

A. F. D. C. NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 1

March 20, 1978

AFDC Directors Travel to D.C.

By PETE HARRIS

On February 8, 1978, AFDC interim directors John Young, Sara Hemphill, and Pete Harris, together with Leonard Saari, representative of the Secretary of Commerce in the Northwest, called on James Walsh, deputy administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington, D. C. The visit was to discuss and clarify the development proposal for bottomfish off Alaska which had been submitted by AFDC several days earlier.

The delegation emphasized the need for fishing demonstrations using several kinds of vessels and gear. They stressed the need for limited financial assistance to fishermen for new experimental equipment and exploratory fishing.

Mr. Walsh seemed to accept these arguments as having merit but he posed two questions with which he thought the AFDC proposal should have dealt. The questions were: 1) Will the American seafood industry be able to sell advantageously all of the fish it proposes to harvest and process?

2) Will the American industry, consisting of fishing, processing and marketing be economically feasible?

Mr. Walsh pointed out that his office had received a proposal from the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association (APIA) in which they had fishery development objectives similar to AFDC's but with attention concentrated in the western part of the Alaska fishery. He pointed out that the state of Alaska was likely to receive much more favorable consideration if these two proposals could be intergrated and if one unified proposal was submitted on behalf of Alaska.

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Elections to be Held June 1

The first annual meeting of the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation (AFDC) will be held in Anchorage on June 1, 1978. Of prime importance at this meeting is the election of the first board of directors of the corporation. All members who have paid their dues by May 1, 1978, are eligible to nominate and to vote.

Ten members of the board will be elected; five processor representatives on a statewide basis with no regional considerations and five fishery organization or harvestor representatives, one from each of the five regions recognized by the corporation. The election is held on a statewide basis; every member may vote for each position on the board.

All written nominations received at the corporation office before May 1, 1978, will appear on the printed ballot. Nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting and will be handled as write-ins. Nominations may be made without restriction except that harvestor candidates may only be nominated by members from the region to be represented.

If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, you may request an absentee ballot by written request to the AFDC office any time 15 days prior to the election. May 15th is the deadline.

Members of the board of directors will be elected for a term of two years. To create staggered terms of office and encourage continuity in the board, five members of the first board will be chosen by lot to serve for a one year term. Hereafter, only five members of the board will be elected yearly.

AFDC NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Connie Taylor

AFDC
Box 969
Cordova, Alaska 99574
(907)424-3116

Board of Directors:
Interim Board

John Young, President
Connie Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer
Sara Hemphill, Acting Executive Director
Alvin R. Burch
J. B. "Pete" Harris
Sig Jaeger
Rick Lauber
Hank Pennington
Patrick Pletnikoff
Jon Rowley

Editor's Corner

This first issue of the AFDC Newsletter is devoted to news concerning the development of the corporation and the activities of the members of the board of directors in getting public support for the corporation and the bottomfish proposal.

Future issues of the Newsletter will have information on the proposals that have been received and are being considered for funding. You will be kept up to date on the progress of projects that are under way. Abstracts of completed projects will be printed in the Newsletter and complete reports of the findings will be available from AFDC.

It is the intent of AFDC to keep the fishing industry and the interested public informed on all research projects. For the research projects to be widely valuable and used the information must be available and AFDC pledges to make every effort to see that the results of all research is freely available.

Directors Travel (continued)

In regard to the intergration of the proposals, the directors of AFDC went to Anchorage during the following week and together with APIA worked out the unified proposal for Alaska. It was submitted to NOAA by express mail from Anchorage on February 17th. The total amount of funding applied for from the federal government was increased from \$2,876,000 to about \$3,486,000; an increase of a little over \$600,000. The principle element in this increase was an on-board fishermen's training program.

An effort was made to answer Mr. Walsh's two questions in a letter dated February 27, 1978. This letter pointed out that the total allowable catch of bottom fish was already being taken by vessels of foreign nations and was being sold, some in the United States. To answer the question of economic feasibility, relevant figures were presented on the cost of operating fishing vessels and processing plants which shows that the industry could exist but that it requires the most modern technology and great efficiency on the part of the fishermen and processors and marketing people.

While in Washington, D. C. the delegation from AFDC visited Joseph Slavin who carries the fishery development portfolio in the headquarters of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In the discussion with Mr. Slavin, the fact that the program will bridge portions of two federal fiscal years was clarified. This allows it to be funded by money from two fiscal years and makes the funding of the whole program more practical than it otherwise would be.

