
AIFMA LEADER

Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association

November 2007

Fish Expo Edition

Greetings,
As I prepared to make my first set for chum salmon during the last salmon season of the year, I heard from Fred Pike in Naknek that there is already frost on the ground in the Bay, with lots of rainfall during September. Hopefully, the sockeye redds (eggs in the gravel) are tucked in for the winter, thriving in good clean water within the Bristol Bay watershed.

We have been fishing for chum salmon here in Puget Sound that are priced at 85¢ per pound—you read correctly—85¢ per pound. This is a remarkable comparison to the price of Bristol Bay sockeye.

We have worked long and hard to create a competitive market structure in Puget Sound and the results are medicine for what ails us. Could this be a model for Bristol Bay sockeye, kings, chums, cohos or even pinks? Why not? The fishermen in Bristol Bay should receive a competitive price and a fair share of the value of sockeye.

And we will continue to be the best stewards of, and champions for, the salmon resource and the region. We need to focus on these resource issues: **salmon, habitat, minerals and oil** right now.

I hope to see you at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle. Be sure to stop by the booth and attend our reception (see below). Several of the board members will be attending Expo and manning the booth.

I appreciate your support of AIFMA. **Your dues have allowed our association to have an impact on many fronts during the past year.**

David Harsila, President

Bristol Bay Fishermen's Reception at Pacific Marine Expo

Protecting Bristol Bay and Bering Sea from Offshore Drilling and Open-Pit Mining

Thursday, November 15 5-7 p.m.

Pyramid Alehouse & Brewery, Upper Mezzanine rooms
(Located across from Quest Field event center and Safeco Field)

Join us for food, a drink and to learn more about what's happening related to offshore drilling & Pebble Mine proposals, to meet people working on the issue and find out how you can help.

Sponsors:

AIFMA, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Nunamta Aulukestai, Renewable Resource Coalition, Trout Unlimited, World Wildlife Fund

Letter to Governor Palin: Production and Price

Dear Governor Palin,
It was a pleasure to meet you in Naknek this past summer during your visit. I also appreciated your return to the region for the opening days of the sockeye season.

I am writing to you on behalf of AIFMA's membership, which includes many Alaskans, three that sit on our board—Shawn Dochtermann (Kodiak), Fred Pike (Naknek) and Greg Anelon (Newhalen). AIFMA, to my knowledge, is the longest standing fishermen's association in Bristol Bay, formed in 1966, and funded by fishermen.

We appreciate your first-hand knowledge of the issues that fishermen in Bristol Bay face. We know that you understand the affects of these issues on the welfare of our businesses, which are mostly sole proprietorships and provide the economic engine that drives the region.

We can no longer trust the present processors at their word of having ample capacity to handle the Bristol Bay forecasted run. During the 2007 season 6.8 million sockeye salmon, worth about \$25 million, went unharvested.

Encouraging new companies to come into the Bay will go a long way towards solving some of the problems faced by the people of the Bristol Bay region and Bristol Bay fishermen.

New companies will allow for added processing capacity, therefore creating more jobs and fair competition that should increase price. A healthy fishery, both biologically and economically, will allow people to reconsider their future and the future of the Bristol Bay region.

Presently, we are being asked to compromise this great fishery, that has sustained this region and fishermen from around the world for over one hundred twenty years, for a new "non-renewable" mineral-based alternative and a promise of new jobs.

We look forward to working with you on these issues and extend our help and support in whatever way we can to improve the Bristol Bay Fishery.

