



WEEK OF APRIL 23, 2007

“GOAC3 CORKLINE: FISH NEWS FOR ALASKA'S COASTAL COMMUNITIES”

Welcome to the "GOAC3 CORKLINE" – a weekly offering of major “fish news” for Alaska’s fisheries-dependent communities. The GOAC3 - Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition - is a non-profit organization concerned about the dwindling economic and socio-economic health of our fishing communities. There are many complicated issues impacting our fishing communities and it is important to stay as informed as we can. The “fish news” and links presented here are for your information only. This is not inclusive of all news. We highly recommend that you subscribe to various news services for much more in-depth coverage. The most important of these are the (a) North Pacific Fishery newsletter and web page, (b) National Marine Fisheries Service (Alaska Region) web page and news, (c) The Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game web pages. If the hyperlink does not work, cut and paste to your URL bar.

The GOAC3 is not responsible for any of the material or links except our own. If you would like to join us or suggest any additions to the "Corkline", please contact us. Please check our web site for important calendar items. www.goac3.org

GENERAL NEWS OF THE WEEK FOR ALASKA’S FISHING COMMUNITIES:

(1) **National - NOAA Fisheries' Outreach Plan Available Online:** The National Outreach Plan for NOAA Fisheries was developed to help in the execution of a strategy identified in NOAA's Strategic Plan. Specifically, the strategy is to "develop coordinated regional and national outreach and education efforts to improve public understanding and involvement in stewardship of coastal and marine ecosystems."

In support of this strategy, NOAA Fisheries is currently conducting outreach at the national and regional levels at six regional offices and science centers as well as at their headquarters. The primary purpose of the plan is to create a more unified and strategic approach to outreach for the agency. As such, the plan was recently entered into the Policy Directive System to help guide the agency's policy on external communication.

The [National Outreach Plan](#) is designed for the agency's outreach professionals and their managers. Specific national goals, objectives, strategies and action items are clearly identified in the plan. The plan notes that activities related to the identified strategies will be tied to available resources and not all the strategies will be implemented each year. In addition, the plan is considered a "living document" that will be reviewed and updated annually. For more information, contact Christopher.M.Moore@noaa.gov or call the Partnerships and Communications Division within the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, at (301) 713-2379.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL – AGENDA FOR JUNE 2007,

SITKA, ALASKA Now available at the Council web site - <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>

FEDERAL / WORLD OFF-SHORE AND NEAR-SHORE AQUACULTURE

(1) **Governor Sarah Palin** opposes federal off-shore aquaculture for Alaska. “While the latest proposal is an improvement over past versions, we still want to make sure that there will be adequate protections for Alaska’s world-renowned wild fisheries in the event it passes into law,” Governor Palin said. “Alaska’s fishing industry has had great success in recent years by extolling the virtues of our wild seafood; we must make sure that any new federal laws don’t muddle this message.” See full press release at <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/news.php?id=312>

(2) **National - Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007 Introduced in the House of Representatives** This week, U.S. Representative Nick Rahall, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo, Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans Subcommittee introduced the National Offshore Aquaculture Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. The National Offshore Aquaculture Act is designed to produce economic benefits and improve food production, while ensuring the development of regulatory standards to protect marine ecosystems. For more information on the bill, read the [statement](#) from Dr. Bill Hogarth, Director of NOAA Fisheries. NOAA Aquaculture web site <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mediacenter/aquaculture/offshore.htm>

(3) Fraud rampant at U.K seafood outlets : As much as 15 percent of salmon labeled "wild" in U.K. grocery stores is farmed fish, according to a new government investigation. (5-3-07) www.intrafish.com (membership required)

(4) Salmon farm problems continue in Chile

(a) sea lice mortality on farmed salmon continues have doubled due to drug resistance, high water temperatures, and high salinity (5-3-07)

(b) recent tsunamis have created massive escapement of salmon and have forced closure of many salmon farm operations

(source: Seafood.com John Sackton, Editor And Publisher , Lexington, Massachusetts_ [Seafood.com News](#)

MARINE SCIENCE

(1) **Test finds trawl net upgrades reduce halibut bycatch** *Article published on Wednesday, May 2nd, 2007* By DEANNA COOPER, Kodiak Mirror, <http://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/?pid=19&id=4677>

(2) **The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB)** <http://www.nprb.org/>
Science Planning and Coordination: Taking the long view The Board sought guidance from the **National Research Council** (NRC) to help it develop a superior and comprehensive science plan for the North Pacific, Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean regions. The NRC in turn sought the assistance of those “in the water” by conducting a series of site visits and workshops in these regions. **Three years of planning** Completed in 2005, the Science Plan charts a course for the next ten to 20 years. Additionally, it: (a) identifies major marine resource management themes that encompass the interactions of all life forms

(including human) with the oceans, (b) is dynamic and adaptable to new research and monitoring findings, (c) is consistent with the vision, mission and goals of the Board and its enabling legislation, (d) builds on the research programs of governmental and academic entities without duplication. *NPRB continues to seek the assistance of today's brightest minds to work cooperatively and gain understanding of the processes that drive northern marine ecosystems.* The Board convened a series of implementation planning workshops throughout early 2006.

RECREATIONAL FISHING / TOURISM / CHARTER

(1) National - Operations Team Formed to Work on Recreational Data Issues

NOAA Fisheries, in coordination with representatives from the Fishery Management Councils, states, and the three interstate commissions, has established an Operations Team to continue efforts to upgrade the recreational fisheries data program. The Operations Team will begin reviewing and prioritizing recommendations from last year's National Research Council review of the recreational data program, national management framework workshop, and the recently reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Operations Team will report on their work at the upcoming constituent data review (Silver Spring, MD on May 15) and Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting (Washington, DC on June 4-6). All interested members of the public are invited to attend.

