



APICDA  
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Juneau, AK 99801

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# Aleutian Wave

APICDA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014



APICDA Communities



Akutan  
Atka  
False Pass  
Nelson Lagoon  
Nikolski  
St. George  
Unalaska

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## Message from the CEO



Larry Cotter  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear APICDA Communities and Stakeholders,

We are entering into summer, like with many of you, the busiest time of the year. We have been focused on expansion this past year in all aspects of our business. We are improving our vessels, upgrades to our fish plants, investing to ensure the quality of our seafood improves and now have a sales force to market seafood sourced from the Aleutians to the whole world.

We have been looking to improve in all areas so we can position ourselves to best serve our member communities. As we grow, it is inevitable that we also must change. At times change is difficult to adjust to for a company like APICDA which has been serving for the past 20-plus years. We are learning that we cannot simply do things the way we have always done them and expect a new result. We need to evolve and improve.

APICDA has always been a financially sound company and we have prided ourselves on achieving our purpose of investing in our communities

in order to create stable local economies. We continue our investments in the form of better equipment, highly qualified employees, creation of in-region jobs and developing needed infrastructure to support future growth.

We have always been good stewards of the resources provided to APICDA to achieve our mission. Now that we are fully vertically integrated as a seafood company, we have the opportunity to focus on efficiencies to improve profitability. We now sustainably harvest our seafood, process within our communities, trace our seafood products to market and sell them around the world with our own sales team.

We now have the ability to control costs along the supply chain and work towards profitability at each step. There is more responsibility in ownership throughout vertical integrated companies. We no longer simply convert our quota to cash royalties from outside companies. We now have pride of ownership and control in extracting as much value as possible to our communities and their members along the way. ▴

Larry Cotter, APICDA Chief Executive Officer

Larry Cotter photo courtesy of WACDA  
Cover photo courtesy Doug Ward



Larry Cotter, APICDA CEO and President of Alaska Longline Company, speaks at the christening of the longline vessel F/V Arctic Prowler at Alaska Ship and Drydock, October 2013, in Ketchikan, Alaska. Alaska Governor Sean Parnell, former Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski and Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka, were a few of the dignitaries that spoke at the event. AP Photo/Ketchikan Daily News, Hall Anderson

**About APICDA**

APICDA (Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporated in the state of Alaska. Our charitable purpose is to develop stable local economies in our member communities of Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski and St. George.

Our focus on community development sets us apart from the typical seafood company. The region's seafood resources have provided for families in our communities through many generations. By doing business with APICDA, you assist our work to better the lives of people in the communities throughout the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands.

*"An Alaska Seafood Company  
Serving a Greater Purpose"*

**Introducing the 2014 ALEUTIAN MARKETPLACE  
BUSINESS IDEA COMPETITION**

The Aleutian Marketplace (AM) Business Idea contest is a monetary award contest for residents of the 12 APICDA and the Aleut Corporation communities. Entries will be judged on their innovation, sustainability and the ability to create jobs. Three judges will decide each winner receiving a monetary award.

**WHAT YOU CAN WIN:**

- 1st place will win \$1,000
- 2nd place will win \$650
- 3rd place will win \$350

For rules and entry forms, go to:

[www.apicda.com/aleutian-marketplace](http://www.apicda.com/aleutian-marketplace)







The Anchorage Unanga Dance group performed at Alyeska Hotel in Girdwood, Alaska.



## 16th Community Outreach Conference

### April 2014

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association held its 16th annual Community Outreach Conference on April 29 and 30 at the Alyeska Resort, in Girdwood, Alaska. Leaders from APICDA's member communities, APICDA Board of Directors and management team were in attendance. The invited conference participants were representatives of the village corporations, IRA's and municipal governments, youth from our APICDA communities, guest speakers, federal and state personnel, and APICDA harvesting partners.

Annually, the APICDA Board of Directors and management incorporate suggestions and ideas from past conference

participants and community members to provide a meaningful and informative two-day conference. This conference also provides a forum for community leaders to meet with one another and the opportunity to gather firsthand knowledge of the CDQ program and future plans and projects of APICDA.

Four guest speakers invited to present were; Cora Campbell, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game; Dr. Kate Wynne, Professor/Marine Mammal Specialist for the University of Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program; Dr. Robert Foy, Director of the Kodiak Laboratory, Program Manager, Shellfish Assessment, NOAA Fisher-

ies-Kodiak; and Dr. Paul Wade, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries-Seattle. Their presentations included the latest information on biological issues affecting the APICDA region.