Sincerely, David Harsila, President



Bay Watch

2007 Bristol Bay Run Summary (ADF&G)

| Millions of Sockeye Salmon | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| District River | Predicted Harvest | Actual Harvest | Predicted Escapement | Actual Escapement | Predicted Total | Actual Total |
| Ugashik | 3.33 | 5.0 | .85 | 2.47 | 4.18 | 7.5 |
| Egegik | 8.10 | 6.49 | 1.10 | 1.43 | 9.20 | 7.9 |
| Naknek/ Kvichak | 7.44 | 9.02 | 4.10 | 8.23 | 11.54 | 17.2 |
| Naknek | 1.88 | | 2.00 | 2.81 | 3.88 | |
| Alagnak | 4.54 | | 1.10 | 2.95 | 5.68 | |
| | 1.03 | | 1.0 | 2.47 | 2.03 | |
| Nushagak | 7.04 | 8.14 | 1.88 | 2.47 | 8.91 | 10.6 |
| Igushik | .97 | | 0.23 | .42 | 1.20 | |
| Wood | 4.75 | | 1.1 | 1.53 | 5.85 | |
| Nushagak | 1.32 | | .55 | .52 | 1.87 | |
| Togiak | .44 | .80 | .15 | .27 | 0.59 | 1.1 |
| Bristol Bay | 26.3 | 29.46 | 8.1 | 14.86 | 34.4 | 44.32 |

2007 Bristol Bay Salmon Historical Comparisons

| Species | Harvest | Historical Size of Run |
|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| Inshore Sockeye Harvest | 29.5 million | 8th largest catch since 1952 |
| Chinook Commercial Harvest | 63,000 | Predicted harvest was 145,000 |
| Chum Harvest | 2.0 million | 20-year average harvest is 998,000 fish |
| Coho Harvest | 50,000 | Well below 20-year average of 98,000 |

BBRSDA Meeting at Expo

I want to encourage all attending the Expo to join us at the BBRSDA meeting on November 15th. It is an opportunity to meet the elected BBRSDA Board members and catch up on the actions and activities within this organization.

The Board has just completed a three-day Strategic Planning session. I am very encouraged by all the efforts we have made to get this program off and running throughout this past year.

I am hopeful all interested members attend this meeting at the Expo. It will be a great opportunity for you to become aware of the direction the BBRSDA is going and contribute your thoughts and ideas to help us pursue our goals in the future.

If you can not attend, please take the time to open the BB-RSDA website: www.bbrsda.com, or call me, and I would be happy to fill you in.

Thank you, **Mike LaRussa**
AIFMA member, BBRSDA Treasurer
F/V Shermanator
(206) 484-0154



Bristol Bay RSDA

The Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association (BBRSDA) is gaining traction. After two years of start-up efforts, in April 2007, Bristol Bay driftnetters elected their Board of Directors to oversee the organization. That board was seated, elected their officers and immediately set to work to build a new organization.

The RSDA board members are:

Robert Heyano, President
Chris McDowell, Vice President
Mike LaRussa, Treasurer
Barney Johnson, Secretary
Buck Gibbons
Nick Lee
Mark Buckley

Backing up a bit, in May 2006 drifters approved the vote to assess themselves to support their RSDA. That assessment was in effect during the 2006 season and after winding through the bureaucratic process, was awarded in July 2007. The total amount of the assessment was \$886,555 for the 2006 harvest.

Now that the 2007 fishing season is be-

hind us, the Board is entering the strategic planning process to determine overall priorities for the Association – and how to make the most of the assessment. Initially, this means deciding what emphasis to give each program area authorized by Alaska law establishing RSDA's. Those areas include:

- Quality assurance
- Infrastructure development
- New product development
- Marketing and product promotion
- Research and education

At the November 15-17th Pacific Marine Expo, the Board will conduct a meeting of BBRSDA members (S03T permit holders) to present and discuss preliminary priorities among these programs. All Bristol Bay driftnet permit holders are encouraged to attend and discuss the Association's mission and priorities.

In addition to dropping by the AIFMA booth at Fish Expo, please also plan to participate in the BBRSDA meeting:

Thursday, November 15
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Robert Heyano, President, BBRSDA

