

Alaska Fish Notes June 22, 2014

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Top Stories. *Intentional ocean conference... White House proposes massive MPA... Bristol Bay action... Chinook news... New pin bone machine... Senators address work visas... Listen to Fish Radio and KMXT*

The Alaska Fisheries Report (6/19). *From KMXT in Kodiak, this is the Alaska Fisheries Report. I'm Brianna Gibbs. Coming up this week, the possibility of the first 6 inch gillnet opening for salmon fishing on the Kuskokwim, the State of Alaska chimes in on the health of the Bristol Bay watershed, and a rough year for Togiak herring. All that and Southeast Alaska's new boat lift, coming up, on the Alaska Fisheries Report.*

Alaska Fish Radio...updated daily *by Laine Welch*

17th Coast Guard District Notice to Mariners (6/18)

ADFG. Preliminary 2014 Alaska Commercial Salmon Harvest - Blue Sheet (Updated daily)

National Fisherman Live (6/17)

2014 Pilothouse Guide

Alaska Fish Related Blogs

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FEDERAL

1. **Kerry issues urgent call to save oceans (6/16).** US Secretary of State John Kerry sounded the alarm Monday on the perils facing the world's oceans, calling for a global strategy to save the planet's life-giving seas.

"Let's develop a plan" to combat over-fishing, climate change and pollution, Kerry urged as he opened a two-day conference in Washington bringing together world leaders, scientists and industry captains. [More](#)

2. **Obama to order ocean protections with executive powers, Kerry says (6/16).** The US secretary of state, John Kerry, says saving the world's oceans was a vital security issue, and has urged leaders at an international summit to take immediate action on overfishing and pollution.

Kerry, speaking at the start of the summit, said humans had caused "enormous damage" to the oceans, jeopardising the food security of three billion people on the planet.

The two-day conference includes officials from 80 countries, and is the most visible effort to date by the Obama administration to lead a global conservation effort for the oceans. To that end, the State Department on Monday announced that actor Leonardo DiCaprio, who recently [donated \\$3m to Oceana](#), will attend the summit on Tuesday. [More](#)

3. **Obama will propose vast expansion of Pacific Ocean marine sanctuary (6/17).** President Obama on Tuesday will announce his intent to make a broad swath of the central Pacific Ocean off-limits to fishing, energy exploration and other activities, according to senior White House

officials.

The proposal, slated to go into effect later this year after a comment period, could create the world's largest marine sanctuary and double the area of ocean globally that is fully protected.

The announcement — details of which were provided to The Washington Post — is part of a broader push on maritime issues by an administration that has generally favored [other environmental priorities](#). The oceans effort, led by Secretary of State John F. Kerry and White House counselor [John D. Podesta](#), is likely to spark [a new political battle with Republicans](#) over the scope of Obama's executive powers. [More](#)

4. Hastings: Imperial President Moves Forward with Ocean Zoning (6/17). House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (WA-04) released the following statement regarding President Obama's announcement of overreaching Executive action to unilaterally lock-up huge portions of the Pacific Ocean:

"For years the Obama Administration has threatened to impose ocean zoning to shut down our oceans, and today the President is making good on that threat. This is yet another example of how an Imperial President is intent on taking unilateral action, behind closed doors, to impose new regulations and layers of restrictive red-tape. Oceans, like our federal lands, are intended to be multiple-use and open for a wide range of economic activities that includes fishing, recreation, conservation, and energy production. It appears this Administration will use whatever authorities – real or made-up – to close our ocean and coastal areas with blatant disregard for possible economic consequences. [More](#)

5. White House – protection of oceans and coasts (6/17). The White House issued a **[Fact Sheet](#)** regarding protection of the oceans and coasts. Among other things, it calls for new protections for marine areas and potential expansion of Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. *Courtesy Bryant's Maritime Blog*

6. **White House – combating illegal fishing (6/17).** President Obama issued a **[Memorandum](#)** establishing a Comprehensive Framework to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and seafood fraud. *Courtesy Bryant's Maritime Blog*

7. **NFI to Obama: We insist on having a seat at the table on new task force, marine sanctuary (6/18).** The National Fisheries Institute (NFI) is demanding a seat at the table with Obama administration agencies to discuss the implications — and implementation — of two new policies that swirled into view in rapid succession during the State Department's international oceans summit on Tuesday.