APICDA's corporate health was reviewed, demonstrating steady growth since its inception in 1992— including solid relationships with our harvesting partners.

The conference attendees were treated to a lively performance by the Anchorage Unanga Dancers. Crystal Dushkin introduced the group with an in-depth history of Atka dance and how the Anchorage group was formed.

Finally, community presentations and regional entities shared common successes and challenges that the communities face. Highlighting the reports were Atka culture camp activities and the successful Nikolski greenhouse program. ▲

### APICDA Community Outreach Conference Youth Activities

Every year during the APICDA Community Conference APICDA's human resources department coordinates various activities for the coinciding Youth Outreach Conference. A youth from each of APICDA's communities between the ages of 13-20 is invited to attend the conference and provide a presentation about life in their community from their perspective.

This year, five days of activities were scheduled ranging from a trip to Portage Glacier, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, a campus visit to UAA's Native Student Services Center, earning certificates in the NIOSH Teen Worker Safety and Peer Educator Kids Don't Float Program, a tour of Alaska Pacific University, and participating in the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Center's Career Information System. They also participated in an after-



Eric Willhite, Nikolski youth representative on tour in Portage Valley.



Alexis Bourdukofsky [center front] joins the group performance at Alyeska Hotel.



Unalaska youth representative Luke Shaishnikoff with Harriet Berikoff, chaperone and community liaison officer.

noon of fun and bowling. "It is important to show the youth options in secondary education and that life also includes having a bit of fun!" said Anfesia Tutiakoff, program coordinator.

The students that participated in the Youth Outreach Conference were: Arnold "Junior" Golodoff, Atka; Janene Borenin, Akutan; Eric Willhite and Tatyana Hillhouse, Nikolski; and Luke Shaishnikoff, Unalaska. Felicia Johnson from Nelson Lagoon was not able to attend, but she presented by phone during the conference impressing the listeners by her confidence and ability to recognize community need. Each of the students prepared excellent PowerPoint presentations about their communities. We are pleased to have a youth conference for the future leaders of the Aleutian area and encourage youth to participate in the 2015 Youth Conference, by talking to their community liaison officers or contacting Anfesia Tutiakoff, APICDA's Training & Education Coordinator. ▲



## APICDA Training & Education Programs

APICDA offers higher education and supplemental scholarship programs to support and encourage the education and training goals of community residents. The programs enable our residents to have access to college and university programs and to qualify for jobs within the region that may otherwise be filled by non-CDQ residents.

### To Apply:

Applications must be completed, submitted and RECEIVED in the APICDA office by:

- APRIL 1 for the summer term(s).
- JULY 1 for the fall and spring semesters award.
- NOVEMBER 15 for the spring semester award.

### For Information about application instructions and requirements:

Please contact APICDA's Training & Education Coordinator Anfesia Tutiakoff [education@apicda.com](mailto:education@apicda.com) or [www.apicda.com](http://www.apicda.com)



*"Soaring to Excellence and Coming Full Circle" — University Alaska Anchorage*

"One person can make a difference. Every act has significance. Every act is spiritual. Every action is the sum of all knowledge before you and you impact all that comes ahead of you. You owe every action to the past and to the future. It is an awesome responsibility. You reach another sense of power in coming to this realization. You realize that you're a part of something far bigger than yourself. You can then see that wasting your life is a crime. It inspires you to want to achieve, to be totally used up every second in contributing. It creates immense awareness."

—From The Native Creative Process: A Collaborative Discourse between Douglas Cardinal and Jeannette Armstrong, 1991

## APICDA Spring 2014 Scholarship Graduates

APICDA congratulates those students who have completed their programs. Doing all that work was extremely ambitious, and took a lot of effort and dedication. We are confident that your achievements will make a positive difference in your career paths and to your communities.

The following students are recipients of the Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship or the Supplemental Education Scholarship provided by APICDA. Those students who have graduated and are not on this list, please contact APICDA in order to receive the recognition that you deserve!

**NADINE KOCHUTEN**— Received a Bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Nadine is from the community of False Pass and is planning to return to the community for the summer.

**RENEE KOCHUTEN**— Received an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Renee is from the community of False Pass and is planning to continue working for the Alaska Native Medical Center.

**PATRICK TRINIDAD**— Received a Bachelor Degree in Biology from Pacific Lutheran University. Patrick is from the community of Unalaska and plans to use his degree to benefit the residents of Alaska.



Anfesia Tutiakoff at UAA Native Student Services graduation celebration.