Money Matters

| 2007 Bristol Bay Sockeye Ex-Vessel Prices | | | | | | Production Limits | |
|---|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| Processor | Base Price/lb. | RSW/lb. (sockeye) | Chums Price/lb. | Kings Price/lb. | Comments | Limit Ranges per opening | Suspensions |
| Leader Creek | .72 | | .10 | .25 | Price includes RSW/Ice | 8,000-18,000 lbs. | No suspensions |
| Alaska General | .62 | .10 | .10 | .25 | | 4,000-8,000 lbs. | Suspended for 1 period |
| Norquest | .62 | .10 | .15 | .85 | RSW adjustment Kings | 3,500-10,000 lbs. | Suspended 2 periods |
| North Pacific | .62 | .10 | .10 | | | No limits | Suspended for 2 periods |
| Ocean Beauty | .62 | .10 | .10 | | | 5,000-12,000 lbs. | No suspensions |
| Snopac | .62 | | .05 | .10 | RSW not paid yet | 8,000 lbs. | Suspended for 2 periods |
| Trident | .62 | .10 | .15 | .85 | | 6,500-10,500 lbs. | Suspended for 1 period |
| YAK | .62 | .10 | .15 | | RSW--38° of lower | 7,500 lbs. (10,000 lbs. for 2 permits) | Suspended for 2 periods |
| Togiak Fisheries | .62 | None | .10 | .25 | | No information | No information |
| Baywatch | .60 | .10 | | | | No information | No information |
| Icicle | .60 | .10 | .20 | .60 | | 6,000-12,000 lbs. | No suspensions |
| Peter Pan | .60 | .10 | .10 | .60-1.90 | Production bonus: 2¢/lb. over 80,000 lbs. \$1,500 charge for boat storage. \$1,500 for room and board. \$500 for locker. | 8,000-12,000 lbs. | Suspended for 1 period |

Information gathered from fishermen. Please call AIFMA, if inaccurate information is listed.

Supreme Court to Decide on Exxon Appeal

By the time you receive this newsletter the U.S. Supreme Court will most likely have decided whether to leave in place the **\$2.5 billion** punitive damages award, with interest, in the Exxon Valdez case. If the ruling stands, **it is possible to estimate the size of the awards which may be available to Bristol Bay salmon fishermen in the case.** It is important to emphasize two things.

First, the claims period is closed. It is impossible now to submit a new claim. **Second, the following numbers are only estimates of averages,** because for permit holders in both the salmon drift and salmon set net fisheries, how much a person makes is related to their production. If someone was a "highliner," in all three of the years, they will get a much larger award than someone who just fished in one year and had a poor season.

But we do know that approximately **1,396** permit holders have filed claims in the **Bristol Bay salmon drift net fishery**, and if the Supreme Court does not interfere with the award, there is approximately \$26 million for those permit holders, so an average award will be about **\$18,811**.

We also know that approximately **597** permit holders have filed claims in the **Bristol Bay salmon set net fishery**, and if the Supreme Court does not interfere with the award, there is approximately \$4.4 million for those permit holders, so an average award will be about **\$7,298**.

1,048 crew in the Bristol Bay drift net fishery have filed claims, and about \$8.3 million will be available. Thus, an average share should be about **\$7,913**.

212 crew in the Bristol Bay set net fishery have filed claims, and about \$1 million will be available. Thus, an average share should be about **\$5,138**.



Bristol Bay Sockeye Market News

According to *Seafood Business Report*, (August 07) more Bristol Bay sockeye are ending up in the U.S. and European markets. Japan imported 37 percent of Alaska's frozen-sockeye production in 2006, **down from 80 percent in 2005.**

Though Japan is purchasing more frozen Alaska sockeye reprocessed in other Asian countries, which isn't reflected in the figures, more product is finding its way to the Lower 48 and Europe. **An additional 30 million pounds of frozen Alaska sockeye will be absorbed chiefly by the U.S. and Europe this year**, according to the Alaska Dept. of Revenue.

Frozen Alaska sockeye sales are up. In 2006, H&G sales totaled about 80 million pounds, up from about 75 million pounds in 2005, while fillet sales hit 9 million pounds, up from 5.2 million pounds in 2005. However, H&G prices fell from \$2.09 a pound in 2005 to \$1.92 in 2006, but **fillet prices jumped from \$3.83 in 2005 to \$4.37 in 2006.**

Processors Adjust Ownership

Icicle Seafoods Sells to Private Investment Firm

Fox Paine Management III, a San Francisco and New York-based private equity firm, announced on September 25th that it had completed its acquisition of Icicle Seafoods..

