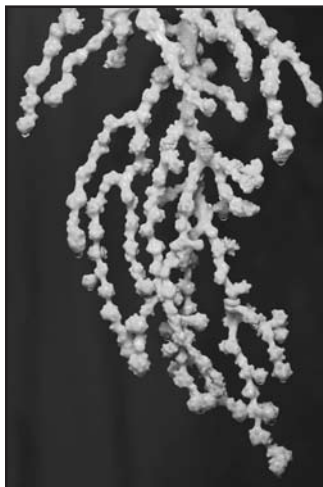


PHOTO: COURTESY GREENPEACE

them, and yet two more short tailed. The gathering of six short tailed albatross in one small aggregation so close to the ship was fantastic to witness. With fewer than 1,200 remaining on the planet, this was a significant portion of their population!

As daylight began to fade to darkness at around 10 pm, first a few dozen, then over a hundred fin whales were in sight of *Esperanza's* bridge! The massive whales were rolling about on the surface within 25 meters of the vessel on all sides! ...they seemed to be lunging near the surface ... either at one another, or perhaps in pursuit of food... they apparently feed on fish and invertebrates in the water column.... Studies by Alan Springer and other ecologists indicate that the Bering Sea shelf break, called the "greenbelt," is among the most productive ecosystems in the world. From phytoplankton to top predators, the carbon produced and transferred from the deep basin waters up the slope and onto the shallow shelf rivals that of any such system on the planet....

THE ABYSS

August 11, 2007 at 2:13 AM

Launch Time = 0921 August 9, 2007 Location: Zhemchug Canyon (N 58.36.2701 W 174 15.2287)

...Strong currents nearly overwhelmed me in Deepworker 7. I was carried away from my landing location in just the time it took to report my life support system readings to topside. Like so much flotsam, I, too was swept along in the current when not using full thrusters to maintain headway on my transect compass course....

High currents create unique oases for marine life at such depths. In this case fields of gravel, cobble and occasional boulders swept clean of silt and sand with nutrient loaded seawater flowing through provide the necessary attachment substrata for sessile organisms and shelter for mobile species like fish and crab. Once in this rocky terrain, the tangerine realm of Zhemchug Canyon was unveiled.

Note: We include this in *Sea Change* to share new discoveries about Alaska's ecosystems and because special habitat features of the Bering Sea canyons need to be understood, mapped and protected from damaging fishing practices. 🌿

Paragorgia coral collected from Zhemchug canyon on August 4. This is the first scientifically collected and documented *Paragorgia* from this area, this far north, according to NMFS biologist Bob Stone.



A rockfish with her boulder in Zhemchug Canyon. Invertebrates on the boulder include a huge crinoid (top right), basket star (center), brachiopods (top center), seastars and several species of anemone.

PHOTO: COURTESY GREENPEACE

CLIMATE CHANGE: What Can You Do

The problem of climate change can seem overwhelming. Collective action by individuals, communities, local governments, states and nations is necessary to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Here are some things you can do:

- Reduce your carbon footprint.
- Be proactive in your community.
- Support legislation at all levels of government to address the problem.
- Urge businesses and investment companies to address climate change in their practices.
- Continue to learn.

REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Challenge yourself, your family and your community to make transportation, energy and food choices that will lessen your greenhouse gas emissions.

- *Drive less:* Use public transport, walk, bike or carpool whenever possible. Plan your errands to limit time spent behind the wheel. Make fuel efficiency a top priority when purchasing vehicles.
- *Conserve energy:* Lower your water heater and thermostats. Use energy efficient light bulbs. Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use.
- *Eat locally:* The food Alaskans eat travels an average of 2,500 miles. Agriculture plus food processing and distribution account for about 20% of U.S. greenhouse gas production. Wherever possible, buy locally-produced food – there is a growing local food movement in Alaska that needs your support.
- *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*



Anchorage Farmers Market

CONSUMER RESOURCES

Alaska Carbon Calculator

Alaska Conservation Solutions' interactive tool helps you calculate your carbon footprint and provides tips for reducing it.
<http://www.alaskaconservationsolutions.com/acs/akcalculator.html>

Find an Energy-Saving Light Bulb

Environmental Defense's interactive website lets you choose the shape and style of bulb to match your fixture.
<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagID=632>

Local building supply stores carry energy efficient bulbs. If they do not carry the bulb you want, check out www.bulbs.com, an online bulb superstore.