**ANFESIA TUTIAKOFF**—Received a Bachelor of Human Services from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Anfesia is from the community of Unalaska and plans to continue working for APICDA as the Training & Education Coordinator. APICDA is proud to have been a part of her journey.

**EVANGELINA KENEZUROFF**— Received an Associate of Arts in the General Program from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Evangelina is from the community of False Pass and plans to give back to her community by working for an entity that directly supports the Aleutian and Pribilof Region.

**NIKITA BERESKIN**— Received a Certificate in Hairdressing from the Academy of Hair Design in Anchorage. Nikita is from Akutan and plans to pursue a career in cosmetology and would like to bring her expertise to her community. ▲

## Welcome Summer Interns

**KAILYN KASHEVEROF** is APICDA's new intern for summer 2014 and has been hired as receptionist in the Anchorage office. Kailyn's family originates from St. George Island. She was born in Anchorage and lived in Nome for 6 years, and graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka. Kailyn is a recipient of the Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund and is currently in her fourth year at the University of Alaska in Anchorage studying geology. Kailyn hopes to pursue a career in renewable energy.



**DARLING ANDERSON** is the Health & Safety intern for the Anchorage Office. Darling is from the community of False Pass. She will be working with Samuel Cunard, APICDA's Health & Safety Specialist. We are excited about having Darling on board and hope to help her develop office skills that will assist her in her future career. Darling attended Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York and is transferring to University of Alaska Fairbanks, Rural Development Program.



### APICDA WINS Intern

**SAMANTHA MIERZEJEK** is back at APICDA this summer with a Work Invest Now Scholarship as an intern for APICDA Joint Ventures' tourism division. She works as a shipping expeditor for our hunting lodges operated by AJV Aleutian Adventures. Samantha's family is from St. George Island. She is in her last semester at UAA and will graduate in December 2014 with a bachelor of arts degree in early childhood education. ▲

### Premera Insurance Information:

For general searches, you can visit: <https://www.premera.com/wa/visitor/find-a-doctor/>

Search by provider specialty or condition. Under this link there is also a form you can use if you want to try and continue care with a current provider who is no longer part of your network.

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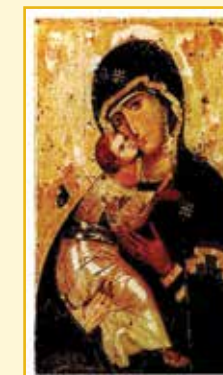
Tiffany Stock, Employee Benefits Consultant, Certified PPACA  
Phone: (907) 263-1401 / Fax: (907) 279-6818  
[www.northrimbenefits.com](http://www.northrimbenefits.com) or check us out on Facebook!

## CONDOLENCES

**CARL E. MOSES**

July 16, 1929 – April 30, 2014

The former state representative for the Aleutians and Alaska Peninsula passed away at the age of 84 at home in Sand Point, Alaska.



Unalaska Mayor Shirley Marquardt said, "Carl E. Moses was a true Alaskan success story and quite a character as well. He was a statesman, businessman, fisherman, salesman, family man and husband. As a representative in the legislature, his unique ability to patiently wait until the 'time was right' was legendary, especially during the capital budget process." His wife Laresa said, "When he spoke, even I listened." Moses was the longest-serving member of the state House of Representatives.

His commitment to the communities he served and the fisheries that sustain them was rock solid, and he was the catalyst for many projects in the region that benefitted his constituents in Southwest Alaska.

**GEORGE S. BEZEZEKOFF**

April 18, 1936 - March 27, 2014

George Bezezekoff worked for over 20 years and retired from Reeve Aleutian Airways as a ramp and cargo agent, starting in Dutch Harbor and then Cold Bay.

He was hospitalized for health issues at St. Elias Extended Care in Anchorage. George was buried in early April at home in Nikolski. He was 77 years young and according to his nephew David Dushkin, "Uncle George was a pretty good jokester."

*Remember me when flowers bloom in early spring,  
Remember me on sunny days in the fun that the summer brings,  
Remember me in the fall as you walk through leaves of gold,  
And remember me in the wintertime in the stories that are told,  
But most of all remember each day, right from the start,  
I will be forever near for I live within your heart.*



## Atka Community Conference

The community of Atka recently held a series of meetings to develop a community strategic plan. The Atka City Council hired Solstice Alaska Consulting to work on and develop the community plan. The conference focused on the possibilities available to the community of Atka with regards to the expansion of the Atka Pride Seafoods plant.