Don Giles, Icicle Seafoods' President and CEO, said, "The completion of this transaction is an important step forward in our strategic growth plan. With a strong and supportive partner in Fox Paine III, we are well-positioned to create new opportunities for Icicle Seafoods, advance the Company's position as a leader in the Alaska and Pacific Northwest seafood industry and **grow our business in new and existing markets through synergistic acquisitions.**"

W. Dexter Paine, III, President of Fox Paine III, added, "We look forward to working closely with Don and the entire Icicle Seafoods team to move forward and help them grow and achieve their long-term goals. Icicle's leading market position, talented employee base and rich heritage of service and quality, together with Don's first-rate leadership, position this dynamic company for continued growth and development."

As previously announced, Mr. Giles will continue to lead the Company as Icicle Seafoods' President and Chief Executive Officer, and, together with the rest of Icicle Seafoods' leadership team, will continue to run the business.

About Icicle Seafoods

Icicle Seafoods is one of the largest and most diversified seafood companies in Alaska. Icicle Seafoods' core business is the primary processing of seafood including salmon, pollock, crab, halibut, cod, sablefish and herring in all major fisheries throughout Alaska, with both on-shore and floating processing facilities.

Other operations include the production of surimi-based seafood products in Bellingham, as well as the importing and trading of other seafood products. Icicle Seafoods' products are sold throughout the world to a variety of customers in-

cluding industrial, wholesale, food service and retail markets.

Fox Paine Management III

Fox Paine provides equity capital for management buyouts, going private transactions, and company expansion and growth programs. Fox Paine III engages exclusively in friendly transactions developed in cooperation with a company's management, board of directors, and shareholders.

Source: Fox Paine III Press Release

Maruha/Nichiro Merge

Japanese seafood processing companies, Maruha and Nichiro, completed their merger today, creating an \$8 billion seafood giant. Nichiro is the owner of Peter Pan Seafoods which has processing plants in Dillingham, Port Moeller, King Cove and Valdez.

Maruha owns Westward and Alyeska processing plants at Dutch Harbor.

The merger also means that the new mega company controls all three offshore pollock processing ships in the Bering Sea.

Maruha/Nichiro Holdings is now the largest seafood company in the world, twice the size of the number two, Nisui. The company plans to increase sales and markets outside of Japan.

When the merger was being discussed this summer, Governor Sarah Palin wrote a letter expressing concern about it. She wanted federal anti-trust regulators to look closely at the merger, because the new company might consolidate Alaska processing plants and local fishermen might receive lower prices for their catches.

Bob Juettner, administrator of the Aleutians East Borough, says the borough is concerned about how the merger will impact the economy, but are unsure of what it means for the region. They have not been briefed by any of the companies involved on how this will change their businesses and impact area fisheries.

Representatives from Peter Pan were not available to take any calls. Some analysts see the merger as a defensive move to survive in Japan's struggling seafood market.

KDLG Radio, 10/1/07

Van Vactor Moves to Snopac

Bet you've heard of Norman Van Vactor. He's been a fixture at Peter Pan's cannery in Dillingham for many seasons and is an ardent protector of Bristol Bay salmon.

Well, about a week and a half ago, Van Vactor handed in his 30-day notice of resignation at Peter Pan. And yesterday, he told coworkers and friends where he's heading next: **Snopac.**

It means "going from a big corporation to a small family," Van Vactor told The Highliner.

Peter Pan is a big Seattle-based processor...Snopac, by contrast, is a small Seattle outfit that operates a 336-foot ship, the Snopac Innovator, for processing Alaska salmon, crab and herring.

In so many words, Van Vactor said it was just time for a change. And he hopes people see his move as an act of faith in Alaska's fishing future.

Wesley Loy, Anchorage Daily News, 10/25/07

We appreciate our Bristol Bay customers!

LFS

**Call us in Bellingham
this winter!**

800-426-8860

Bristol Bay Offshore Drilling Update

“ *In response to the argument that there is a national interest to be served by hydrocarbon development in Bristol Bay, I must insist that there are far more important national and international values involved which justify protecting the fisheries of this region.*” **Adelheid Herrmann,**

Former Alaska State Legislative Representative for the Bristol Bay region and current AIFMA member (3/6/85)

On July 1st, at the height of the fishing season in Bristol Bay, the Minerals Management Service's new Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program for 2007-2012 officially went into effect.

