



JULY 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, specifically in the Gulf of Alaska.

The “fish news” and links presented here are general information only. This is not inclusive of all news. Some links we will repeat a few times, if applicable. We highly recommend that you subscribe to various news services for much more in-depth coverage. These include United Fishermen of Alaska, Intrafish, Seafood.com, NOAA Fish News, National Fisherman, Pacific Fishing, and many others. Additionally, you should be checking the following web sites on a regular basis: (a) North Pacific Fishery Management Council, (b) National Marine Fisheries Service (Alaska Region), (c) The Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Please see links at the bottom of this document. If the hyperlinks do not work, cut and paste to your URL bar.

The GOAC3 - Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition - is a non-profit organization concerned about the dwindling economic and socio-economic health of our Gulf of Alaska fishing communities. There are many complicated issues impacting our fishing communities and it is important to stay as informed as we can.

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. *The GOAC3 CORKLINE* will be archived at our web site.

I GENERAL NEWS FOR ALASKA’S FISHING COMMUNITIES:

- (1) The McDowell group has done a report for the Halibut Coalition, illustrating that 40 million pounds of commercially harvested halibut, valued at \$83 million, were delivered to ports in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska in 2006. This report specifies landings at larger coastal communities and does not illustrate the drop for smaller coastal communities. The point of the report is the importance of commercially caught halibut to Alaska’s economy. The report is available <http://www.mcdowell.juneaumedia.com>
- (2) **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.

II NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL – JUNE 2007

- A. Report from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council on the JUNE 2007, meeting in Sitka... Now available at the Council web site
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>
- B. Highlights of the June meeting:
 - 1. Charter: IPHC Area 2C halibut charterboat measures (see “Charter issues”)
 - 2. Bering Sea Habitat Conservation
 - 3. SOPPS (Statement of Organization, Practices and Procedures) revision
 - 4. Aleutian Island Fishery Ecosystem Plan
 - 5. Subsistence halibut review
 - 6. Western Alaska CDQ review relative to new MSA requirements
 - 7. Stock Assessment Guidelines review
 - 8. GOA Arrowtooth MRAs (maximum retainable amounts)
 - 9. Arctic Fishery Management
 - 10. Research Priorities
 - 11. EFP (exempted fishing permit) for Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish
 - 12. Plan Team appointment
 - 13. Crab Overfishing Definitions revisions
 - 14. BSAI salmon bycatch report
 - 15. Rockfish post-delivery transfers
 - 16. Observer Program
 - 17. Trawl LLP (license limitation program) recency
 - 18. BSAI Crab management
 - 19. Draft Three-meeting outlook
- C. The next NPFMC meeting is October 1, 2007, in Anchorage
 - a. The agenda will not be available until September
- D. Check the NPFMC web site for committee meetings

III MSA – Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act of 2006

The MSA or “Mag Act” was reauthorized December 2006 in the 110th Congress. This Act is the basis for fishery management in federal waters within the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) around the United States coast line. It is THE most significant piece of federal fisheries legislation.

A. NOAA Fisheries MSA web site: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2005/>

B. “Enrolled” version of the 12-06 revisions:
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/2007reauth_notsigned.pdf

IV 2007 FISHING SEASON (Check with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game / Division of Commercial Fisheries - <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/> - on a regular basis for in-season information on fisheries within State waters (0-3 miles) and with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission for federal waters.)

A HARVESTING

- a. Run Forecasts and Harvest Projections for 2007 Alaska Salmon Fisheries and Review of the 2006 Season <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/FedAidpdfs/sp07-01.pdf>
- b. The Alaska Salmon price Report, the 2006 Statewide Average Price List for Fishery Resource Landing Tax - Non Crab, and the 2006 Statewide Average Price List for Fishery Resource Landing Tax – Crab are all available at <http://www.tax.state.ak.us/>

B MARKETING

- a. Laine Welch reported June 16th that “Alaska salmon fishermen are now officially classified by the federal government as agricultural producers. As “farmers of the sea,” they can be included in various programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's farm bill. The bill is revised every five years and policies established in this latest version will last through 2012. With a budget of nearly \$95 billion, the USDA is the nation's premier food agency, and as the many measures in the farm bill are tweaked this year by Congress, fishermen need to make sure their ideas and needs are included.”
- b. Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) <http://www.alaskaseafood.org/>
- c. Sustainable seafood is the next big wave of marketing. As in all marketing programs, there is truth with a lot of hype. The problems will be discussions on what is really sustainable. The debate between wild and farmed stock will definitely be part of this as will the debates on “fishing methods”. It will be important to watch as many major seafood buyers and restaurants will be wanting to use the “sustainable” label for their products. The following are a few web links of interest:
 - Seafood Choices Alliance
<http://www.seafoodchoices.com/home.php>
 - USA Today “Sustainable Seafood Casts a Wide Net”
http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2006-04-02-sustainable-seafood_x.htm?csp=34