The first is a seafood task force to combat seafood fraud and illegal, unregulated, unreported (IUU) fishing, which NFI [president John Connelly hailed as a sign of success](#) for an issue its members "have championed for so long".

The second is the president's plans to block off 782,000 square miles of water as a protected marine sanctuary, not only doubling the current protected area of 87,000 many times over but

also doubling the total amount of ocean that is marine protected in the world, an announcement that prompted a mad dash to respond from the [World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#) and news organizations across the US on Tuesday. [More](#)

8. Opinion. Obama's ocean preserve: Crucial Bering Sea habitat excluded (6/19). Our oceans are incredible sources of food and wonderment, and connect us all worldwide. I'm writing in response to the article "[Obama Announces Plan for Oceans](#)," [Nation & World, June 17] which is about the creation of the world's largest ocean reserve.

The article states the Obama administration is carrying out steps to protect fragile marine life by massively expanding the size of Pacific marine reserves. The plan will double currently protected ocean spaces worldwide, yet the vulnerable Bering Sea canyons are noticeably absent from the newly protected areas. [More](#)

9. Opinion. What the US can teach the world about protecting our oceans (6/15). From the South China Sea to the Arctic, the world's oceans are fast becoming flashpoints for commercial and military tensions. But the seas also offer enormous opportunities to cooperate, including on the issue of where, when, and how much to fish.

For decades, the US has led the way in managing fisheries responsibly. That has not always been the case globally, as some regions only more recently awakened to the need to better manage their marine resources sustainably. When U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry hosts more than 80 countries at the "Our Ocean" conference in Washington, DC on June 16, he should not be shy about touting America's success in managing its seafood supply and promoting it as a model for conservation. [More](#)

10. Department of State Ocean Conference

[Video. Our Ocean \(6/16\)](#)

[Video. Reception Remarks at Our Ocean Conference \(6/16\)](#)

[Video. Second Day of Our Ocean Conference \(6/17\)](#)

[Video. President Obama Delivers a Message to the Our Ocean Conference \(6/17\)](#)

[More documents](#)

11. Criminal liability for onboard negligence (6/16). Leslie Taylor poses some important questions in her June 12, 2014 blog, "Captains in Court," and the answers to these questions could ruin the life of every crewperson on every U.S.-flagged vessel. When a person who is just doing her job onboard makes a bad mistake and hurts somebody else, threatening her with prison could be a slippery slope toward universal criminality. [More](#)

12. New Federal Research Plan Highlights NOAA's Critical Role in the Future of Aquaculture (6/17). I am pleased to announce that the White Houses' Office of Science and Technology Policy has released its [National Strategic Plan for Federal Aquaculture Research](#) which includes a clear role for NOAA in advancing aquaculture research. This plan also represents an important milestone in efforts to support economically and environmentally sustainable marine aquaculture. Over the past 30 years, we have learned a lot about how to manage aquaculture sustainably. The practices and technologies available today are significantly

improved over what was available during the industry's early years. As the domestic industry develops further, we will need to continue to make improvements in large part through advances in science and technology development. This research plan provides a road map for NOAA, our federal partners, our academic research partners, and our stakeholders to effectively coordinate, collaborate, and prioritize aquaculture-related research and development activities. [More](#)

13. Joint Law Enforcement Effort Leads to Issuance of First Ever Interpol Purple Notice from the United States (6/12). A joint investigation between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and Interpol Washington (U.S. National Central Bureau) has led to the publication of the first-ever Interpol Purple Notice issued by the United States for a vessel believed to be engaged in illegal fishing activities.

According to the Purple Notice, the fishing vessel named 'Stellar' was sighted twice in May 2014 operating on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean by the USCG. It appears to change its name, national registration and other identifying characteristics in order to hide illegal activity. 'Stellar' is suspected of engaging in illicit fisheries transshipment activities near the Russian Exclusive Economic Zone.