The program calls for a 2011 lease sale in waters that sockeye pass through before arriving at Bristol Bay's fishing districts. MMS is planning to lease the same 5.6 million acre block at the southern end of Bristol Bay, off the Alaska Peninsula, that was previously sold in the 1980's and subsequently bought back by American taxpayers for more than \$95 million dollars.

With Royal Dutch Shell heavily invested in a public relations campaign to promote drilling in the region, **a strong uprising from those that depend on the bay's renewable resources for their livelihoods is needed to restore protection that was lost.**

Last spring, the Bristol Bay Protection Act—a bill to permanently ban oil and gas leasing in the North Aleutian Basin—was introduced in the **House by Representatives Inslee (D-WA), Hinchey (D-NY) and Gilchrest (R-MD).** A companion bill was also introduced in the **Senate by John Kerry (D-MA).** The

house bill (H.R. 1975) currently has 39 cosponsors, including many representatives from California (go to <http://www.fantasycongress.com/legislation/H.R.1957> to see the full list).

The Senate bill (S. 1311) needs cosponsors. Sen. Gordon Smith of Oregon is a prime candidate to give the bill a bipartisan flavor. **If you are an Oregon resident, please contact Senator Smith with your concerns about offshore drilling and urge him to cosponsor the Bristol Bay Protection Act.**

“Urge your congressional representatives to support the Bristol Bay Protection Act”

What's On Deck

Upcoming Studies on Salmon

Last November at a meeting held by MMS in Anchorage on the status of science with regards to Bristol Bay and southeastern Bering Sea resources, fisheries experts urged that information needed to assess the potential impacts of offshore drilling on salmon was sorely lacking.

Specifically, they pointed to data gaps on the distribution, abundance, migration patterns and nearshore habitat usage by salmon.

As a result, MMS has proposed a study on the use of the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area by juvenile and

maturing salmon to be completed during 2008-2010.

Lease Sale Process Likely to Get Underway in 2008

The scoping process, in which the federal government will accept comments on the type of information it should consider when preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the North Aleutian Basin lease sale, is likely to begin in early 2008. This will provide an opportunity for fishermen to comment on the lease sale and to urge MMS not to proceed with this flawed plan.

Your Help is Needed!

Take a few minutes to contact your congressional representatives and urge them to support the Bristol Bay Protection Act. If they are already a cosponsor (check at www.fantasycongress.com/legislation/H.R.1957) thank them for their support. E-mails, letters and phone calls from constituents do make a difference. If you are an Oregonian, call Senator Gordon Smith's office and urge him to cosponsor the Bristol Bay Protection Act.

Get in touch with Kelly Harrell at AMCC to become more involved with the campaign to keep oil and gas out of Bristol Bay's waters. Editorial writers are badly needed! Call (907) 277-5360 or e-mail Kelly@akmarine.org

Kelly Harrell,
Alaska Marine Conservation Council

For More Information on Offshore Drilling

- Alaska Marine Conservation Council's Website features in-depth information and updates on Bristol Bay offshore drilling: <http://www.akmarine.org/our-work/protect-bristol-bay>
- Living Oceans Society Website features information on impacts of offshore drilling: <http://www.livingoceans.org/library/index.shtml#offshore>
- MMS information on the 5-Year OCS Leasing Program and links to the environmental impact statement: <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/>
- MMS Alaska Environmental Studies Program:



Keep Informed

Bristol Bay Times
www.alaskanewspapers.com/bristolbay.asp

KDLG Radio, Dillingham
www.kdlg.org

AIFMA Web Page
www.aifma.org

Pebble Mine Controversy

Greetings fishermen, hope you all had good seasons and good prices in 2007! I have new information on developments in the Pebble Mine controversy.

At the end of July Northern Dynasty Mines announced that it has entered into a 50:50 partnership with Anglo American, the world's second largest mining company, to advance the Pebble Project toward permitting, construction, and operations. Anglo American has promised an investment of \$1.425 billion. According to some, Anglo American's mining operations in the Global South are associated with environmental, human health, and human rights abuse. The *Anchorage Daily News* recently reported that Anglo has been criticized for its African operations by the group Human Rights Watch.