Consumer Reports Greener Choices

www.greenerchoices.org: A free website from *Consumer Reports* highlighting green products with links to further resources.



BE PROACTIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY


- *Request AMCC's Climate Change Conservation Kit for use in your community.*
- *Invite AMCC to make a presentation in your community.*
- *Find out if your community has a local government task force on climate change. If so, get involved! If not, urge your city or borough to take action. See www.iclei.org/usa and www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/*
- *Urge public institutions to be models in reducing greenhouse gas production. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council, Alaska Chapter website www.chapters.usgbc.org/alaska and Alaska Building Science Network www.absn.com*
- *Talk with friends, co-workers, teachers and leaders in places of worship. Don't shy away from opportunities to address this important issue; others might appreciate your knowledge and leadership. Alaska Interfaith Power and Light is a faith-based organization aiming to create a coordinated religious voice on global warming, while deepening the connection between ecology and faith. www.akipl.org*

CONTINUE TO LEARN

There are many articles, books and websites focused on climate change. Please visit AMCC's website (www.akmarine.org) for links to helpful resources.

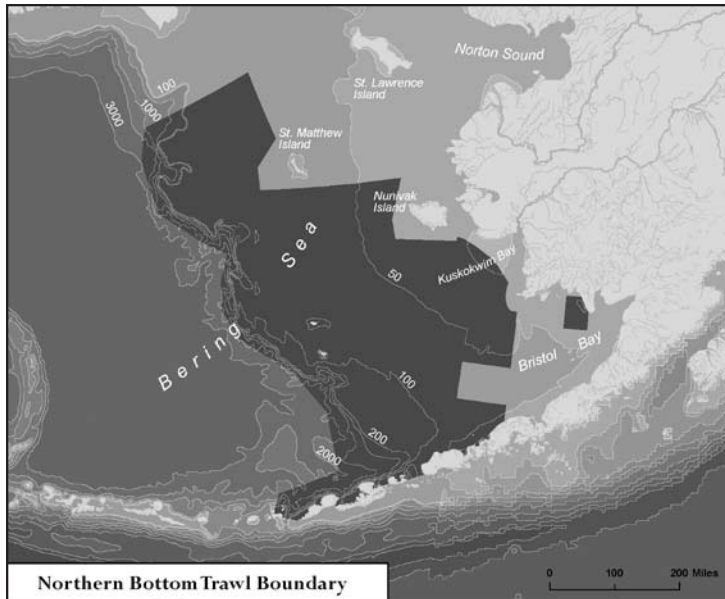
LET GOVERNOR PALIN KNOW THAT YOU SUPPORT HER ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Write to the Governor to show your support for state action on climate change. Share your concerns, describe the changes that you are seeing on and in the water and congratulate her for creating the Alaska Climate Change Sub-cabinet.

The Honorable Governor Sarah Palin
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Ph: (907) 465-3500
Fax: (907) 465-3532
To email the Governor, go to:
<http://www.gov.state.ak.us/> 

Fishery Managers Close Northern Bering Sea to Bottom Trawling

In June the North Pacific Fishery Management Council closed the northern Bering Sea to bottom trawl fishing to protect “essential fish habitat.” This action protects Alaska Native communities and marine life from future northern movement of large-scale bottom trawl



Shaded area is the historic trawl footprint and remains open to bottom trawling. Federal fishery managers will develop a plan for the northern Bering Sea to protect areas important for marine mammals, crab species, threatened or endangered species (such as spectacled eiders) and subsistence. Whatever area is left over will be open for a scientific research permit to study the effects of bottom trawling.


fisheries. Over 25 Bering Sea tribal governments and Alaska Native organizations requested the closure through resolutions, letters and public testimony. Alaska Marine Conservation Council promoted the boundary along with other conservation groups working in Alaska. In addition to the boundary, federal fishery managers established the northern region as the “Northern Bering Sea Research Area.” They will develop a special management plan for the northern Bering Sea in the event that rising ocean temperatures, caused by global climate change, result in a major redistribution of commercially valuable fish species into the region.