John Sevier, APICDA Chief Operating Officer, Laura Delgado, Director Quality Assurance, and Gary Chythlook, Director Communications and Marketing, traveled with the group to Atka and met with the community leaders. Along with the presentation by APICDA, the mayor of Atka, Aleutian Pribilof Island Association, the City of Atka, the Atka tribe and the Atka village corporation gave presentations.

The conference was well attended with the majority of community members at the meetings and very engaged in the process. After the conference, the consultants were compiling a survey for community members regarding the strategic plan. There is a follow-up meeting planned for June 2014 to discuss the results of those surveys with the community. ▲



Conference attendees were treated to spirited dancing in the school gym. Photos by Gary Chythlook.



Solstice Consulting facilitator Sharon Boyette [left] working with students. [Above] Sharon Boyette with APICDA COO John Sevier, Solstice consultant Carla Staton-Barker and Julie Dirks, Atka City Manager.



## Renewable Energy Coming to Nelson Lagoon

Plans are underway to construct a 26 ft. geodesic greenhouse in Nelson Lagoon this summer. The goal of the greenhouse is to provide open space for interested community members to grow vegetables, as well as to incorporate a local farm-based curriculum for home school students. This first dome will be located in a central location on village corporation land. We are working with an experienced crew that participated in the Nikolski greenhouse projects and hope to begin construction in early June. ▲



Sample greenhouse from Growing Spaces LLC, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.



Anchorage Unanga Dancers

The Anchorage Unanga Dancers rock the house when they perform their unique style of dances and fancy drumming. This dance group is led by Ethan Petticrew, one of the original members of Atkam Taliġisnikangis known as the Atka Dancers.

After leaving the village of Atka and settling in Anchorage a few years ago, Ethan was asked by many to teach dance and soon the Anchorage Unanga Dance group was formed, initially with people from Atka. Eventually the group invited other Unangas to join who were from the region or related to Aleutian families. The group create their own ornate regalia, rehearse weekly in Anchorage and perform around the state.

With support from APICDA, a group of 18 dancers and 6 chaperones were able to travel this winter to perform at the Festival of Native Arts at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. In March they performed at the "Capture the Culture" Gala hosted by the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association that was held at the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel. The dance group was also featured at APICDA's 2014 Community Outreach Conference held in late April at Alyeska Hotel in Girdwood, Alaska. ▲



Marii Swetozoff [left] APICDA Administrative Assistant dancing in Fairbanks.

## A Brief History of the Atka Dancers

Traditional dancing came back to Atka in 1996 through the Aleutian Region School District under the leadership of then-school board president Michael E. Swetozof. Ekaterina Gil, a member of the Koryak tribe, indigenous to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, was invited to come teach at the school in Atka. During her time in the community, she sewed all the first regalia out of sea otter and fur seal pelts, as well as the very first beaded headdresses.

A year later the school district hired Ethan and Jolene Petticrew as Atka's teachers. Originally from Nikolski, Ethan's family was taken to southeast Alaska during WWII. Ethan was born and raised in Wrangell but always longed to return to his ancestral home. Once in Atka, he led the students in researching and re-creating Unanga dance, which had not been seen in Atka since before the war. The songs were all new creations, though they were based on the musical pattern of ancient songs recorded in the early 1900s.

The school in Atka continues to incorporate Atka dancing into the school curriculum; students of all grades participate in dance to fulfill part of their P.E. credit. Even after graduation, students are encouraged to remain active with the dance group. Currently, singers, dancers and drummers range from young children to elders.

Much effort has been invested in rebuilding this precious cultural tradition, and the hope of all our dancers is that it will continue long into our future generations, so that we will always have this connection through time, with each other and with our ancestors. ▲

*Ukudigada*, —Crystal Dushkin





## Leaders in Training —Alaska Seafood Processing Leadership Institute (ASPLI)

Staff from APICDA— Steve Henry, Shirley Jones and Laura Delgado recently completed the Alaska Seafood Processors Leadership Institute (ASPLI). The program is designed with two week-long sessions and included 14 mid-level professionals from the seafood industry. ASPLI is offered every two years by the Marine Advisory Program through the University of Alaska system. The fall session focused on seafood biology, microbiology, seafood processor safety, sales and marketing, and cooking seafood. The second week is focused on leadership, project management, lean manufacturing, industry politics and government regulations.

The course concluded with a group trip to the North American Seafood Expo in Boston, Massachusetts, where over a thousand exhibitors from around the globe display new seafood products and processing machinery. New packaging and marketing trends are also a focus of the show. While in Massachusetts, the group went to Gloucester, MA and toured the Whole Foods' Pigeon Cove processing facility. This plant processes fresh fish for their northeastern stores and smokes salmon for their region as well.