'Stellar' was last known to have arrived in the port of Busan, Korea on June 3, 2014. The USCG provided information to the Korean authorities regarding the suspicious activities of 'Stellar' and recommended the vessel be inspected for potential violations. [More](#)

14. State Governors Urge the Federal Government to Defer to State Conservation Efforts When Deciding Whether to List a Species Under the Endangered Species Act (6/16). Last week, the bipartisan Western Governors' Association (WGA) adopted a resolution urging the federal government to defer to state conservation efforts and to prioritize funding to avoid new listings under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The [resolution](#) (pdf) calls for state conservation plans to "give rise to a regulatory presumption by federal agencies that an ESA listing is not warranted" and purports to provide clear guidance to states regarding minimum requirements for state and multi-state conservation plans. It also notes that states "should be included as partners" when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) makes an ESA listing determination. [More](#)

15. Legislation Seen As Danger to Bristol Bay Fishery (6/18). Alaska fishermen are voicing criticism over a bill introduced in Congress that seeks to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from exercising veto rights under the Clean Water Act to protect watersheds critical to fisheries. [More](#)

16. BB-RSDA Updates Fishermen on the Fight to Stop the Pebble Mine (6/19). The most controversial and talked about issue in the Bristol Bay region for well over a decade has been the proposed Pebble Mine. Many organizations have come out in opposition to the mine including several fishing groups. One of those groups is the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association, which represents the over 18-hundred Bristol Bay driftnet permit holders. [More/KDLG Audio](#)

17. Regional Fishery Management Councils call on Oceana to retract bycatch report; cite “substantial errors, omissions” (6/18). *The Regional Fishery Management Council Coordination Committee, representing all eight U.S. regional Fishery Management Councils, has recommended that environmental group Oceana retract its March 2014 report on fisheries bycatch, "[Wasted Catch](#)," that was widely reported in the press without independent verification of its allegations.* [More](#)

[Council Coordination Committee Rebuttal to Oceana Bycatch Report \(6/18\)](#)

18. Pew. MSA. The ABCs of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management—Part IV (6/18).
Protecting essential fish habitat: Homes and nurseries

On May 29, the [House Natural Resources Committee](#) met to refine legislation reauthorizing and amending the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the primary law that governs fishing in U.S. ocean waters. This is vital work: Our oceans are one of our nation’s most valuable natural resources. And congressional leaders should capitalize on this opportunity by adding stronger protections for essential habitat that fish populations need to spawn and grow in a [healthy marine ecosystem](#). [More](#)

19. House – Maintaining Coast Guard Readiness (6/18). The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted an **oversight hearing** on Maintaining Coast Guard Readiness. **[VADM Charles Michel](#)**, USCG testified about how the Coast Guard supports mission readiness through recapitalization of assets. **[Ms. Michele Mackin](#)**, GAO, testified that better information is needed on performance and funding to address acquisition shortfalls. **[Mr. Ronald O’Rourke](#)**, Congressional Research Service, testified on issues related to Coast Guard acquisition funding and acquisition programs which will affect future Coast Guard readiness. **[Mr. James Offutt](#)**, Navy League, testified concerning the growing capability gap resulting from inadequate appropriations for the Coast Guard. (6/18/14). Note: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a more extensive **report** on this issue. *Courtesy Bryant’s Maritime Blog*

20. Federal (Canada) support sought for salmon closure (6/19). Ottawa has been asked to support a full closure of this summer’s chinook salmon harvest until there’s enough fish to meet spawning goals.

The letter requesting the support was sent Tuesday by the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee to federal minister Gail Shea of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The closure includes supporting a zero harvest by Yukon First Nations, for the first time ever.

Salmon Sub-Committee chair Pauline Frost said this morning the closure is supported by the Yukon’s First Nations.

In her letter, Frost points out preseason predictions by authorities on both sides of the border are anticipating another poor return of chinook this summer, perhaps even the worst on record.

