

# AIFMA LEADER

Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association

June 2009

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## Gearing up for Bristol Bay 2009

Another busy winter has passed and the sockeye season is fast approaching. AIFMA continues efforts to protect the Bristol Bay fishery from development of hard-rock mining and offshore oil and gas drilling.

I traveled to Washington, D.C. again this winter with a great group of people to lobby Congress and the Obama administration to protect Bristol Bay from offshore oil & gas development.

We visited several key offices and attended a hearing in the house. We also sponsored a reception where AIFMA member, Charley Gordon's sockeye was served to rave reviews.

### AIFMA Naknek Meeting

We have had a request from AIFMA members to hold a meeting in the Bay. We have scheduled the meeting for Saturday, June 20th and hope this will fit into your busy schedule.

### AIFMA Member Meeting

- Saturday, June 20
- Bristol Bay Borough Office, Naknek
- 6:00 (Pizza will be served)
- 7:00 p.m. (Meeting)
- *Bristol Bay Fishery Managers have been invited.*

### Sockeye Prices

I bought some Copper River sockeye at Costco today to cook on the barbecue. The price was \$8.99/lb. for a whole fish and \$12.99/lb. for a fillet, about the same as last year. We've heard from a couple of processors that they think the sockeye price in the Bay will hold up this year in spite of the economy.

A significant shift in the Japanese yen/dollar (¥95:\$1) may also add a positive price component.

**David Harsila, AIFMA President**

## Coast Guard Grants Exemption for Egegik

AIFMA requested and was granted a U.S. Coast Guard regulations exemption for commercial salmon fishermen fishing in the Egegik District south of the Boundary Line.

The exemption is subject to conditions stated in the enclosed letter. The exemption letter must be carried on board and made available to boarding officers and dockside examiners.

The Coast Guard will send dockside examiners to King Salmon/Naknek and Dillingham from June 10-20th. They are planning to send examiners to Egegik. The King Salmon crew will have an office with a landline: (907) 245-1954, so fishermen can call in and find out when to expect them in their area.

- **Immersion Suit Recommendation:** The Coast Guard recommends that each suit be subjected to an air pressure test at intervals not exceeding three years, or more frequently for suits over ten years of age. It is preferable that tests be performed at manufacturer's service center (consult manufacturers recommendations).



From left to right: Richard Charter (Outer Continental Shelf Coalition), Tom Tilden (Curyung Tribal Council), David Harsila (AIFMA), Kelly Harrell (AMCC), Florence Colburn, Keith Colburn (F/V Wizard & Deadliest Catch captain) and David Aplin (WWF) traveled to DC to lobby Congress and the Obama Administration to protect Bristol Bay.

### Bristol Bay RSDA News

#### Election Results

- Seat C: Chris McDowell-52% (winner)  
Fred Pike-48%
- Seat F: Mike LaRussa-69% (winner)  
Mike Morgan-31%

*Less than 450 votes were cast.*

#### Bristol Bay RSDA Meetings

Saturday, June 13th  
Dillingham Elementary School

- Board Meeting  
11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Members are welcome to attend.
- Annual Membership Meeting  
2:00 p.m.  
Members are encouraged to attend.

# Bay Watch

Things are starting to happen around Naknek. Cannery crews are arriving to get things ready for the up coming season. The **February 25th storm surge** caused a lot of dock damage so crews will be kept busy.

The weather has been on the cool side and it looks as if things will be a little later than normal. The Naknek River went out later than normal.

Work has begun on the **Port dock expansion project**. They plan to drive sheet pile before the fish start running and back-fill the area behind the piles. The design of the dock has changed to provide for boats to tie to the down-river side of the expanded dock. Dredging is also planned to allow for all tide access to a portion of the down-river side of the dock.

**Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar** was in Dillingham in April and I attended the town hall meeting held in the packed Dillingham school gym. When the crowd was asked how many were opposed to **offshore oil & gas drilling**, everyone except the oil company reps raised their hand. It was the same result when asked about the **Pebble Mine** proposed project.

AIFMA will continue to keep abreast of these important issues and protect the interests of Bay fishermen. There are going to be future meetings related to Pebble this summer. Try and take time out to attend and voice your opinion.

One last thing, when talking with your friends and fishing group, let them know the importance of our organization and the need to stay informed on

what is happening in the fishing industry.

**With everyone's help we can increase our membership and strengthen our voice in all the fishing related issues.** Hope you all have a successful season.

**Fred Pike, AIFMA Vice President**

## AIFMA Board Election

**Three seats** on the AIFMA Board will be up for election this fall. A call for nominations will be sent out in August. Terms of office are for three years.

The new board will be seated before AIFMA's board meeting in Seattle on November 17 & 18 prior to the Pacific Marine Expo scheduled for Nov. 19-21.