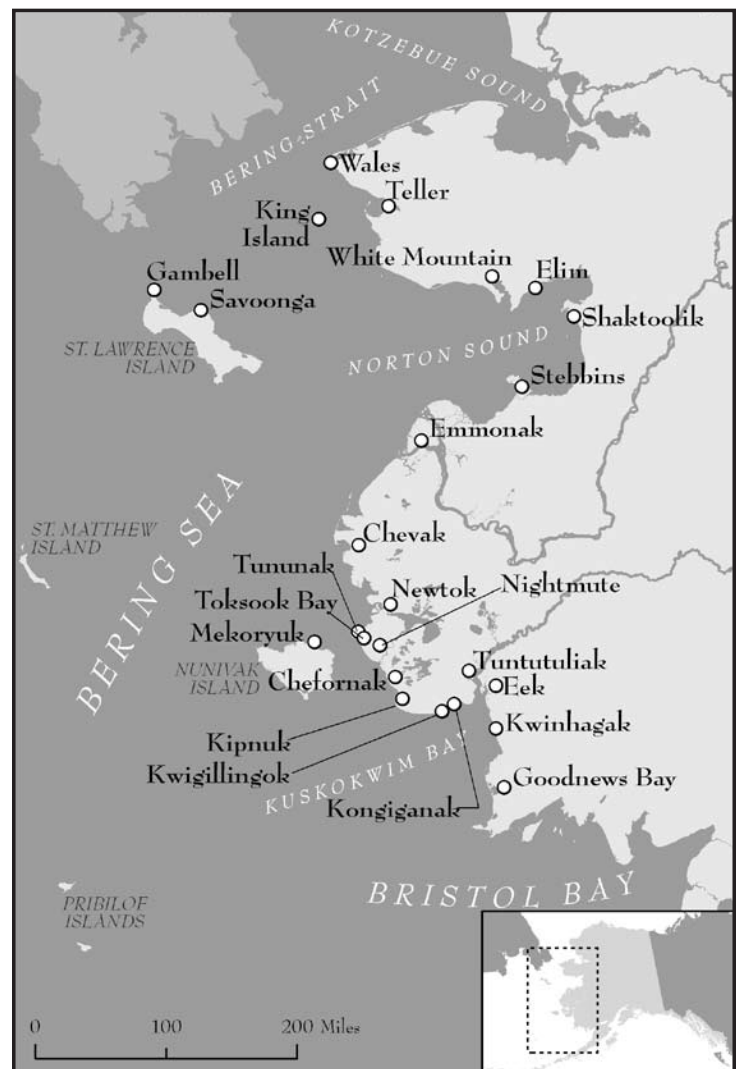
The North Pacific Council has limited bottom trawling to those areas of the southern Bering Sea where it has historically occurred. “Freezing the bottom trawl footprint” is a precautionary measure to ensure the fishery doesn’t expand into untrawled habitats without an explicit management plan in place. Bottom trawling involves dragging large nets weighted with heavy tires, chains and other hardware across the bottom of the ocean, and is widely considered destructive to the physical structure and marine life of the seafloor.

Before the North Pacific Council will consider allowing bottom trawling beyond the northern boundary, they will establish protections for marine mammals, species listed under the Endangered Species Act, crab species and areas important for subsistence. Once these protections are in place, research will be conducted in the remaining areas to assess the impact of bottom trawling on that habitat. The results of the

research will provide information to support an adaptively managed commercial fishery.