[More](#)

21. **Federal presence on king salmon runs marks another year of firsts (6/20).** In spite of this season's unprecedented closure of fishing for Chinook salmon in Western Alaska, the state's approach to policing wildlife has remained largely unchanged.

“As far as enforcement levels, the number of troopers participating, it's pretty much the same as in previous years,” said Captain Steve Hall with the wildlife troopers, the group within the Alaska State Trooper's tasked with enforcing policies established by managers at the Department of Fish and Game. [More](#)

22. **U.S. Senators Work to Allow Foreign Students Back in Fish Plants (6/19).** In Congress today, a bill that would allow foreign students to work in Alaska fish processing plants cleared a major committee. The provision is part of a spending bill now headed to the Senate floor. Both Alaska senators say they pressed for the return of the J-1 visa program to help meet demand for seasonal seafood processors. But the program is controversial. [More/APRN Audio](#)

23. [NPFMC June Newsletter](#)

STATE

24. [ADFG Chinook News \(Summer 2014\)](#)

25. **Despite recent upswing, biologists uncertain king salmon slump is over (6/15).** Alaska anglers optimistic about promising early king salmon returns on many rivers -- after years of disappearing fish -- may want to temper any warm, fuzzy feelings about the largest of the state's salmon. Despite an increase in chinook salmon returns in some waterways compared to last year, biologists stress it's too early to say if the current numbers will be sustained the rest of the season.

Most king salmon returns appear to be running 10 days to two weeks ahead of the average. Warm spring weather has increased water temperatures throughout Alaska, hastening the fish's annual sprint to fresh water. But an early return doesn't necessarily mean a big return. [More](#)

26. **Mixed start for kings as salmon runs begin around state (6/19).** In downtown Anchorage, fishers at Ship Creek are enjoying one of the state's stronger king returns.

June 17, anglers participating in the Slam'n Salm'n Derby — a fundraiser for the Downtown Soup Kitchen — recorded 21 kings by late afternoon, with Randall Yost landing a 33-pounder at about 12:50 p.m. that took the lead.

But while there are other bright spots in the state's king runs — the Dëshka and Nushagak are strong so far — it isn't indicative of a statewide trend. [More](#)

27. **King salmon ban difficult, but understood in affected Alaskan villages (6/24).** When the City of Tanana held its annual Nuchalawoyya celebration last week in the village at the confluence of the Tanana and Yukon rivers, there was no fresh king salmon to feed the dozens of villagers who showed up.

Instead, organizers had only six king salmon that were caught last summer and frozen over the winter to feed those who attended the three-day Native festival. Two king salmon were cooked each day. [More](#)

28. Bristol Bay

[KDLG. Slow Going in Bristol Bay's Eastside Districts \(6/14\)](#)

[KDLG. Bristol Bay Fisheries Report for June 15, 2014](#)

[KDLG. Port Moller Update: Largest Catch of the Season Saturday \(6/15\)](#)

[KDLG. The Nushagak King Run Continues to Come in Strong \(6/16\)](#)

[KDLG. Port Moller Test Fishery Update: Catches Dropped Off Sunday \(6/16\)](#)

[KDLG. Port Moller Test Fishery Weathered Out on Tuesday \(6/17\)](#)

[KDLG. Over 800 Kings Taken in Monday's King Opening in the Nushagak District \(6/17\)](#)

[KDLG. Strong Egegik and Wood River Genetic Signals from Port Moller Test Fishery Catches \(6/18\)](#)

[KDLG. Low Escapement Numbers to the Egegik, Naknek and Kvichak Rivers \(6/18\)](#)

[KDLG. 81-Thousand Sockeye Harvested Wednesday in Bristol Bay \(6/19\)](#)

[KDLG. Still No Sockeye Openings in the Nushagak District \(6/19\)](#)

[Kings reign on the west side \(6/20\)](#)

[KDLG. Bristol Bay Fisheries Report for June 20, 2014](#)

[KDLG. Bristol Bay Fisheries Report for June 21, 2014](#)

29. Salmon Price Report Jan-Apr 2014

[Cover Letter](#) [Report](#)

30. **Aleuts press U.S., Japan for Unalaska hospital (6/13).** The history of World War II in the Aleutians is the driving force behind proposals to build a hospital in the state's only region without one.