At the conclusion of the 2-week program, participants left Boston to return home to Kodiak, Larsen Bay, Seward, Homer, King Salmon, Unalaska, False Pass, Petersburg, Anchorage and Seattle to prepare for processing Gulf and Bering Sea groundfish, halibut, and salmon.

ASPLI is a professional development program targeting ris-



Student group from Alaska Seafood Processors Leadership Institute (ASPLI) on tour in Gloucester, MA in March, 2014.

ing leaders in Alaska's seafood industry. Funding for ASPLI comes from tuition, University of Alaska TVEP funds, and the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program. The coordinators are Dr. Quentin Fong, Alex Oliveira, Paula Cullenberg, and Chris Sannito. ▴

### FOODEX 2014

APICDA participates in the American Indian Foods Program (AIF), which focuses on Native American produced food exports. Recently, Everette Anderson, Director of Business Development, traveled to Tokyo, Japan for FOODEX 2014. Kicking off the event was Ambassador Caroline Kennedy visiting the AIF booth. Everette was able to visit the famed Tsukiji Market— soon to be moved to a man-made island off the coast of Japan.

From Tokyo, Everette met up with fellow AIF and Cannon Fish colleagues to participate in the Boston Seafood Expo.

Lastly, the National Congress of American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) hosted RES2014 in Las Vegas, the largest Native American economic summit held yearly. The RES event included conferences, training seminars and a trade expo with close to 5,000 tribal members in attendance. ▴



Laura Delgado, APICDA Director Quality Assurance works with Chef Joel Chenet during the Alaska Seafood Processors Leadership Institute (ASPLI) in Kodiak.



Everette Anderson at the American Indian Foods (AIF) booth at the Seafood Global EXPO in Brussels, Belgium in May 2014.



### Seafood Global Expo in Belgium

Representatives from APICDA recently attended the Seafood Global Expo in Brussels in early May. It was an opportunity to *literally* see the bigger picture of world fish, processing, packaging, marketing and sustainability.

The following is a translation from the Show Daily published in French during the event:

“Are you are looking for something special, sustainable and natural with added-value? The booth 11-2571 is a great address. You will find here a broad selection of seafood products “Made by American Indians”. Wild Salmon from the Arctic Circle, fresh or frozen fish filets from Kodiak Island, salmon jerky, Keta, King Crab.... The offer is appetizing. The products are from four companies which are members of the Native American Indian and Alaska Native program



View of the exhibition floor at the Boston Seafood Expo in Boston, Massachusetts.



Cannon Fish display at the Boston seafood show in March 2014.

which unites more than 500 tribes in the United States and Alaska. Supervised by the IAC (Intertribal Agriculture Council) founded in 1987, it is destined to promote companies administered by Indian tribes to develop in their specific market segments and which are participating actively to the lives in the communities.” ▴



Larry Cotter [center] with Cannon Fish staff, Erik Allen and John Cannon.



## Halibut Bycatch Must Be Reduced

By Larry Cotter, APICDA CEO

The halibut quotas for our directed halibut fisheries have declined precipitously the last several years, and may decline to the point where we have no directed halibut fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands in the next few years. At the same time, millions of pounds of halibut are taken— and will continue to be taken— as bycatch in our groundfish fisheries and discarded. This is totally unacceptable.

Halibut is the life blood for many communities and residents in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and, in fact, the Gulf of Alaska. It makes no difference whether it is a CDQ community or not. The closure of our directed halibut fisheries would be catastrophic, and not just from a financial perspective: there is a deep traditional and spiritual relationship between our communities and people's use of halibut. Just like king salmon and the Yukon River.

APICDA is, of course, invested in the groundfish fisheries. We have told our partners that we stand with our communities – halibut bycatch must be reduced. And we will insist that our partners and our investments reduce their current level of halibut bycatch.

In this newsletter we have included two opinion pieces about halibut bycatch: one by Buck Laukitis, a longline halibut and salmon fisherman from our region, and one in response by John Gauvin, a scientist who works with the groundfish trawl sector. Both are good friends of APICDA. And both have valid perspectives.