In a paper released this fall, Dr. Carol Ann Woody, Ph.D., a veteran of sockeye salmon research in Bristol Bay, reported that "small increases in copper levels are highly toxic and can cause irreversible harm to salmon and other freshwater plants and animals. **Even slightly elevated levels of copper exposure can harm salmon which have a low tolerance for this pollutant.**"

Dr. Woody reports that Alaska's Water Quality regulations allow for amounts of copper in fresh water salmon habitat that are proven to be harmful to salmon and the food chains they depend upon. This means that existing water quality standards in the state of Alaska would allow for harm to be done to the fish resources in Bristol Bay.

The Alaska State Legislature recently held three field hearings in Newhalen, Naknek, and Dillingham where the House Fisheries and House Resources committees listened to 4-1 testimony favoring the creation of higher standards of protection for fresh water salmon habitat.

The impetus for the hearings was Rep. Bryce Edgmon's Bill called the "Wild Salmon Protection Act". Both local legends, Bella Hammond and former Senator Rick Halford, testified in support of the Bill. In fact, Halford stated that it was the first mining proposal he'd ever seen that

he didn't love and that the proposed Pebble Mine is the "biggest issue in the State of Alaska". Hopefully, both this bill and the Jay Hammond Refuge Bill, SB 67 will get more play in the state legislature this session.

Finally, a diverse panel starring Dr. Carol Ann Woody, who is a veteran of

sockeye research in Bristol Bay, will be presenting at Fish Expo. This presentation will cover the effects of mining on fish and what needs to be done to protect Bristol Bay Wild salmon. Come check it out Nov. 16th a 11 am! See you then.

Lindsey Bloom
Commercial Fisheries Coordinator
Trout Unlimited Alaska

Two Bills Need to Pass Before Permit Process Moves Ahead

I am the state representative for House District 36, which includes Kodiak as well as the Lake Iliamna region, the area of the proposed Pebble Mine project.

I have just returned from hearings related to the Pebble Mine held in my district as well as the surrounding area. I stayed around after the hearings for about a week because I wanted an opportunity to talk with people personally about the project rather than just hearing from those willing to speak at a public forum.

There are two schools of thought concerning Pebble Mine. The first is that this is simply not an appropriate place for a huge mining operation. Period.

This is a seismic area at the headwaters of the Kvichak and Mulchatna rivers and the Talarik Creek drainages. This is the fountainhead of not only Alaska's thriving commercial fishery but active sports fishing and tourism industries as well.

No matter how many promises are made relating to safety of the operation, there is always the possibility of human error or natural disaster. After all, they said the Titanic was unsinkable. I come from a fishing community and to me no project is worth poisoning the watershed.

On the other hand, I also recognize the importance of economic diversification and resource development. Many people in my district and the surrounding one are now earning a decent income while the mine is in its exploratory stages.

The central argument of those who favor the development of the Pebble Mine is that we should "let the permitting process run its course" as the state supposedly has a large mine permitting process that will adequately protect the habitat. This argument has a great deal of appeal and is one which I have previously advocated. After all, in this country we all believe in due process. Why kill a project that has the potential for economic development, especially in an area of the state in which jobs are scarce?

However, the problem with the argument of letting the permitting process take its course is that this argument assumes that we actually have in this state a rigorous permitting process. Unfortunately, our previous governor, Frank Murkowski, "gamed" the system in favor of development, regardless of its effect on the environment.

For example, one way in which the Murkowski administration stacked the deck in favor of large scale industrial mining was when he transferred the Habitat Division from Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources.

The Habitat Division's role under Fish and Game was to ensure that permits were not issued if such permits compromised the fisheries resources of the state.

(Continued on page 7—See Two Bills)

Alaska Clean Water Ballot Initiative

Alaska Superior Court Judge Fred Torrisi has ordered state officials to expedite printing of petition booklets for an Alaska Clean Water ballot initiative.