Plans are moving forward to build a regional hospital in Unalaska, local residents were told at a meeting last week where a teleconference brought in some of the key officials who were stuck in Anchorage because of flight cancellations caused by Pavlof Volcano's eruption. [More](#)

31. **Frustrations mount as king salmon conservation takes priority on the Kuskokwim River (6/17).** Frustration is growing in the Kuskokwim region of western Alaska, as subsistence fishermen challenged managers for more openings on the river that has seen harsh restrictions this season in an effort to conserve king salmon.

Managers heard their concerns at the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group meeting in Bethel Tuesday, but reiterated that their efforts were for conservation, as the king salmon run in the region appears on track to be abysmal going into the 2014 season. [More](#)

Restrictions on Kings Prompt Threats of Armed Fishing (6/17) [KTUU Video](#)

32. Kuskokwim River opens to gillnetting amid king salmon restrictions (6/19). After weeks of anxiety, fishermen on the Kuskokwim River can finally breathe a sigh of relief, as managers announced a short fishing opening on the river Friday night.

Starting 4 p.m. Friday, 6-inch mesh gillnets limited to 50 fathoms will be permitted from the mouth of the Johnson River downstream to the southern tip of Eek Island until 8 p.m. The area from below Eek Island to the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge border will also open at the same time but will remain open through the duration of the season, according to a release from refuge manager Brian McCaffery. [More](#)

33. PWS harvest climbs to nearly 2 million salmon (6/18). Copper River's drift fishery has peaked, with a harvest of 1.4 million salmon, the bulk of them sockeyes, and most of the fleet has moved to the Coghill and Eshamy districts, as the fishery continues through July.

While the weather overall for the season has been really good, the last period brought winds of up to 50 knots and a fair amount of rain, and some harvesters came in early, said Jeremy Botz, a biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's office in Cordova.

Some 70 percent to 80 percent of the 500 drift gillnet permit holders who had been harvesting on the Copper River district have moved on to Coghill and Eshamy fisheries, Botz said. [More](#)

34. Bristol Bay Salmon Fishery Kicks In as Copper River Peaks (6/18). In a single day in mid-June, the preliminary harvest estimate for Bristol Bay's Egegik district jumped by 38,000 sockeye salmon, and the renowned red salmon fishery was off and running, even as the Copper River fishery peaked. [More](#)

35. OceansAlaska admits financial problems (6/17). OceansAlaska, a Ketchikan-based shellfish seed producer, is in a financial mess. Officials with the nonprofit admitted as much during Monday's Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly meeting. They asked the Assembly for more time to reconcile their accounts related to a borough grant, along with enough borough funding to keep the doors open through the end of July. [More/KRBD Audio](#)

36. Untangling Southeast Alaska's fisheries (6/19). Ask Amanda Compton why she is documenting the experiences of Southeast Alaska fisheries workers, and you'd best carve out some time for her answer.

Compton, a local journalist and cofounder of Juneau's popular Mudrooms event, is passionate about the fishing industry, the art of storytelling, and her fellow Alaskans. All three come together in her current project, a radio program funded by a Rasmuson Foundation Individual Artist Grant. [More](#)

37. Drifters head into the season, setnets to remain dry (6/19). The Snug Harbor Seafoods receiving dock was bustling Thursday, though not with commercial drift gillnetters bringing in volumes of sockeye salmon from the season's first opener; rather with captains and crews who spent the afternoon putting the finishing touches on their boats, readying for the upcoming fishing season.

Typically, the first opener of the commercial season is slow, said Fish and Game managers and fishermen on the dock, though the banner run of Kasilof River sockeye lured some into the water Thursday for the 12-hour Cook Inlet-wide opening. In 2013, 60 boats went out on the first commercial drift opener and caught about 3,500 fish, according to Fish and Game catch data.