Federal fishery managers also voted to revise the boundary around Kuskokwim Bay, Nelson Island and Nunivak Island in four years. The June decision did not fully consider subsistence concerns so this gives the villages located close to the boundary the opportunity to propose a different line. Toward that end, villages will work with a newly formed Bering Sea elders Advisory Group to ensure knowledge held by Elders, hunters and fishermen plays a substantial role in the final decision. AMCC was invited to provide support to this effort. (See Bering Sea Travelogue, page 10.) Redrawing the boundary from Nunivak Is. to Kuskokwim Bay and designing the Northern Bering Sea Research Area are parallel and related efforts. Together they are an opportunity to apply the best science and traditional knowledge to a management decision.

Please see <http://www.akmarine.org/our-work/conserves-fisheries-marine-life/bering-sea-bottom-trawl-boundary> for more information on the importance of this boundary in light of climate change. 



Villages that requested the Northern Bottom Trawl Boundary

Bird's Eye View of Bristol Bay Reveals Stunning and Sensitive Coastline

AMCC staff Eric Siy and Kelly Harrell embarked on a journey to Dillingham in early September to meet with community leaders and view some of the coastal areas that could be affected by proposed offshore oil and gas drilling in Bristol Bay. Long-time Bristol Bay resident and AMCC board member Terry Hoeffler graciously served as guide and host. The group was also joined by Richard Charter, co-chair of the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Coalition and a longstanding defender of Bristol Bay waters. Charter was instrumental to advocacy efforts that led to Congressional protection for the area in 1989. All protections have since been lifted and an offshore oil and gas lease sale is now scheduled for 2011.

A rare, partly-sunny day offered the chance to charter a flight from Dillingham to the small peninsula village of Nelson Lagoon. The bird's eye view revealed a coastline laced with intertidal lagoons, eelgrass beds, mudflats, protected bays and miles of wetlands. Sensitive shoreline habitats, and the wildlife species that depend on them, are highly vulnerable to potential spills, as retention of oil in sheltered and vegetated areas is extremely high. Coupled with the slow degradation of oil at low temperatures, oil and its associated impacts could be expected to persist in some of these areas for decades to come.


From the overflight, the group also saw pods of beluga whales and

orcas, as well as several haul outs with hundreds of resting spotted seals. Abundant bird life included several seabird colonies and numerous spectacular flocks, feeding in these rich habitats before undertaking their long southern migrations.

The federal government predicts at least one large oil spill of more than 42,000 gallons, as well as numerous smaller spills, if oil and gas development is permitted in Bristol Bay. Prevailing winds and currents in the southeastern Bering Sea would likely push spilled oil from the lease sale area in a northeasterly direction, along the spectacular coastline witnessed on the trip and toward the headwaters of Bristol Bay.

In July, the Department of Interior's new 5-year offshore leasing program went into effect, providing for a Bristol Bay lease sale in 2011.

The lease site encompasses 5.6 million acres of water in the southern portion of Bristol Bay, adjacent to the Alaska Peninsula.

With no protections currently in place and a lease sale looming on the near horizon, AMCC will be working with the many diverse organizations opposed to development to secure permanent protection of this vital resource. To learn more about Bristol Bay and the pending threat visit AMCC's website at www.akmarine.org. You can also contact Kelly Harrell, Friends of Bristol Bay Campaign Coordinator, to find out how you can help: kelly@akmarine.org or (907) 277-5357. 

“Vulnerable coastal wetlands sensitive to disturbance occur along much of the Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay coastline.”

– Minerals Management Service,
Final Environmental Impact Statement for the
2007-2012 Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program

Herendeen Bay, pictured here, is the proposed transportation corridor for getting oil and gas to market. A subsea pipeline would run through the bay, then onshore across the Alaska Peninsula Wildlife Refuge (in background), ending at a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant that would be constructed on the Gulf of Alaska side of the peninsula, near Pavlof Bay. This coastal gem is as biologically rich as it is visually stunning, providing important habitat for salmon, herring, sea otters, harbor seals, endangered Steller's eiders, orca whales, Pacific walrus and more.