Members of the Operations Team were selected by representatives from NOAA, the Councils, and interstate commissions that serve on an Executive Steering Committee, a group that directs NOAA's data program redesign effort. The Operations Team includes: Rob Andrews (NOAA Fisheries), Megan Caldwell (Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission), Bob Clark (Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game), Richard Cody (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission), Paul Dalzell (Western Pacific Fishery Management Council), Guillermo Diaz (NOAA Fisheries), Jason Didden (Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council), Dave Donaldson (Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission), Graciela Garcia-Moliner (Caribbean Fishery Management Council), Russell Porter (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission), Rob Kramer (International Game Fish Association), and Gary Shepherd (NOAA Fisheries). More information is available at NOAA web site

BYCATCH: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

- (1) Alaska - Proposed Rule Addresses Salmon Bycatch** NOAA Fisheries has published a [proposed rule](#) to amend regulations that address salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action would enhance the effectiveness of salmon bycatch measures by exempting pollock vessels from Chinook and chum salmon savings area closures if they participate in an inter-cooperative agreement to reduce salmon bycatch. It would also exempt vessels participating in non-pollock trawl fisheries from chum salmon savings area closures because these fisheries intercept minimal amounts of salmon. Comments may be sent to 0648-au03-BSA84-A-PR@noaa.gov until June 4, 2007. For more information, contact Jason.Anderson@noaa.gov.

(2) Alaska - Changes Proposed to Monitoring and Enforcement in Rockfish Fisheries

A new [proposed rule](#) for the Central Gulf of Alaska rockfish fisheries would revise monitoring and enforcement provisions related to catcher/processor vessels harvesting under the opt-out fishery, and to make changes to regulations governing the rockfish fisheries. This action is necessary to clarify procedures and to correct discrepancies in a November 20, 2006, final rule. Comments may be sent to 0648-AT71-GOA68PR@noaa.gov through April 30, 2007. For more information, contact Jason.Anderson@noaa.gov.

ES/ ENDANGERED SPECIES:

(1) Alaska - NOAA Recommends Listing Cook Inlet Belugas Under Endangered Species Act :

NOAA Fisheries is proposing to list the Cook Inlet beluga whale population as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The number of beluga whales in Cook Inlet waters near Anchorage has declined to an estimated 302 animals and is at risk of going extinct within 100 years. Hunting had already been significantly curtailed, with only five whales taken since 1999, yet the population is not recovering as anticipated. In light of the declining population, Alaska Native hunters from the Native Village of Tyonek have agreed to forgo their traditional subsistence hunt in 2007. Under the Endangered Species Act, NOAA Fisheries has one year to finalize the decision to list the Cook Inlet belugas. Comments on the [proposed rule](#) may be sent to CIB-ESA-Endangered@noaa.gov through June 19, 2007. Additional information is available [online](#), or contact Brad.Smith@noaa.gov with questions.

(3) Steller sea lions: check out the NPFMC web site under “Protected Resources” to get the latest information on the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee and the NMFS revised BiOp (Biological Opinion) FMP consultation and schedule. VERY IMPORTANT to GOA coastal communities! http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/ssl/ssl.htm

FISH CALENDAR (CHECK OUR WEB SITE @ www.goac3.org

IMPORTANT LINKS: The GOAC3 does not sponsor nor is responsible for any of the material in the following links except our own. Some of the links below are subscription news services that require payment.

- (1) GOAC3: www.goac3.org
- (2) NMFS/AK : [/www.fakr.noaa.gov/](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/)
- (3) NPFMC: [/www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/)
- (4) NOAA Fish News: To subscribe or search the FishNews archives, [FishNews website](#).
- (5) AK CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION:
www.state.ak.us/local/CongressDelegation.shtml
- (6) U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LINKS:
<http://thomas.loc.gov/>
- (7) AK LEGISLATURE:
w3.legis.state.ak.us/home.htm
- (8) ALASKA / BOARD OF FISHEIRES - AK BOF: www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/

- (9) ADF&G: www.adfg.state.ak.us/
- (10) ALASKA COMMUNITIES:
www.state.ak.us/local/communit.shtml
- (11) Laine Welch's Fish Factor at <http://www.kinyradio.com/fishfactor.html>
- (12) UFA: www.ufa-fish.org
- (13) SEAFSA: <http://www.seafa.org>
- (14) ASMI: <http://www.alaskaseafood.org/>
- (15) SEAGRANT FISHLINES:
<http://seagrant.uaf.edu/news/fishlines/2007/april.html>
- (16) INTRAFISH <http://www.intrafish.no/global/subscribe/>
- (17) SEAFOOD.COM
<http://www.intrafish.no/global/news/>
- (18) "LAWS FOR THE SEA" : written and published by Bob Tkacz at Juneau, Alaska. All rights reserved. 416 Harris Street, Suite 203, Juneau, AK 99801; by telephone to 907-463-5455.
- (19) PACIFIC FISHING
www.pacificfishing.com/
- (20) NATIONAL FISHERMAN: info@nationalfisherman.com
- (21) TIDEPOOL: <http://www.tidepool.org/subscribe.cfm>
- (22) **IPHC / INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION**
- (23) NFI http://www.aboutseafood.com/media/press_release_detail~id~87.cfv
- (24)

"GOAC3 Corkline" submitted by:
Freddie Christiansen, Chairman, and Gale K. Vick, Executive Director
Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition (GOAC3)
P.O. Box 201236, Anchorage, AK 99520
PH: 907-561-7633
EMAIL: goaccc@alaska.net
WEB: www.goac3.org