### 2008 Bristol Bay Ex-Vessel Salmon Prices

Processor	Sockeye Base Price/lb.	RSW/lb. (sockeye)	Chums Price/lb.	Kings Price/lb.	Notes:
Leader Creek	95¢ <sup>1</sup>		15¢ <sup>2</sup>	25¢	<sup>1</sup> Base price includes RSW/ice; Additional 5¢/lb. for "best" fish (chilled 32-39°, floating, bled, brailers less than 500 lbs.) <sup>2</sup> Chum price after July 17th was 30¢. (60% of Leader Creek's fish were bled.)
Icicle	73¢	13¢	20¢	50¢	Up to 150,000 lbs.—73¢; Over 150,000 lbs.—78¢
Ocean Beauty	71-82¢	11.55¢	40¢		June 1-30: 82¢; July 1-8: 71¢; July 9 to end of season: 82¢; 19.1¢ extra for bled sockeye & kings (bled while alive); bleeding bonus discontinued July 1-9th; (The bleeding price includes a 9.1¢ profit sharing bonus.) Boat Storage: up to \$3,200
Norquest	68¢	13¢	15¢	\$1.40	Additional 0-10¢ based on production: 60,000 lbs.—71¢ adjustment Over 150,000 lbs.—78¢ No boat storage credit.
Trident	68¢	13¢	15¢ <sup>3</sup>	\$1.40	Additional 0-10¢ based on production: 60,000 lbs.—71¢ Over 150,000 lbs.—78¢ <sup>3</sup> Chum price increased to 30 cents after July 18. No credit boat storage credit.
Alaska General Seafoods	68¢	10¢	10¢	25¢	
North Pacific Seafoods	68¢	10¢	10¢		
Peter Pan	68¢	10¢	10¢		
Snopac	68¢ <sup>4</sup>	16¢	30¢		<sup>4</sup> Additional 3¢/lb. for brailers 600 lbs. and below
YAK	65-85¢	10¢	25¢	65-75¢	June 1-30: 85¢; July 1-8: 65¢; July 9 to end of season: 85¢
Bay Watch	60¢	10¢			

Prices collected from fishermen.

## Fishers' Plea for Salmon is Carried to London

**A** group of Bristol Bay fishers crossed the planet earlier this week to bring an anti-Pebble mine message to Anglo American executives in London.

Five local Alaska Native leaders and commercial fishermen were scheduled to have a private meeting with Cynthia Carroll, chief executive of Anglo American, and Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of the board on Tuesday.

They also planned to attend the Anglo shareholders meeting, which was set for the following day, as proxy holders.

Bobby Andrew, 66, a Dillingham resident and subsistence hunter and fisher, is one of the Alaska-to-London group. He said he is looking forward to letting the executives and the shareholders know exactly how he feels about an open-pit mine.

"The most important thing is to let Anglo American shareholders become aware that we live out here and we are very concerned about the environment, mostly the water which is life-giving," Andrew said last week while preparing for the trip.

"The water produces wild salmon, and Bristol Bay, being the salmon capital of the world, and with the UK being one of the higher consumers of Bristol Bay salmon, I'm hoping that they're going to come up with a solution that's going to be beneficial to all. I want to see those protected for the future generations. That's the key. And we've been doing this for thousands and thousands of years and we haven't depleted the salmon resources."

The trip has been in the planning stages for more than a month, Andrew said. His involvement with Nunamta Aulukestai, an association of eight Alaska Native village corporations, and whose name means "caretakers of our lands" in Yup'ik, is the reason he is included in the group going to London.

The other members of the group are Thomas Tilden, chief of the Curyung Tribal Council; Lydia Olympic, past president of the Igiugig Village Tribal

Council; Everett Thompson, co-owner of Naknek Family Fisheries and a drift-net fisherman; and Peter Andrew, former president of New Stuyahok Village.

Bobby Andrew, who was traveling during Moody-Stuart's recent visit to the Dillingham, said he believed Moody-Stuart's trip was a result of a letter he'd sent to Cynthia Carroll requesting a meeting with her during the shareholders meeting.

He learned last week that the group will meet privately with the mining executives. He hasn't rehearsed what he'll say to them, though.

"I'm going to say it from the heart," Andrew said. "We're going to be talking about the concerns of our group and

*"And we've been doing this for thousands and thousands of years and we haven't depleted the salmon resources."*

—Bobby Andrew

will probably be talking back and forth on what their plans are in the future on the open pit mine. It's the beginning of a two-way conversation between us and the CEO and chairman."

The group has had help with the logistics of the trip through Earthworks, a nonprofit organization that works with communities dealing with mining issues, according to spokeswoman Bonnie Gestring.