PHOTO: RICHARD CHARTER

CATCH of the SEASON: *Just for the Halibut*

Charter subscribers received their second special delivery of CATCH of the SEASON seafood earlier this month – Pacific halibut from Homer. The halibut was harvested by long-time AMCC supporters, Annette



PHOTO: ALAN PARKS

Annette and Marvin Bellamy.

and Marvin Bellamy. Like the first delivery of Sitka king salmon last spring, the choice halibut fillets received rave reviews.

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.

AMCC staff, Katie Cullen, traveled to Homer to oversee the packaging at Coal Point Seafood Company. Each shipment was personally inspected by Katie to ensure perfection. With the help of the great staff at Coal Point, she labeled and boxed up the beautiful fish – they even wrapped the frozen halibut in newspaper for extra insulation! Every package also included several copies of the handcrafted booklet, “the story of your catch,” with information about the species, a profile of Annette and Marvin and a description of the longlining technique, as well as information about Homer and AMCC's conservation work in the region. It also featured a favorite Bellamy family recipe – Tomato-Basil Halibut (see recipe).

Tomato-Basil Halibut

For 2 lbs of halibut (four 8 oz. portions)

A Bellamy family favorite

Ingredients:

2 lbs. halibut (thawed overnight in the refrigerator)
1 clove of garlic (minced)
1-2 tsp. olive oil
Sea salt
1 cup chopped tomato
¼ cup chopped fresh basil
balsamic vinegar (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Sauté the garlic in olive oil for 2-3 minutes.
3. Rub halibut portions with sea salt on both sides.
4. Place halibut in pan with sautéed garlic and sear for 1-2 minutes per side.
5. Remove halibut and place in an oven safe pan and finish cooking in the oven (about 10-15 minutes depending on thickness of fillet; fish should flake easily with a fork).
6. Remove halibut from the oven, place each portion on plate and top with chopped tomato and basil. *Optional: drizzle with a little balsamic vinegar.*

The next CATCH of the SEASON delivery is slated for the holiday season – a very special opportunity for people to give the gift of sustainably-harvested seafood while promoting the conservation work of AMCC. To subscribe, turn to the back page of the newsletter or sign-up online at www.akmarine.org.

Many Thanks:

- **Misty Butler & Christina Newell** for face painting at AMCC's booth at the Alaska Oceans Festival and **Bill Heubner** for taking photographs!
- **Neil & Kyra Wagner** for hosting AMCC staff Martha Levensaler during her August trip to Homer.
- **Michael Brooks** for bringing together AMCC board and staff and National Farmers Union representatives from around the country at a feast in Girdwood during the annual NFU President's meeting.
- **Terry and Ginger Hoefflerle** for their hospitality to AMCC staff Kelly Harrell during her June trip to Dillingham and for again hosting and serving as local guide when Richard Charter and AMCC staff Eric Siy and Kelly Harrell visited in September.
- **Eric and Sarah Jordan** for providing AMCC staff Dorothy Childers with a comfortable place to stay during the June NPFMC meeting in Sitka.
- **Drew Stephens, Julia Kernitz and Svenja Kurth of Service at Sea** for offering a two-day training for AMCC staff to learn ArcMap GIS software.
- **The University of Alaska Anchorage** for their assistance in funding AMCC's summer intern in Homer to work with the Global Warming Task Force on conducting an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions.

Offshore Aquaculture Update – No Time for Complacency

Two virtually identical bills have been introduced in Congress that would authorize fish farming in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore). Both were introduced at the request of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As currently proposed, however, there is little to no support for the legislation as was made clear during a July hearing and from AMCC's conversations with House and Senate committee staff, including staff of the Alaska delegation.

As was the case during the last Congress, the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007 continues to fall far short of addressing the serious socioeconomic and environmental risks posed by industrial fish farming in the open ocean. The legislation aggressively promotes a new, large-scale industry while placing existing, healthy fisheries and marine resources at risk.

