

Bering Sea Halibut Bycatch Nears Final Action

June North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting Fast Approaching

April 28, 2015

With the June meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council) less than a month away, supporters of halibut bycatch reduction in the Bering Sea are working hard to communicate to the Council Alaskans' strong support for bycatch reduction. The meeting is slated for June 1-9 in Sitka, and will include discussion and potential final action on Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) bycatch reduction.



Drawing by Homer fisherman
Oceana Wills

Over the past decade, as directed halibut harvest has steadily dropped in response to a declining halibut stock, a major re-allocation of the resource has occurred. Directed halibut fisheries landings have been cut by 63% in the Bering Sea since 2005, but halibut bycatch caps remain at the same level set during peak abundance decades ago! This inequitable standard of conservation has created a stark disparity between halibut fishermen and fisheries that harvest halibut as bycatch in the Bering Sea. In 2014, **BSAI groundfish fisheries killed and discarded seven times more halibut (number of fish, not pounds) than the directed fishery landed** in the same region! [Read more.](#)

>> It is vital that the Council hear from halibut users from across the North Pacific. Write to the Council today and ask them to reduce halibut bycatch caps in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands by no less than 50%! The deadline for written comment is Tuesday, May 26, 2015. Only a meaningful reduction will give the halibut fishery and the communities that depend on it the relief they need.

***Email your comments to npfmc.comments@noaa.gov with "C2 Bering Sea Halibut PSC" in the subject line.**

Copy our DC delegates in your comments - Alaska's representatives need to hear how Alaskans feel about bycatch.

Letters can be copied to:

Senator Lisa Murkowski - Ephraim_froelich@murkowski.senate.gov

Senator Dan Sullivan - erik_elam@sullivan.senate.gov

Congressman Don Young - bonnie.bruce@mail.house.gov



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dependent communities.



For more information on how to comment or testify in person, please contact AMCC Kodiak Outreach Coordinator, Theresa Peterson, at (907)539-1927 or theresa@akmarine.org



ORGANIZE

Graphic by Emma Laukitis, fisherman and co-founder of Salmon Sisters

For past updates on this issue, [click here](#).

Missed New Bristol Bay Film? Watch at Home!

35 Minute Film "A Legacy Story" Is Now Available Online with Publication

April 29, 2014

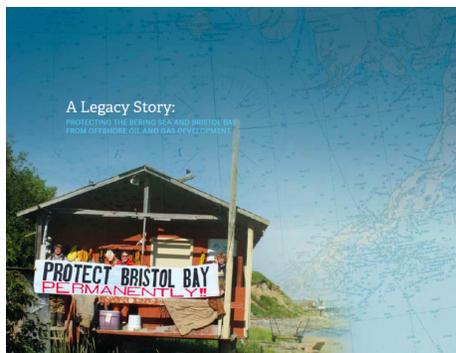
The Alaska Marine Conservation Council and Nunamta Aulukestai invite you to watch the new film [A Legacy Story: Protecting the Bering Sea and Bristol Bay from Offshore Oil and Gas Development](#), which is now available online:



The 35 minute film chronicles the long struggle over decisions about opening Bristol Bay and the southeast Bering Sea to offshore oil and gas drilling, which President Obama permanently withdrew on December 16, 2014.

The story is told from the perspective of those on the front lines - leaders in the region and the seafood industry, past governors and former Interior Department secretaries. By documenting this story, future generations will remember the history and value the enduring effort made to permanently set Bristol Bay and the southeast Bering Sea aside from oil and gas leasing.

Read the print version:



Please share the video on your social media channels and help us spread the word about President Obama's historic decision. To thank the President, click [here](#).

Thank you for your support in protecting this important region's culture, economies, and way of life!

Newest Business Member: Darius Kasprzak

April 27, 2015

AMCC has been working with Darius Kasprzak since collaborating with Kodiak fishermen to secure a decision by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to set aside up to 6% of the Gulf of Alaska cod quota for the low-impact jig fleet, providing more opportunity for small boat and entry-level fishermen. Recently, AMCC's Engagement and Development Manager, Samantha Baker, talked with Kasprzak about the Kodiak jig set-aside, the creation of the Kodiak Jig Seafoods brand, and his support of AMCC as its newest [business member](#).



Darius on his boat, the F/V Marona, off Cape Hepburn in Alitak Bay

Sam: How did you get started fishing in Alaska? What does fishing (and specifically jig fishing) symbolize/mean for you?

Darius: Fishing symbolizes an independent, self employed method to make a living close to the ocean. Jig fishing in particular reflects an entry level and open access means to independently harvest premium seafood in a sustainable, low ecosystem impact fashion without reliance on heavy, expensive gear or a plethora of crew... [Read the full interview.](#)

For a full list of AMCC's Business Members and to learn more about how to become one, visit www.akmarine.org.

W h a t W e ' r e R e a d

- [Connecting the coast; bycatch in the bering sea](#) by AMCC Board Member, Marissa Wilson in The Bristol Bay Times/The Arctic Sounder/Dutch Harbor Fisherman, Homer Tribune, Ketchikan Daily News and the Seward Journal
- [Bering Sea halibut bycatch cuts critical for conservation](#) by AMCC's Hannah Heimbuch in the Alaska Journal of Commerce
- Listen to AMCC's Executive Director, Kelly Harrell, talking local seafood on APRN's [Hometown, Alaska](#).
- Listen to AMCC's Sam Baker on APRN's [Outdoor Explorer](#) talking about the annual Anchorage Coastal Cleanup and other marine debris efforts.
- [Healthy Oceans Require Healthy Policy](#) by Courtney Mattison in National Geographic's Ocean Views
- [Food in the Last Frontier: Inside Alaska's Food Security Challenges and Opportunities](#) by Elizabeth Hodges Snyder and Kent Meter in Environment



Clean Up Anchorage's Coast, June 6

Past, present, and future Coastal Cleanup Volunteers, please join us on June 6 for a morning of beach cleaning. Wear clothes that can get a little dirty, boots, and work gloves. We will have extra work gloves along with trash bags and snacks! Get outside. clean the beach. have fun and learn about marine debris. Stations will be at Lyn Ary Park and Point Woronzof - just show up at either location at 10am (cleanup runs until noon). Children and cyclists welcome! Be sure to invite your friends on [Facebook](#).



Share Your Photos, Get a T-shirt!

Do you like taking photos while fishing? We are always looking for photos of our members enjoying Alaska's marine resources. Send 5 or more photos to sam@akmarine.org and we'll send you an AMCC shirt. Check out more member submitted photos on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and coming soon, Instagram! Thank you to Rachel Greenough for this one.



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