She has worked with Nunamta for several years since they contacted her for help arranging for a group from Bristol Bay to visit Nevada to see a mining district first-hand. Nevada is where many large, open-pit mines are located, Gestring said.

"There have been a number of trips; there's been a group of about 15 people each year from the Bay that travel to Nevada to see the mines. Bobby Andrews was on the first trip. Last year Tommy Tilden went on the trip," she said. "Lydia Olympic has been down to Nevada to see the sites.

"Alaska doesn't have any mines comparable in size to what Pebble would be. It's been useful to get a sense of scope of this project. About 80 percent of U.S. gold comes out of Nevada. It's a big mining area, they can get a sense of what a mining district looks like," Gestring said.

In addition to meeting with shareholders and executives, the Alaska delegation will be attending the London premiere of the award-winning documentary "Red Gold" and will serve as a panel at the event answering questions from the audience.

A seafood processing company donated salmon, which will be provided at the screening as well. Among the invitees are jewelers, anglers, sportsmen and the media. Some jewelers have pledged not to buy gold from the Pebble mine, the group's news release stated.

**By Tammy Judd,  
Bristol Bay Times, 4/15/09**

### Crossing the Bar

George Craffey, also known as "Junior" passed away on May 5th at the age of 75.

George fished in Bristol Bay since the mid 1960's and also fished in Puget Sound. George retired from the Bay in the mid 1990's. He had fished for Peder-son Point the majority of his Bay career. He was a lifetime AIFMA member.

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## Protect The Nation's "Fish Basket"

### *Group calls on Congress, Obama Administration to Protect Nation's "Fish Basket" from Offshore Drilling.*

A group of Bristol Bay fishermen, including a Yup'ik Tribal Chief, *Exxon Valdez* spill claimants and **David Har-sila, President of AIFMA**, Bristol Bay's largest salmon fishermen's association, traveled to Washington, D.C. the week of March 22nd to remind members of Congress and decision makers in the Obama Administration of one of the important actions triggered by the largest environmental disaster in North American history.

Congressional protection from offshore drilling for Bristol Bay and the southeast Bering Sea was put into place after the *Exxon Valdez* spill in 1989.

The disaster released more than eleven million gallons of oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound. The tragic event demonstrated the tremendous risks that oil and gas activities pose to Alaska's coastal communities, economies and cultures that are dependent upon healthy fisheries and an intact marine ecosystem.

Tuesday, March 24, marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. **Bristol Bay fishermen hoped to leverage the ties between that catastrophe and the current risk posed to their livelihoods by proposed offshore drilling in the nation's "fish basket."**

In January 2007, President Bush stripped away the last layer of protection for Bristol Bay - the executive ban on offshore drilling. The move once again placed our nation's lucrative fishing grounds in Bristol Bay on the table for drilling.

The Minerals Management Service has scheduled a lease sale for 2011 in the very same 5.6 million acre block of fish-rich waters previously sold and then bought back with taxpayer dollars after the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

The group called on Congress and the Obama administration to take Bristol Bay out of the national offshore drilling program and put in place permanent protections for the region.

### **Wesley Loy leaves the Anchorage Daily News**

The dean of fishery reporters in Alaska – Wesley Loy – has left the Anchorage Daily News. His last day was Friday.

Loy will continue to write his monthly column and other articles for Pacific Fishing magazine.

The Daily News' parent corporation – McClatchy – is under extreme financial

stress, and its individual newspapers have been ordered to shed jobs. As part of the cost-cutting in Anchorage, editors and reporters were offered buy-outs. With 10 years on the job, Loy's buy-out offer was relatively large, and he took it.

Loy intends to stay in Alaska and continue writing about the petroleum and commercial fishing industries, his two beat areas while at the Daily News.

He said he intends to continue his fisheries blog – The Highliner – but probably under a different name.

***Pacific Fishing "Fish Wrap", 4/8/09***

*Editor's Note: Check out Wesley's new blog at: <http://deckboss.blogspot.com/>*

### **Court Ends Alaska Offshore Drilling Plan**

Washington D.C.--A federal appeals court ruled Friday that the Bush administration didn't adequately study the environmental impact of expanding oil and gas drilling off the Alaska coast, a finding that many of Alaska's leaders reacted to with dismay.

Halting leasing in the Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi seas will "cause a further delay in the development of the oil and gas resources that America still requires to fuel its economy," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Alaska, the top Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"Alaska's outer continental shelf is America's energy storehouse and it needs to be developed with sensitivity to climate change and marine life," Murkowski said, "but I am troubled that the groups behind this litigation are engaging in the too-familiar tactic of suing on every possible issue, no matter the legal merits."

But many environmental and fishing groups said Friday they're relieved by the ruling, especially because of the unknown environmental consequences of drilling in the fishing waters of Bristol Bay.