Paula Terrel, a salmon troller and AMCC's fish farming issues coordinator, traveled to Washington, D.C. twice this year to meet with members of Congress and their staff about AMCC's opposition to the NOAA legislation. She also attended the July House Subcommittee

hearing on Fisheries and Oceans. Together with representatives of Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) and United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), AMCC met with our Alaska delegation and with members of House and Senate committees. In addition, AMCC, ATA and UFA are coordinating comments with the State of Alaska, as all share similar positions.

Senator Inouye (Hawaii), who chairs the Senate Commerce Committee is poised to introduce a more moderate bill (not drafted by NOAA). Conventional wisdom says that this will likely be the legislative vehicle that Congress debates. At the request of Senator Inouye's staff, AMCC and other groups have commented on this draft, acknowledging



PHOTO: NOAA

that it contains some improvements to NOAA's original legislation, but remains unacceptable.

There will likely be hearings on these bills this fall. AMCC will again be in Washington to voice its objections and concerns and to continue the dialogue with the Alaska congressional delegation.

AMCC remains opposed to legislation that would authorize offshore aquaculture for finfish species such as salmon, halibut and black cod and has insisted that any legislation mandate that a priority exists for the protection of wild fisheries and marine resources and that no aquaculture be allowed unless it can be done without harm or risk to the ocean environment and coastal communities. AMCC has been actively involved in building a network of approximately 50 fishing and conservation groups who oppose NOAA's legislation.

One thing is clear. Offshore aquaculture legislation is NOAA's top priority for passage during this Congress. NOAA is holding meetings throughout the country to drum up support for these bills and pressing for Congress to pass legislation during the 110th Congress.

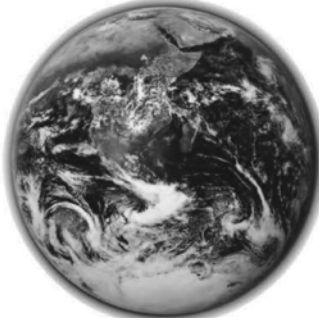
This is no time for complacency. Even if offshore fish farming does not occur off Alaska, what happens in federal waters elsewhere in the United States could have dire consequences for Alaska.

Offshore fish farming in Pacific states could pose environmental risks to Alaska's fisheries. Offshore fish farming anywhere in the United States will have social, cultural and economic impacts for Alaska's coastal communities. Alaskan fishermen know these impacts have no boundaries, having experienced firsthand the collapse of salmon prices from coastal fish farming in British Columbia, South America and other parts of the world.

You can help by contacting your fishing and/or conservation groups and urging them to be proactive in their opposition to offshore aquaculture legislation. For more information, please contact Paula Terrel at paula@akmarine.org or (907) 586-8349.

You may also access the testimony and minutes of the hearing on HR 2010 at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/offshore.htm>.

truth hope action



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FILM FESTIVAL
on tour

A selection of inspiring films exploring the natural world and our role in its delicate balance

Thursday, October 25th
8pm, Bear Tooth Theatre

Proceeds support the Alaska Marine Conservation Council
and Copper River Watershed Project



Tickets - \$7
On sale October 16 at the Bear Tooth

Farewell



Claire LeClair

Claire served many years as an exemplary member of AMCC's board and executive committee. She quietly, competently and with a smile took on numerous organizational tasks. Some highlights include chairing the nominations committee to recruit new board members and volunteering her time to participate in the Pribilof Islands Collaborative spearheaded by the World Wildlife Fund and The Nature Conservancy to build greater understanding and communication among the conservation community, Pribilof Is. organizations and the fishing industry. Claire's no nonsense approach to everything – from organizational administration to tackling conservation issues to picking up the office recyclables – was always appreciated. We hope Claire's offer to host the board for more Tanner crab feasts in her garage still stands – we'll bring the crab! Many thanks to Claire, a good friend to AMCC, the communities we serve and the life-giving ocean we work to protect.