Backers of the Alaska Clean Water ballot initiative, which could determine the future of mining in Southwest Alaska, have **until Jan. 15 to gather 32,000 signatures** to get the measure on the ballot in the fall of 2008.

The initiative asks Alaska voters to decide on new restrictions on large-scale mineral mines to prevent the discharge of pollutants into water used for drinking or salmon habitat...

...Rep. Bryce Edgmon, D-Dillingham, said he feels residents of the Bristol Bay region will support the initiative. "I think the main concern is preserving the fisheries-based lifestyle we have out here," said Edgmon, who attended recent hearings on Pebble project related issues in Iliamna, Naknek and Dillingham...

..."If mining can live up to a stricter set of regulations, that's fine let the mine go forward", said Art Hackney, an Anchorage advertising executive whose firm represents the Renewable Resources Coalition, a group opposed to the mine. "But the regulations have not kept pace with the scale of what mining is today," said Hackney, noting that the project would employ huge dams to hold toxic wastes in an area known for earthquakes. "It's never been done be-

fore," he said. "There are not regulations to take this into consideration.

"They say 'let the process work' but there is no process," he said. Hackney also expressed concern that eight other mining companies in the 1,000 square mile area would also begin development.

Earlier this year, Alaska Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell denied petitioners the ability to put the Alaska Clean Water initiative on the ballot. His ruling was appealed through the courts. Under the new ruling, Parnell now has until Oct. 22 to supply the signature petitions and to allow Alaskans to start signing the initiative.

The Renewable Resources Coalition issued a statement Oct. 17, saying that the lieutenant governor should allow the initiative to move forward.

Whether he decides to appeal the court ruling to the Supreme Court or not, in fairness, the lieutenant governor should allow the petition to move forward, spokesmen for the coalition said.

Margaret Bauman

Alaska Journal of Commerce,

10/18/07

Fish Expo Highlights

✓ **AIFMA Booth #401**

✓ **Offshore Aquaculture: Boon or Bane?**

Thursday, November 15
Room C1
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

✓ **BBRSDA Meeting**

Thursday, November 15
Media Room 1D47
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

✓ **Bristol Bay Reception**

Thursday November 15
Pyramid Alehouse
5 – 7 p.m.

✓ **Impact of Large Scale Open Pit Mining**

Friday, November 16
Room C1
11 a.m. – Noon



(Two Bills—Continued from page 6)

Murkowski transferred Habitat to the Department of Natural Resources because he believed that the Habitat biologists were making it too difficult to obtain permits

Another Murkowski administration "initiative" that stacked the deck against fish habitat was changing the mixing zone regulations of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation so as to permit the discharge of pollutants into salmon spawning areas.

Currently there are bills introduced in the Legislature to undo these Murkowski administration "innovations." I have introduced, along with Rep. Paul Seaton of Homer, House Bill 74, which would forbid mixing zones in salmon spawning areas.

In addition, House Bill 41 returns the Habitat Division back to Fish and Game. Unfortunately, both of these bills have stalled in the Legislature. These bills must pass before I, for one, can say with any conviction that we should let the permitting process run its course, with respect to the Pebble Mine or any other large scale industrial mining activity.

The existing fishing industry and the residents of the area deserve a permitting process based on sound science and a full and open public process. There needs to be a thoughtful and thorough benefit/risk analysis, review, oversight and enforcement by appropriate agencies. Passage of these bills would be a step in the right direction.

Gabrielle LeDoux is a republican from Kodiak. She was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives in 2004. She represents the 36th district which represents Kodiak and the Lake Iliamna region.



pacific marine expo

November 15–17, 2007
Qwest Field Event Center, Seattle, WA

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- Owner/Skipper coverage
- And much more!

Call and ask for **Betsy McKenzie-Berentsen** in the marine department for more information and a quote: (877) 613-2200 or call direct (206) 613-2546.

AIFMA

1966-2007

Representing the interests of Bristol Bay fishermen for 41 years.

AIFMA's Board of Directors

President: David Harsila
Sec./Treas.: Bob Bonanno
Greg Anelon
Shawn Dochtermann
Bruce Jolma
Greg Munson
Mikal Mathisen
Fred Pike
Reidar Solberg

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