- Environmental Defense “Business Guide to Sustainable Seafood”
http://www.environmentaldefense.org/documents/2532_BusinessGuideSustainableSeafood.pdf
- Vancouver Aquarium “Ocean Wise”
<http://www.vanaqua.org/conservation/oceanwise/sustainable-seafood.html>
- Green Consumer Guide “Europeans Opt for Sustainable Seafood”
<http://www.greenconsumerguide.com/index.php?news=2911>
- PCC Natural Markets Sustainable Seafood site
<http://www.pccnaturalmarkets.com/issues/seafood/index.html>

C PROCESSING:

c. **PSPA (Pacific Seafood Processors Association)** recently hired Mary McDowell to replace Stephanie Madsen as their Executive Director in Juneau. Mary brings an impressive fisheries background to the job.

d. **Icicle Seafoods**, a top Seattle-based Alaskan processor of salmon, halibut, pollock, crab and other seafood, has been sold to a California private equity firm, Fox Paine Management III. The company began in Petersburg in 1965 after a group of fishermen and employees purchased the local Pacific American Fisheries cannery. Since then, the company has become one of the highest-volume fish packers in Alaska, a state that accounts for more than half of all U.S. seafood production.

IV CQE NEWS:

The CQE (Community Quota Entity) program for the community purchase of halibut and sablefish IFQs was passed into law June 2004. Since that time, CQEs have been forming at a very slow pace because of lack of capital and the high cost of administration. However, behind the scenes several groups, including the GOAC3, have been working diligently to improve this situation. Communities eligible to become a CQE are encouraged to consider forming as a community or regional group.

- (1) CQE general information and requirements
 - a. State of Alaska <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/investments/cqe.cfm>
 - b. National Marine Fisheries Service / NMFS
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/cqp.htm>
 - c. www.goac3.org
- (2) Call the GOAC3 at 907-561-7633 if you need a packet of information

IV RECREATIONAL FISHING / TOURISM / CHARTER

- (1) **Alaska Sea Grant “Charter Log”**: Subscribe to the Alaska Sea Grant’s “Charter Log” to get an in-depth look at the chartering issues in Alaska.
seagrants.uaf.edu/map/charterlog/index.html
- (2) **NPFMC June 2007 action IPHC Area 2C (Southeast)**
 - a. To address overages of the charter halibut guideline harvest level of 1.432 million pounds in Area 2C, the Council selected a suite of management measures to limit charter harvests. In addition to maintaining the current NMFS regulation that one of two fish in the daily bag limit be less than or equal to 32 inches (effective June 1, 2007),

- b. the Council *also* recommended that the regulations for **2008 and later** be revised to include: (1) no charter halibut harvest by skipper and crew; (2) line limits of six per vessel, not to exceed the number of paying clients on board; and (3) an annual limit of four fish per angler. This combination of measures is estimated to reduce harvests to stay within the GHL (Guideline Harvest Level.) The first two elements are currently in State regulations for all saltwater charter harvests and would not reduce daily charter halibut harvest further.
- c. The Council selected a second preferred alternative in the event that the GHL is reduced in 2008. Although IPHC staff has reported that it is unlikely that its 2008 estimate for Area 2C will result in the GHL being reduced to 1.217 million pounds as part of the Council's step-down formula, the Council wished to account for its possibility. Proposed measures under a reduced GHL include: (1) No harvest by skipper and crew; (2) line limits; and (3) a one fish daily bag limit for the entire season. The proposed rule, which is planned to be published prior to the January 2008 meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), would notice the public of two possible paths the regulations could take. The final rule would implement the appropriate set of regulations, after the GHL is determined by NMFS from the January 2008 IPHC action to set the Area 2C catch equilibrium yield. annual IFQs that are allocated for those holdings. Compensation formulas for foregone IFQ poundage will be included in the analysis. Limits on transferability, purchases, and leasing will also be evaluated. The April Council motion for initial allocation options and June Council motion for compensated reallocation are posted on the Council web site. Both actions are scheduled for initial review in October 2007. Final action is scheduled for December 2007.
- d. **In October 2007**, the Council will take initial review of proposed measures to control charter harvests in 3A to the GHL. Options to be analyzed include: (1) One trip per day; (2) No harvest by skipper and crew and line limits; (3) Annual limit of four, five, or six fish per angler; (4) Reduced bag limits of one fish per day for May, June, July, August, or the entire season; (5) Two fish daily bag limit, with one fish any size and one fish larger than 45" or 50"; (6) Two fish daily bag limit, with one fish any size and one fish less than 32", 34", or 36"; and (7) Two fish daily bag limit, with one fish any size and one fish less than 32" or larger than 45" or 50". Final action is scheduled for December 2007, with the intent that regulations would be implemented for the 2008 season. Staff contact is Jane DiCosimo.
- e. **Check the NPFMC web site for further information.**
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>
- f. SEAFOOD.COM reported on June 8th that "The North Pacific Council has been deluged with 150 speakers signed up to comment on the halibut charter issue at the council's meeting in Sitka. The NOAA regulations for this year are not permanent, and the council is dealing with a halibut allocation issue with a lot of cross currents, not the least of which are tensions between Alaskan and Seattle based businesses." (SEAFOOD.COM 6/8/07)