Casey Meliah

Casey is the second youth to serve on AMCC's board of directors in a special seat reserved for "future generations." Casey demonstrated his commitment to marine conservation by attending all meetings, engaging in decisions and helping with AMCC events in his home town of Kodiak. Casey graduated from Kodiak High School in spring and has moved to Anchorage where he is attending the University of Alaska Anchorage and pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Fire Science. We sincerely thank you Casey for your exemplary service on the board and the perspective that you brought to many a meeting. We have every confidence that you will reach your greatest goals and dreams. *✍️*

Welcome



Martha Levensaler

AMCC is pleased to welcome Martha as our newest staff member. Martha brings nearly 20 years of Alaskan conservation, networking and organizational experience to her role as AMCC's Climate Change Project Director. In recent years Martha has coordinated a series of climate change panels for the annual Alaska Forum on the Environment sponsored by EPA and other agencies and designed largely for rural Alaskans as an informational conference. At AMCC, she will be supporting locally-based efforts to address climate change and, with AMCC's science advisors, sharing current research findings with communities to better equip them in addressing the problem and advocating for responsive policies in the state and in Washington.

Farewell



Kate Prengaman

During her internship, Kate worked diligently to develop handouts and a PowerPoint presentation on the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on marine ecosystems. These informative materials are available on our website (www.akmarine.org) and will be shared with communities at outreach events this fall. After completing her internship, Kate moved to southcentral Florida to work as a plant ecology field assistant at the Archbold Biological Station where she will be for the next 6 months. After that, she is hoping to both return to Alaska and plan for a master's in environmental journalism. Thank you for everything, Kate. We miss you! *✍️*

WHAT'S ON DECK

October 15 ▪ Kodiak
7:00 pm, Gerald C. Wilson
Auditorium, Drama Pod
Ocean Acidification and Alaska's
Fisheries: A seminar led by
Brad Warren

♦ ♦ ♦

October 16 ▪ Kodiak
7:00 pm, Fishermen's Hall
Tackling Climate Change: A
Discussion on Community Solutions

October 19-21 ▪ Anchorage
4th Annual "Bioneers in Alaska:
Creating Sustainable Communities"
conference, Alaska Pacific University
www.sustainak.org

♦ ♦ ♦

October 22-27 ▪ Fairbanks
Annual Alaska Federation of Natives
(AFN) Convention

♦ ♦ ♦

October 25 ▪ Anchorage
8:00 pm, Bear Tooth Theatre
Patagonia presents the Wild &
Scenic Environmental Film Festival
hosted by AMCC and Copper River
Watershed Project

November 2-4 ▪ Anchorage
AMCC Board of Directors Meeting,
Alaska Pacific University

♦ ♦ ♦

November 15-17 ▪ Seattle
Pacific Marine Expo

♦ ♦ ♦

December 3-11 ▪ Anchorage
North Pacific Fishery Management
Council Meeting
www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/

Travelogue

ALASKA OCEANS FESTIVAL, ANCHORAGE

A summer tradition, the annual Alaska Oceans Festival provides a great opportunity for AMCC to reach out to Anchorage residents and many others from around the state. This year, two talented volunteers – Misty Butler and Christina Newell – painted faces all day, attracting a big crowd as people of all ages waited in line to have their face decorated with colorful jellyfish, starfish, whales, waterfowl, octopuses and other marine life.



PHOTOS: BILL HEUBNER

BERING SEA

Over the past six months AMCC staff has traveled to western Alaska to meet with rural communities to share information about the northern bottom trawl boundary and decisions being made by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Many villages and Native organizations promoted the boundary and are actively engaged in the next phase involving the development of a comprehensive plan, including the use of traditional knowledge, to protect sensitive marine life, habitats and subsistence in the northern Bering Sea. Direct involvement by villages – from those located along the boundary to those farther north – is critical to generating responsive decisions by federal fishery managers.