Managing bycatch can be difficult and expensive. But it can and must be done. Period. ▴

## Halibut fishermen say Bering Sea bycatch levels are unacceptable, hope to rein in groundfish fleet

*Buck Laukitis is a halibut fisherman from Homer, and head of the North Pacific Fisheries Association. He writes to contradict the 'Alls well with Alaska' message being sent to Washington around the Magnuson Steven Reauthorization hearings. With the reduction in halibut stock, Bering Sea Bycatch is now more than twice that of the directed fishery, and there has not been any movement on constraining groundfish to share more equally the consequences of a declining stock.*

This year the Magnuson Stevens Act will be reauthorized by Congress. The MSA is the law by which the National Marine Fisheries Service and the North Pacific Fisheries Council manage the federal fisheries off of Alaska. In public hearings the message that "all is well in Alaskan waters" and "no major changes to the law are needed" has been echoed by many groundfish industry lobbyists. Although no one will dispute that the Bering Sea groundfish industry is a behemoth, their financial success is coming at the expense of other users. Halibut fishermen in all areas of the Bering Sea have a catch limit of 3.2 million pounds this year. The estimated bycatch cap in the Bering Sea is almost 8 million pounds.

The North Pacific Fisheries Association in Homer represents commercial halibut fishermen who fish throughout the state. Our members who fish in the Bering Sea have seen their halibut quotas reduced to the lowest levels since the advent of the modern halibut fishery— which began to recover in the mid 80's after years of foreign trawling. Our members who fish for halibut in the Gulf of Alaska recognize that the best science shows that juvenile halibut in the Bering Sea later in life populate all areas of the Gulf and beyond to Canada and the West Coast. What happens in the Bering Sea affects all halibut users in Alaska.

The entire Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands directed halibut projected catch in 2014 has been reduced to only three million pounds from almost 8 million pounds three years ago. The three-year forecast looks like the prospect of no directed fishery in areas 4CDE (area from the Pribilof Islands north) is a very real and sobering possibility. At the same time the halibut bycatch limits in the Bering Sea have not been reduced appreciably since 1993— or at least not proportionally to the decline in the directed fishery.

The Bering Sea is huge. The Bering Sea has the most productive marine shelf/edges in the world with the largest groundfish industry in the world. The reality that there are only 3 million pounds of halibut for directed users is startling. The Bering Sea is entirely out of balance in this respect. The groundfish industry is winning and the halibut resource and halibut fishermen (commercial, charter, sport and subsistence) all over the state have lost if the trend is not reversed.

The Council must balance the requirements of National Standard 1, the requirement to achieve optimum yield and National Standard 9, to minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality to the extent possible. When more halibut in the Bering Sea are being used as bycatch than in the directed fishery the balance has been lost.

It is often said by the groundfish industry that halibut is the currency that



keeps them fishing. But the bycatch wastage is greater than the directed use of this resource. There have been many amendments to the Bering Sea management plan over the past 25 years that consider halibut in rationalization and co-op efforts, but there have never been provisions to have bycatch limits that float with abundance. The bottom line is that all of these amendments tipped by the natural fluctuations of the stock have culminated a free fall in the halibut population, (796 mil pounds of total exploitable biomass in 1997 to 170 mil pounds in 2014). The groundfish industry may be a billion dollar a year fishery, but halibut in the Bering Sea has been reduced to only about \$15 million in 2014 (3 mil pounds @ \$5/lb), and the downward trend will continue. The way the system is constructed halibut are a currency to be spent, but never to be saved.

For too long the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has only managed part of the removals. In the Bering Sea the IPHC is managing a smaller and smaller portion of the removals (5 million pounds of bycatch vs. 3 million pounds of directed fishery). Bycatch limits are so high vis-a-vis the biomass that the limits are not even constraining for many sectors in the Bering Sea. This disconnect between bycatch limits that do not fluctuate with abundance and a rapidly declining resource needs to be immediately addressed. The directed fishery in the Bering Sea regulatory areas are heading for no fishing while the groundfish fisheries operate business as usual. The directed halibut users are bearing all of the weight of the rebuilding and conservation efforts, but it is clear that without reduced mortality by ALL users there will be no recovery. Recovery will require reducing fishing mortality by all sectors.