[More](#)

38. Bully politics harm all salmon user groups (6/20). Response to Howard Delo's "Valuable Information" in the Frontiersman June 12, 2014, and his posted comments on June 5, "Commercial fishing single biggest factor impeding successful Northern District coho run returns."

As the representative for the Alaska Salmon Alliance based in Kenai and Anchorage, I have been doing community outreach in the Mat-Su Valley for the past 18 months, in an effort to bring sport, personal use, subsistence and commercial user groups together on common research themes, wild stock enhancement in rivers and to start a dialogue that can lead to long term management solutions. The Mat-Su Fish and Wildlife Commission has systematically blocked these efforts. [More](#)

MARKETING

39. McDonald's® Canada now serving Marine Stewardship Council certified sustainable fish in its Filet-O-Fish® sandwich (6/17). McDonald's Canada today announced that 100 per cent of the fish it serves in its Filet-O-Fish is now certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). McDonald's Canada has purchased fish from MSC certified fisheries for nearly a decade and recently completed MSC's third-party Chain of Custody process to further solidify the company's commitment to maintaining the health of the world's oceans by supporting sustainable fishing practices. [More](#)

40. Group hopes to develop England's taste for Alaska seafood with pop-up restaurant (6/16). A pop-up restaurant will open for one day in London later this month in hopes of increasing demand for Alaska seafood across the pond. The [Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute](#) - a public-private partnership of the State of Alaska and the local seafood industry -- said it is joining a UK-based public relations firm in sponsoring the pop-up. The restaurant will be built to mimic Nome, Alaska, in 1899, during the city's gold rush days. [More](#)

41. Talk of Alaska. Local Fishing & Local Markets (6/17) [APRN Audio \(1 hour\)](#)

42. New US Campaign for Better Food Labelling (6/18). A new national poll reveals a consumer mandate for better food production practices and Consumer Reports has launched a campaign to end the 'natural' label in favour of one that underscores a more sustainable system.

According to a new national survey by the [Consumer Reports'](#) National Research Center, 59 per cent of consumers check to see if the products they are buying are 'natural', despite there being no federal or third-party verified label for this term. Moreover, while a majority of people think

that the 'natural' label actually carries specific benefits, an even greater percentage of consumers think it should. [More](#)

43. Searching for the Russian Crab Mafia (6/19). Finding a ship that doesn't want to be found is almost impossible on Russia's Sea of Okhotsk, 600 million square miles of icy water north of Japan, and the *Iskander* was doing its best to remain hidden. The rusting hull of the 180-foot ship bore no name, and its transmitters had been disabled. In the right light, it might have disappeared into the low-hanging clouds that often blanket the waters off Russia's east coast. But it didn't. [More](#)

44. Photo Project to Showcase the Sockeye Salmon Season as it Occurs (6/20). A new photo project seeks to showcase the 2014 sockeye salmon season using highly detailed still photos taken by a highly published Alaskan photographer. [More/KDLG Audio](#)

45. Details of 2013 Salmon Prices in Bristol Bay (6/22). Commercial fishermen in Bristol Bay are hoping for higher prices for their sockeye catch this year. That may or may not happen but last year's prices are finalized. Recently the Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association compiled the price information from last season. [More](#)

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY

46. New Publications by AFSC Authors

STONE, R. P. 2014. The ecology of deep-sea coral and sponge habitats of the central Aleutian Islands of Alaska. NOAA Professional Paper NMFS 16, 52 p.

MORAN, P., J. F. BROMAGHIN, and M. MASUDA. 2014. Use of genetic data to infer population-specific ecological and phenotypic traits from mixed aggregations. PLoS ONE 9(6):e98470. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0098470. (.pdf, 1.1 MB). [Online](#).