V CURRENT GROUNDFISH ISSUES IN THE GULF OF ALASKA:

- (1) **NMFS Reminds Fishing Vessel Owners and Operators of Federal Fisheries Permit Requirements** The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reminds owners and operators of federal requirements for groundfish federal fishing permits under 50 CFR Part 679.4(b). If your vessel is used to fish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Alaska or the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area and is required to retain any groundfish caught in the EEZ, your vessel must have a federal fishing permit. If your vessel catches and retains any groundfish in the EEZ, you are fishing for groundfish and also must obtain a federal fisheries permit...
<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/index/infobulletins/bulletin.asp?BulletinID=3571>

VI SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH LINKS FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES: Each week we will spotlight different socio-economic research important to Alaska's fisheries-dependent communities. This week:

Alaska's fishing communities conferences: The Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, the GOAC3, National Marine Fisheries Service, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and many other groups have collaborated in the last three years to conduct several conferences focused on the problems of Alaska's fishing communities and future generations trying to get into fishing. These have brought communities, agencies and industry together to focus on specific problems and potential solutions facing fishing communities. The proceedings of these conferences offer many valuable papers and insights and can be accessed via the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program at <http://seagrant.uaf.edu/conferences/index.html>. The GOAC3 continues to participate on the steering committee that is organizing future conferences.

VII GENERAL MARINE RESEARCH: Each week we will spotlight marine research issues and facilities. Some will be duplicated, depending on the issue, but most will be single-issue comments. Spotlight this week on: The University of Alaska Fairbanks: School of Fisheries and Oceans Science (SFOS) <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/divisions/>

- The Institute of Marine Science (IMS). The Institute of Marine Science is the oldest and the largest unit of the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks. The Institute is active in research and graduate training at the master's and doctoral levels.
- Fishery Industrial Technology Center <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/fitc/> Kodiak, Alaska. FITC has two major academic programs, Sustainable Harvesting and Seafood Processing. There are approximately ten graduate students currently studying at FITC.
- Fisheries Division: <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/fishdiv/> (Juneau and Fairbanks campuses)
- Alaska Sea Grant <http://seagrant.uaf.edu/>

- The Marine Advisory Program <http://seagrant.uaf.edu/map/> Provides community education and excellent publications for fishermen and fishing communities. Highly recommended that this site is visited often.
- The Global Undersea Research Unit (GURU) provides access to undersea technologies through management of the Kasitsna Bay Lab. <http://www.guru.uaf.edu/>
- The Seward Marine Center is the primary coastal facility for SFOS. <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/smc/>

VIII RED KING CRAB ENHANCEMENT FOR THE GULF OF ALASKA:

The scientific exploration of enhancement of depleted wild red king crab stocks in the Gulf of Alaska has recently under extensive renewed interest. This has really important economic implications for Alaska. The GOAC3 was very instrumental in encouraging this new effort, a collaboration of marine science, agencies, industry and communities. A complementary research project for blue king crab is occurring in the Bering Sea.