If perpetuating a system where more of a resource is wasted than is used is legal, shouldn't the law (MSA) be changed to correct the system? ▴

Buck Laukitis  
Director, NPFA  
Commercial fisherman, Homer Alaska

<http://www.seafoodnews.com/Story/929692/62282/Halibut-fishermen-say-Bering-Sea-bycatch-levels-are-unacceptable-hope-to-rein-in-groundfish-fleet>

## Halibut fleet can use mortality reduction tools in cooperation with other sectors to reduce bycatch

*John Gauvin is the science director for the Alaska Seafood Cooperative, and one of the most experienced developers of gear modifications to reduce bycatch in the industry.*

I read Mr. Laukitis' opinion piece on halibut bycatch (Halibut fishermen say Bering Sea bycatch levels are unacceptable, hope to rein in groundfish fleet Seafood News May 22) with great interest. In some respects I'd like to thank Mr. Laukitis for assisting our outreach efforts for our halibut bycatch reduction work. As principal investigator of two exempted fishing permit (EFP) studies to reduce halibut bycatch on flatfish vessels (2009 and 2012) I note that the picture in Mr. Laukitis' piece selected by the Seafood News editor came from our 2009 fieldwork— reprinted again for this article. In the picture, eight crew members (in addition to the two regular observers) on one of the four study vessels are diligently searching for halibut so they can be carefully slid over to the two sea samplers on the vessel during the study. The sea samplers were there to measure each halibut and assess its viability. The focus of the studies was on quickly releasing halibut— which is not allowed under current regulations— to improve survival.

Both studies showed that sorting the halibut on deck and rapidly returning them to the sea reduced mortality rates dramatically and may be feasible in most flatfish target fisheries. More than 90% of the halibut were sorted out on deck across the four EFP vessels in each study. On most hauls the time needed to sort out and obtain length and viability data was less than 20 minutes. These encouraging results apply to typical Bering Sea flatfish vessels as currently configured; even better results may be achieved with changes to the deck layout as vessels are replaced (a process already underway in this fleet).

Changes in fish handling procedures to allow halibut to be sorted out of the catch on deck and returned to the sea to minimize mortality (while maintaining the current high monitoring standards) are strongly supported by the Alaska Seafood Cooperative, which represents the majority of the Bering Sea flatfish fleet.

As I write this piece, they are also conducting a field research collaboration with the Alaska Fishery Science Center's FMA Division to assess a specialized strobe camera system to collect length data from halibut sorted on deck. This system would not only speed

[continued]



up the process of getting halibut back into the water but would provide even more accurate accounting of halibut bycatch via a census instead of the current system of basket sampling.

The Alaska Seafood Cooperative welcomes the additional accuracy that census accounting of halibut bycatch will achieve. Deck sorting is not allowed under the current regulations but the Alaska Seafood Cooperative is working hard with NMFS to address implementation challenges and expects that it will be available as another tool in the bycatch reduction toolbox soon, perhaps as early as 2015 through a fleet-wide EFP.

In addition to their work on reducing halibut mortality rates, the members of the Alaska Seafood Cooperative have been proactive in their efforts to reduce halibut bycatch itself. These vessels have stayed well under their halibut bycatch caps since the advent of Amendment 80, which ended the race for fish and allowed fishermen to rationally decide when and where to fish. Additionally, their initial halibut allocation for Amendment 80 included a phased-in reduction in halibut bycatch from their average annual halibut usage prior to Amendment 80. The halibut bycatch reduction results since the program started are not “smoke and mirrors;” all of these boats have two full time observers and every haul is sampled. The fleet continues work hard to do even better, not only by reducing halibut mortality but also through other ongoing work with researchers in NMFS and outside institutions to reduce bycatch rates and effects of ground gear on crab.

Everyone in the Bering Sea groundfish trawl fishery (Amendment 80, Bering Sea Limited Access, pollock fishery) is working hard to reduce halibut bycatch to the extent practicable. That is the mandate under the MSA as written and it is clearly working in my opinion.

I think that the directed halibut fishery needs to join in that effort instead of taking issue with it.

That sector should be working on better enumeration of wastage and taking steps to meaningfully reduce it. The regulations for the directed fishery have a size limit that may be unrealistic given the proportion of the halibut biomass that is below the legal size. Halibut fishermen need to do what they can to avoid hooking these undersized fish and the mortality associated with removing hooks and throwing them back.

Reducing effects on these fish is another part of the overall effort needed to rebuild Bering Sea halibut that the Bering Sea groundfish fleet and Mr. Laukitis want to achieve. ▴

John Gauvin  
Alaska Seafood Cooperative

John Sackton, Editor and Publisher  
SeafoodNews.com 1-781-861-1441  
Email comments to jsackton@seafood.com  
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SEAFOODNEWS.COM [Opinion] by John Gauvin May 30, 2014

## APICDA Vision Statement:

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) will develop commercial and sport fishing industry related opportunities to enhance the long-term social and economic viability of the coastal communities and their residents in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.