During the Washington, D. C. visit, largely through the efforts of John Young and Sara Hemphill, contact was made with a number of key people in NOAA as well as with Alaska Senators and Representatives. Alaska members of the United States congress are supporting the AFDC proposal.

AFDC received a letter from Mr. Walsh dated March 6th acknowledging receipt of the revised proposal. Mr. Walsh wrote that the "National Marine Fisheries Service is reviewing your proposal. I am confident that they will be able to give you a response sometime in the near future."

A.F.D.C. Seeks Proposals

By HANK PENNINGTON

During the process of formation, the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation (AFDC) has been under considerable pressure and expense in development of a grant proposal for Saltonstall-Kennedy funds. However, the corporation has not been formed for the one shot effort with this single funding source. We are seeking additional funding from public and private sources for other fishery development research projects.

We urge that processors and fishermen get together in their regions and consider their local fisheries and what opportunities lie on the horizon. If you have some exciting prospects, please contact us.

To avoid the mad scramble that you have all witnessed, we are developing a file of proposals for consideration and submission as future funding sources are identified. To help you be more specific in your proposals, and therefore, more attractive to prospective funding sources; we are including some advice for submitting proposals to AFDC.

1. Public funding sources are generally very specific about the format in which they will accept proposals. We can provide samples of proposals to give you an idea of the format they prefer.

2. Concentrate on the research aspects of developing a new fishery or expanding an old one. Research can include experimentation with new gear, distribution studies, average size and age and population studies. Research can also include all aspects of handling, processing and marketing; experiments designed to develop new techniques or improve old methods of operation. While you may not have the scientific background for designing scientific modeling studies, you can contribute significantly to the development of management strategies for new species as well as feasibility studies for harvesting and processing.

3. Involve your local Department of Fish and Game office, Sea Grant Marine Advisor and the National Marine Fisheries

Service. They have the scientific background to assist you in developing meaningful biological information from the data you collect.

4. Consider how you will manage the project. No one is likely to hand you a check and say go spend it. They will want accurate reporting and bookkeeping to document how their money was spent and to verify that it was spent wisely. Remember at some later date you may wish to apply once more to a specific funding source for funds to develop additional projects. If they are happy with your handling of previous projects, they are much more likely to fund your new project.

5. Show how your project will give economic benefit to your local community or to the state. Indicate how many new jobs will be created, for fishermen, processors and perhaps service industries; show how much direct income to fishermen is expected (pounds caught times price per pound) if it can be determined; indicate income to processors and service industries. Don't forget raw fish taxes to the state if that is appropriate. Finally compare all of these benefits to the cost of the project.

6. Be realistic. If you overstate your funding needs, chances are that you will end up with a request that is much larger than the resource limit of the funding agency.

The name Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation is not composed of hollow words. We are working to develop new fisheries and to expand existing fisheries for you: the fishing industry. We are a non-profit corporation composed of processors and fishermen from around the state.

In the creation of this corporation, the fishing industry in Alaska has opened the door to a whole spectrum of opportunity for the development of new fisheries in Alaska and therefore the continued health and diversity of our industry. We urge you to participate.

Directors visit State Capital

By JON ROWLEY

Members of the board of directors of the newly formed Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation (AFDC) met in Juneau Friday March 10th with state officials and legislators to discuss the underutilized species fishery development in Alaska. The directors also met with the Danish fishing industry trade delegation as it was completing its tour of the state.

Traveling to Juneau were interim board members John Young, interim AFDC president and Yakutat Fishermen's Co-op; Sara Hemphill, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association; Rick Lauber, Pacific Seafood Processor's Association; Jon Rowley, Aquatic Resources and Alaska Troller's Association; and Sig Jaeger, North Pacif Fishing Vessel Owners Association.

AFDC has applied for federal funds to conduct demonstration bottomfish and training projects in Alaska waters, both inshore and offshore with a variety of gear types. Detailed copies of the proposal were distributed to members of the state legislature and state agency officials. The organization and the scope of corporation activities were discussed.

State legislators were impressed that processors and fishermen were working together to identify the research and development needs of the statewide fishing industry. They pledged their support in making the corporation a success. The directors are pleased with the interest shown by the governor's office and the legislators in fishing developments. The directors felt that the exchange with officials in Juneau was very productive.

* * * * *

On the 22nd through 24th of February Sara Hemphill was in Juneau to work with Alvin Osterback's House Resource Committee on House Bill 763 which proposes the establishment of a cooperative development bank in Alaska. At that time she had the opportunity to meet with several members of the administration and the legislature on behalf of AFDC. Everybody contacted was supportive of the corporation's endeavor.