47. Recompression Devices: Helping Anglers Fish Smarter (6/13). Have you ever heard of barotrauma? It's a condition experienced by some deep water fish that are brought quickly to the surface. Fish experiencing barotrauma often sustain serious injuries, and upon release, are unable to swim or dive back to depth. Therefore, the survival rates of caught and released deep sea fish are low. Learn how NOAA Fisheries and partners in the recreational fishing community are working to address this problem through the development of catch and release recompression devices. [Video](#)

48. Bowpicker beauty captured on film (6/17). By Charlie Ess. Leave it to my wife Cheryl to dig a good story out of the woodwork. She came home from work one day last summer, exuberant to tell me about a boatbuilder she'd met.

"I think he's a story," she said.

We were having a glass of wine, contemplating what to have for dinner (moose or salmon) when she suggested we drive over to his place not a mile away from where she works. The next day found us touring Delbert Henry's large shop, Hylite Fabrication, nestled in the woods in Butte,

Alaska. As we stood there, dwarfed by a 90-foot research vessel and talked with Henry there was no doubt he was a story, but we needed a commercial fishing boat in the picture to fit *National Fisherman*. [More/Video](#)

49. **Gear to Keep You Safe (6/18).** Grundéns launched their Nightwatch Puffy Jacket at Pacific Marine Expo (PME) last fall to rave reviews. In fact, the product sold out of stock within the first two months. "It's an obvious winner with our customer base," says Mike Jackson, President of Grundéns USA in Poulsbo, Washington. "It's a really good item for us." [More](#)

50. NOAA. [Interactive Mapping Tool for Cook Inlet Fish Habitat Research](#)

51. **Alaska Sea Grant. Alaska-Argentina collaboration on king crab research.** This summer Dr. Paula Sotelano, a postdoctoral researcher at the Marine Crustaceans Laboratory of the Austral Center for Scientific Research (CADIC) in Ushuaia, Argentina, is working in Dr. Ginny Eckert's lab at the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Juneau Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dr. Sotelano studies the biology of the early life stages of southern king crab (*Lithodes santolla*). [More](#)

52. **New Bone Removing Machine Introduced (6/13).** The University of Alaska Fairbanks has a new bone removal machine receiving patents.

Larry Kozycki invented the Pinbone Wizard in the 1990's. But when Kozycki died in 2001, the manager of the Geophysical Machine Shop at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Greg Shipman took over the development. Shipman says when he is current developer but Kozycki was the brains behind the original prototype. [More/KDLG Audio](#)

53. **New Study Looks at Alaska's Waters and Fish for Contaminant Levels (6/20).** A study was released in April comparing the amount of contaminants in 20 national park waters. Pesticides and higher levels of mercury were among the findings. [More](#)

54. **R/V Sikuliaq readies for ocean research (6/19).** Next summer, there'll be a new ship docking in Dutch Harbor and Nome on its way to the Arctic. But first, the research vessel Sikuliaq is headed to Honolulu for its inaugural research cruises. [More](#)

MISC

55. **First sustainable commercial salmon farm in North America (6/15).** And now for a completely different take on farmed salmon which has its share of critics: Go for it! The first large-scale, ecologically sound, cutting edge salmon farm in North America opened last month on Vancouver Island, a kilometre away from the ocean, near the little town of Port McNeill. [More](#)

Jun 23. [NOAA Science Advisory Board](#), Teleconference

Jun 24. [US Senate Commerce Markup S2444-Coast Guard Authorization](#), Webcast/DC

Jul 1. [ASMI Customer Advisory Panel and Board](#), King Salmon

Jul 11. [Comments due on Endangered Species Act - Implementing Regulations](#), clarify procedures for designating and revising critical habitat.