- **Red king crab eggs hatch in Alaska research program** Larvae to help scientists studying hatcheries as a way to rebuild Kodiak stocks 3/8/2007 Contacts Celeste Leroux, Alaska Sea Grant graduate student, University of Alaska Fairbanks, office: 907-224-4310; hatchery: 907-224-5181; cell: 415-306-2457; celeste.leroux@uaf.edu
- **Hatcheries examined as key to Alaska crab recovery** 28 February 2006 Contact: Brian Allee, Director, Alaska Sea Grant College Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 907-474-7949, allee@sfos.uaf.edu. NR: SG-2006/NR229
- Check out the GOAC3 web site (www.goac3.org) for further links and the text of the article in the December 2006 “*Alaska Business Monthly*” regarding the news story behind this effort, “**Red King/Blue King: Why Crab Enhancement is so Important to Alaska**” Dec 2006, copyright by Gale K. Vick

IX MARINE AQUACULTURE ISSUES:

- A. **FEDERAL OFF-SHORE AQUACULTURE HEARINGS** The proposed federal off-shore aquaculture program is opposed by the majority of the Alaskan fishing industry. The issues are complex but there is significant evidence from fish farms around the world, most specifically in British Columbia, that off-shore finfish farming is detrimental to wild stocks in many ways. It is important to review this issue carefully. GOAC3 maintains a large library of aquaculture information. More news on this subject will be available in future “Corkline” issues.
1. **NOAA off-shore aquaculture home page**
<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2007/s2815.htm>
 2. **Office of Sustainable Fisheries**
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/offshore2005.htm>
 3. **Senate web site on hearing information**
<http://commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Pres>

[sReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=248841&Month=6&Year=2007 AND http://commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=1770](http://commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=1770)

4. A copy of Gale K. Vick's "Alaska Reacts to the Proposed Federal Aquaculture Plan" December 2005, *Alaska Business Monthly* available on request from GOAC3 office.
5. **Most recommended web link:** State of Alaska Ocean Policy, including "Analysis and Recommendations H.R. 2010 and S. 1699 and Proposed S.1699 Amendments "National Offshore Aquaculture Act" July 2007 available from http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/oceans/policy_eez.php

B. FISH FARM NEWS

Following through on a campaign promise to environmentalists, the party in control of the BC legislature has issued a recommendation that would end salmon farming in BC. Although the recommendation seems to suggest a move to closed containment, the industry points out this is not successful with salmon anywhere in the world, and that they would be forced to move out of BC should the recommendations become law. BC legislators should recognize that most salmon in BC is produced by companies that already have large farms in Norway and Chile – so if they are driven from BC, they will simply expand production elsewhere. (Seafood.com, May 17, 2007)

C. GOAC3 POSITION ON FEDERAL OFF-SHORE AQUACULTURE

The GOAC3 has taken a position strongly opposing ANY near-shore or off-shore finfish aquaculture but supporting sustainable near-shore shellfish aquaculture.

X PROTECTED RESOURCES:

- (1) Steller sea lions (SSL) :** Steller sea lions continue to be at the forefront of threatened or endangered marine mammals and birds that will continue to create precautionary measures affecting Alaska's fishing communities and fleets. For detailed information check out:
- a. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council
 - i. Steller sea lion (SSL) Mitigation committee minutes and record of meetings
 - ii. NPFMC recent actions
 - b. State of Alaska web page on Steller sea lions:
 - i. "Blueprint for Recovery" by Bob Small
http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=wildlife_news.view_article&issue_id=40&articles_id=229
 - ii. State proposed management actions:
<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/geninfo/pubs/rir/5j01-04/5j01-04.php>

- c. Marine Mammal Research Consortium: <http://www.marinemammal.org/> MMRC Steller Life in the Fasting Lane - Is age and season the secret to surviving lean times? Periodic fasting is a way of life for Steller sea lions. But when prey is scarce, a prolonged fast can be disastrous. Are sea lions better able to tolerate fasting at certain ages and specific times of year? A new study asks these questions and more.<http://www.marinemammal.org/2007/rea.php>
- d. NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center (SSL research center) http://161.55.120.152/sslprojects/ssl_entrance.htm and <http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/AlaskaEcosystems/sslhome/stellerhome.html>
- e. NMFS-AK region web links <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/maps/>
 - o Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures Maps and Additional Restricted Groundfish Areas (Small Entity Compliance Guide) Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures maps and additional restricted groundfish areas: Critical Habitat maps and Rookery No-Entry Zones
 - o The Alaska SeaLife Center (Seward, Alaska) <http://www.alaskasealife.org/>

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) SEAFa: <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
<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm>
- (23) NFI http://www.aboutseafood.com/media/press_release_detail~id~87.cfv

"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