APICDA will optimize benefits to its member communities and their residents through the development of infrastructure and fishery support services in the communities, the acquisition of seafood related businesses, including fishing vessels and/or processing facilities and support service industries at economically beneficial prices, and the acquisition of harvest and processing rights. By enabling the communities to participate in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island fisheries,

APICDA will:

- Promote and participate in business opportunities with capital investment funds;
- Relieve chronic social problems through the creation of jobs, and encourage individual growth through educational and vocational opportunities;
- Promote community control over their individual economic and social destinies; and,
- Continue to assist each community as they make the transition from reliance upon a CDQ allocation to economic and social self-sufficiency.



## Who We Are

**APICDA** (Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association) is a vertically integrated seafood company responsibly harvesting, processing and marketing wild Alaskan crab, pollock, cod, black cod, halibut and salmon from the Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean in a sustainable manner. We maintain the highest standards of quality for our wild Alaskan seafood from the icy ocean waters to the table.

The Aleutian WAVE quarterly report is produced by APICDA in Anchorage, Alaska. Inquiries or comments may be directed to: Media Department—APICDA 717 K Street, Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 929-5273 / Toll-Free: 1-(888) 9-APICDA / Fax: (907) 929-5275 Email: [media@apicda.com](mailto:media@apicda.com) / Website: [www.apicda.com](http://www.apicda.com)

## Brett Weaver, Licensed and Registered

Brett Weaver has been busy lately in his position as field guide coordinator for the tourism department at APICDA Joint Ventures (AJV). His background as an experienced guide began right out of high school when he worked packing supplies for guided hunting trips and eventually spent five years as an assistant guide.



Brett and Ashley Weaver with Sadie at High Hill in Nikolski, Alaska.

Brett attained his registered guiding license in 2008 after meeting the requirements for Kodiak area/Unit 8 and completing the testing process.

Some of these basic requirements include spending 130 days in the field with clients, having three successful kills and gathering client recommendations. Three days of rigorous testing include written and oral presentations on safety, first aid and CPR, camp practices, food storage and creating a video on caping (taxidermy preparation). Alaska is on a par with Africa when it comes to the high level of training and testing for hunting guides.

In Alaska, there are 26 guide use areas and Brett recently earned his guide license for Unit 10 on the Aleutian Chain from False Pass and beyond. Brett needed 60 days in the area, knowledge of land ownership, landmarks and prominent features, weather, and wildlife of the area. These licenses are renewed every two years for a fee of \$750.

Brett is also an instrument-rated pilot and charter boat captain. In addition to his guiding work, Brett assists in sales and marketing with AJV's Aleutian Adventures. ▴

## Kid's Don't Float!

Alaska's award-winning Kids Don't Float Program has become a model for educators and injury prevention specialists throughout the U.S.

### FACTS:

In the last 10 years, 105 more Alaskans died in recreational boating accidents than died in commercial fishing.

- 9 of 10 of those who died were adult males
- 5 of 6 experience a capsizing or fall overboard into Alaska's cold water
- 3 of 4 involve powerboats— half are in salt water, half in fresh water
- 9 of 10 involve boats under 26 feet in length
- 5 of 6 fatalities are swamping, capsizing and falling overboard



APICDA Interns Samantha Mierzejek and Kailyn Kasheverof model personal flotation gear.

For information about how to start a program in your area:

STATE OF ALASKA OFFICE OF BOATING SAFETY  
Kelli Toth, Education Specialist  
E-mail: [AlaskaBoatingSafety.org](mailto:AlaskaBoatingSafety.org) / Phone: (907) 269-6042  
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
550 W. 7th Avenue, #1380 / Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561

We are looking for images of the natural environment, children at play, people at work, and community activities. Click often and send us your best shots!

# 2014 Photo CONTEST

ALL ORIGINAL PHOTOS OF THE APICDA REGION ARE WELCOME

**\$100**  
For each winning entry!

All photos submitted will be considered for the APICDA 2015 calendar and 2014 Christmas card

For more information you may call the APICDA office at: 1 (888) 927-4232 or contact Gary at: (907) 929-5273

**EMAIL YOUR DIGITAL PHOTO ENTRY**  
To: [MEDIA@APICDA.COM](mailto:MEDIA@APICDA.COM)

All entries must be received by **OCTOBER 6, 2014**

To be considered for this contest, all photos must be taken with at least an 8 megapixel camera set at the highest resolution possible

APICDA: 717 K Street / Anchorage, Alaska 99501 / [www.apicda.com](http://www.apicda.com)