"A permanent solution is ultimately needed that places the region's water off limits for good," said Kelly Harrell of the Alaska Marine Conservation Council. "We hope Congress will capitalize on the removal of the immediate threat of leasing and get to work on that solution."

The appellate court in Washington on Friday found that the Bush-era Interior Department failed to consider the effect on the environment and marine life before it began in 2005 to expand an oil and gas leasing program in the Beaufort, Bering, and Chukchi seas.

The appeals court ordered the Interior Department, now run by President Barack Obama's appointee Ken Salazar, to analyze the areas to determine environmental risks and potential damage before moving ahead...

The effect likely will be to postpone, possibly by years, oil and gas exploration in federal waters off Alaska's northern coast.

***By Nedra Pickler, Associated Press, Anchorage Daily News, 4/17/09***

## Interior Secretary Salazar Visits Alaska

**G**ov. Sarah Palin told the new secretary of Interior on Tuesday that Alaska needs new offshore oil and gas development or risks an early shutdown of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

"Once that line shuts down, it will mean the end of oil production on the North Slope," Palin said, adding that plans for a new pipeline to carry natural gas to Lower 48 markets are at stake, too.

But at the same meeting in downtown Anchorage, skeptical fishermen raised the specter of the Exxon Valdez oil spill as an example of the dangers of development. The mayor of the North Slope Borough said new oil and gas projects in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas aren't worth the risk.

"That's because spill response (is) virtually impossible in Arctic waters," said Mayor Edward Itta.

This is the battle for the future of oil and gas development in Alaska. It hit the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center on Tuesday morning, as U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar made his second stop in Alaska to hear whether oil and gas development off the state's coast is a good idea.

The faces in the crowd told you it was a heavyweight bout. Along with Palin, all three members of Alaska's congressional delegation weighed in. So did oil industry executives, environmental groups and regional leaders.

Just before leaving office in January, the Bush administration proposed a five-year, national leasing plan for offshore development. Off Alaska's coast it would include lease sales in lower Cook Inlet, federal waters outside Bristol Bay and the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.

**When President Barack Obama took over, his new Interior secretary, Salazar, put the plans on hold and called for more public input.** That led to Tuesday's meeting.

The day started at 8 a.m., as oil industry boosters in hard hats and union vests marched from Town Square to the civic center, chanting "Who wants work? We do!"

Someone carried a casket representing "American jobs" lost to foreign oil. Arriving outside the Dena'ina Center, the group swarmed around a pair of drilling opponents wearing a polar bear and a puffin outfit who had been waving to passersby. The polar bear's T-shirt read "save me."

The conservationists held a rally of their own at noon, serving about 65-pounds of Bristol Bay salmon in Town Square. As a man pointed a "Keep our oceans wild" sign at passing cars, Homer fisherman Alan Parks helped serve salmon.

He was one of the few people chosen in a kind of lottery to testify in the morning, while Salazar was still at the meeting. (He left after lunch, with other officials hearing the rest of the testimony.) Parks told the secretary he's been fishing in Alaska since the 1970s and that new outer-continental-shelf development projects need to be deferred in Bristol Bay.

"We cannot let what happened in Prince William Sound happen anywhere else in America," he said, a reference to the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989.

Other opponents say new development could threaten Alaska's massive commercial fishing industry, not to mention the subsistence seasons fishermen have used to feed their families for generations.

### Possibility of Jobs

Drilling supporters argued new exploration and development would create

jobs in and outside Alaska while reducing the country's reliance on foreign oil. Communities in the Aleutians East Borough depend on subsistence and commercial fishing, but that's not enough, said borough mayor Stanley Mack.

School-age children are leaving the region. Fuel prices sky-rocketed, he said. "Sadly, we are losing many of our long-term residents," Mack said in a prepared statement. "Hopefully we can turn that around with responsible oil and gas development." ...

### What's Next?

Salazar has been hearing a lot of this kind of thing lately. Alaska is just one of four states he's been visiting this month as the Obama administration works on its offshore energy plan and decides whether to go ahead with offshore leases in Alaska and elsewhere.

After visits to Louisiana and New Jersey, Salazar stopped in Dillingham on Monday. Salazar said 400 or 500 people had signed up to testify in Anchorage by midmorning.

In a short talk with reporters, Salazar didn't signal what exactly the Obama administration's plans are, but talked about three goals that will guide the offshore energy plan: addressing climate change, increasing national security by reducing spending on overseas oil and creating economic opportunities in the U.S. In the past, he's said that the president's energy plan will emphasize renewable energy and include new oil and gas development in some coastal areas.

"Whatever we do, there are people who are going to be dissatisfied," he said...

**By Kyle Hopkins, Anchorage Daily News, (4/15/09)**



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## AIFMA LEADER



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