Jul 11. [Comments due on proposed rule - "destruction or adverse modification"](#)

Jul 11. [Comments due on exclusions from critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act](#)

July 29-30. [NOAA Science Advisory Board](#), Boulder, CO

Jul 29-Aug 1. [AFSC Peer review BSAI Stock Assessment](#), Seattle

Aug 4. [Comments due on BSAI Amendment 106 \(AFA Vessel Replacment\)](#)

Aug 18-21. [NPRB Fall Science Meeting](#), Anchorage

Aug 18. [BOF ACR's due](#)

Aug 19. [Alaska Primary Election](#)

Sep 15-19. [Crab plan team](#), AFSC Seattle

Sep 16-18. [NPRB Advisory Panel](#), Anchorage

Sep 16-18. [SE Conference](#), Wrangell

Sep 22-26. [NPRB](#), Anchorage

Sep 23-25. UFA Board Meeting, Anchorage

Sep 23-27. [Groundfish Plan Team meetings](#), Seattle AFSC

Sep 28-30. [WOC Business Forum on Ocean Policy and Planning](#), New York

Sep 30-Oct 2. [ASMI All Hands](#), Anchorage (Captain Cook)

Oct 6-15. [NPFMC](#), Anchorage

Oct 15-16. [BOF Work Session](#), Juneau

Oct 16-26. [PICES Annual Meeting](#), Yeosu, Korea

Oct 20-22. [Alaska State Chamber and Policy Forum](#), Girdwood

Oct 20-24. [Alaska Chapter, American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting](#), Juneau

Oct 23-25. [Alaska Federation of Natives Convention](#) in Anchorage, AK

Oct 27-30. [Ecotrust Science & Sustainability Forum](#), New Orleans

Nov 4. [Alaska General Election](#)

Nov 9-14. [9th International Flatfish Symposium](#), Cle Elum, WA

Nov 12-18. [World Seafood Championship](#), Las Vegas

Nov 17-18. [NOAA Science Advisory Board](#), Boulder, CO

Nov 18-19. [The 7th annual Mat-Su Salmon Science & Conservation Symposium](#), Palmer

Nov 19-20. [RDC's Annual Conference: Alaska Resources](#), Anchorage

Nov 19-21. [Pacific Marine Expo](#), Seattle

Dec 2-3. [IPHC Interim Meeting](#), Seattle

Dec 3-8. [BOF Prince Williams Sound, Upper Copper River, Upper Susitna River](#). Cordova

Dec 8-16. [NPFMC](#), Anchorage

2015

Jan 21-27. [BOF. Southeast and Yakutat Crab, Shrimp, and Misc Shellfish](#). Wrangell

Jan 26-30. [IPHC Annual Meeting](#), Vancouver, BC

Feb 2-10. [NPFMC](#), Seattle

Feb (TBD). Symphony of Seafood

Feb 9-11. [SeaWeb Seafood Summit](#), New Orleans

Feb 9-13. [Alaska Forum on the Environment](#), Anchorage

Feb 23-Mar 3. [BOF. Southeast and Yakutat Finfish](#), Sitka

Feb (Late). [Global Seafood Market Conference](#), Las Vegas

Feb (TBD). [Pacific Seabird Group](#), San Jose, CA

Mar 17-20. [BOF Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, Misc Shellfish](#). Anchorage Sheraton

Mar 30-Apr 3. [NPRB Science Panel](#), Seattle

Apr 6-14. [NPFMC](#), Anchorage

Apr 10. [BOF proposals due for 2015-2016 cycle](#)

Apr 28-30. [NPRB Advisory Panel](#), Anchorage

May 4-8. [NPRB](#), Anchorage

May 11-15. [NPAFC Annual Meeting](#), Kobe Japan

May 17-19. [NPAFC 2015 Symposium](#), Kobe, Japan

Jun 1-9. [NPFMC](#), Sitka

Aug 21. [BOF ACRs due](#)

Oct 5-13. [NPFMC](#), Anchorage

Oct 15-17. [Alaska Federation of Natives Convention](#) in Anchorage, AK

Oct 21-22. [BOF Work Session](#). Anchorage.

Dec 7-15. [NPFMC](#), Anchorage

Dec 8-15. [BOF Bristol Bay Finfish](#). Anchorage

2016

Jan 12-17. [BOF AYK Finfish](#). Fairbanks

Jan 25-29. [IPHC Annual Meeting](#), Juneau, AK

Feb 23-Mar 3. [BOF Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Island/Chignik Finfish](#). Anchorage.

Mar 8-12. [BOF Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues](#). Anchorage