January – Nightmute meeting of Nelson Is. villages

April/May

- Toksook Bay meeting of eight villages (Tununak, Nightmute, Umkumiut, Cheforak, Kwigillingok, Mekoryuk, Toksook Bay and Newtok)
- Kongiganak
- Quinhagak
- Goodnews Bay



Goodnews Bay

August – Kwigillingok; St. Lawrence Island (Savoonga and Gambell); Nome

September – Bethel meeting of elders from eight tribes

We wish to thank the tribal administrators from each village for their invitations, hospitality and technical support in setting up computers and screens. We especially thank people who housed us including Julius and Martha Pleasant in Bethel; the school in Toksook Bay; Carol Henry in Gambell; Lloyd and Christina Perrigo in Nome; the Teen Center in Quinhagak; Savoonga IRA and staff at the Sivuqaq Lodge in Gambell. We owe a debt of gratitude to many Yupik/English bilingual speakers who translated for us, especially James Sipary, David Bill, Arthur Lake and Fred Phillip. We thank Jeannette Iya in Savoonga for an abundant dinner of fresh muktuk, dried whale meat, seal oil, halibut, sour dock, berries and tea and others who came to the airport with such treats to take home.

We congratulate the villages and those who traveled to attend North Pacific Council meetings to represent the tribes: James Sipary, David Bill, Austin Ahmasuk, Jennifer Hooper and Sky Starkey.

EVENTS COMING UP AT PACIFIC MARINE EXPO

PROTECTING THE SEA THAT FEEDS US

The Fishing Industry Takes On Ocean Acidification: A Roundtable Discussion at Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle

Thursday, Nov 15, 11:30 am -12:30 pm
Qwest Field Event Center, Seattle

It's time to confront the greatest threat the fishing industry has ever faced: CO₂ emissions are poisoning and heating up the oceans, undermining fish stocks and ocean food webs. Learn what's being done about it – and how you can help.

Confirmed Speakers

- Brad Warren (organizer), Productive Ocean Partnership: *How Fishing Leaders are Tackling this Threat*
- Doug DeMaster, Alaska Fisheries Science Center: *How NOAA is Tackling the Problem*
- John Guinotte, Marine Conservation Biology Institute: *Coldwater Corals*
- Martha Levensaler, Alaska Marine Conservation Council: *Alaska's Fishing Communities as Frontline Witnesses to Climate Change*
- Bob Pawlowski, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation: *Implications for the Fishing Industry*
- Adam Bartz, staff member to U.S. Rep Jay Inslee: *Raising Federal Funds to Confront Ocean Acidification*

Invited, tentatively confirmed: Richard Feely, NOAA ocean chemist: *Science, Forecasts, and Impacts for Marine Life*.

FISHERMEN'S RECEPTION:

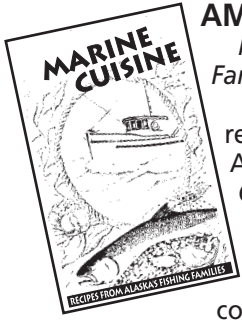
Protecting Bristol Bay and Bering Sea Fisheries from Offshore Drilling

Thursday, November 15, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Pyramid Brewery, Seattle (corner of 1st Ave & South Brougham Way)

Sponsored by AMCC, Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association and World Wildlife Fund.

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.

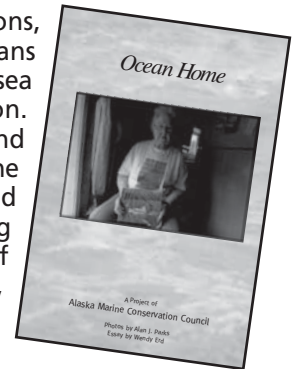


PHOTO: DAVE KUBIAK

Waylaid by a Whale

A humpback whale in Marmot Bay viewed from the bridge of the Mythos. "This whale blocked our way, bubble netted us, slashed her tail on all sides of us, blew deep and sprayed us, bumped the boat, and trumpeted repeatedly on every side. Incredible, if nerve wracking," said skipper and AMCC board member Dave Kubiak.



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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