The following resolution was introduced as a result of these meetings.

Introduced: 3/2/78

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 66 In the Legislature of the State of Alaska

Tenth Legislature - Second Session

Requesting the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to assist in the development of Alaska bottomfish fisheries.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the national balance of trade in bottomfish is currently heavily weighted toward imports of foreign-processed fish; and

WHEREAS United States participants have historically demonstrated that they can be competitive with foreign efforts if they are given the opportunity to develop and acquire the necessary gear and equipment; and

WHEREAS domestic processing entities are increasingly being bought out by Japanese interest; and

WHEREAS the Japanese provide one of our largest foreign markets for bottomfish, leading to an understandable concern on the part of the American industry that our free market system may be thwarted; and

WHEREAS, without this opportunity, America will lose its options as to where the products go and at what price; and

WHEREAS two large processors will have invested as much as \$7 million in the Alaska bottomfish fishery by the end of this year; and

WHEREAS these processors must have the fish delivered in order to survive; and

WHEREAS the failure of these operations would be devastating to the entire Alaska bottomfish industry; and

WHEREAS other states, as well as Alaska, will directly benefit from the development of the Alaska bottomfish fishery as a result of the expected increased need for boats, gear and equipment;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is urgently requested to allocate \$3.3 million to the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation to fund its two-year program for the development of the bottomfish industry in Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard Frank, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation.

A.F.C. joins A.F.D.C.

By DENNIS GOULD

The Aleutian Fisheries Cooperative (AFC) was formed in order to develop a cohesive organization working together on solving the problems of fishing the water of the Aleutian Chain and the Pribilof Islands.

Our concerns are many-fold but the following list encompasses our main targets as we begin to develop our organization.

1. Upgrading fishing methods and practices.
2. Fisheries legislation - State and Federal.
3. Fish boat improvement and purchase financing.
4. Marketing of catch.
5. International cooperative fishing ventures.
6. Fisheries research and resource areas.

7. Boat maintenance and dry dock development.

8. Public information and dissemination programs.

9. Boat sales/purchases/trade programs.

10. Insurance programs for members.

When we discovered the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation was forming we were anxious to become a part of this new group. To have an opportunity to work with the first really statewide organization of fisherpersons, to pull together for the preservation and improvement of the Alaskan fishing industry was an opportunity we could not afford to pass up.

We worked with and closely incorporated our fisheries training and research proposal for Saltonstall-Kennedy funding with the AFDC and look forward to a rich and lasting relationship for the betterment of the whole Alaskan fisheries including our own Aleutian area.

Naturally, a high priority for us is the training of our fishermen from the Aleutian communities. Our people have looked to the sea for a living for 8,000 years. It would be ridiculous for us to train our people to farm or to be big city workers. The Aleutians are our home and that's where we want to earn our living.

A.F.D.C. solicits applications for Executive Director

The Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation is soliciting applications for the position of executive director. The contract period is for 12 months from the date of hire. The salary is \$45-54,000 per year.

If you are interested in applying for the position, please submit your resume to the corporation office. If you have a person in mind that you would like to see as executive director, contact him and ask him to apply directly. Resumes should be sent to AFDC, Box 969, Cordova, Alaska 99574.

Director Pletnikoff Speaks at Conference

The Cummins Conference was held in Anchorage on December 14, 1977. Patrick Pletnikoff was a guest speaker and we include here some of his remarks.

"I refer to the Aleut Nation as that region of Alaska which is a fishery 400 miles wide and 2,000 miles long; that same fishery provided close to 2 million metric tons of bottomfish to Asiatic markets prior to the enactment of the 200 mile limit and the treaties that have been established to enforce that limit.

"Our mission is to represent, participate, watch-dog legislation, and oversee the interests of our people in the Aleutian and Pribilof fisheries. We intend to assist our people in obtaining training, learning new technology and changing their methods with the demand of the times.

"One primary thrust at this time is to train our Native people to fish these waters with their own boats. Boats designed for the rough waters of the Bering Sea as well as throughout the Chain. Our goal is to have ten 90+ foot vessels operating in the Pribilof's with the most modern and sophisticated equipment within two years and at least 20 smaller vessels of the 40 to 60 foot class within a 3-5 year period supported by a floating processor competitive with anything now afloat.

"From the foregoing comments we hope you draw the same conclusion we do: Alaskans will be active in bottom fishing in a matter of months. If a domestic bottom fishery is to be born and live, the government must be of assistance in providing opportunities for cooperative ventures and the physical plants and facilities necessary to dock and maintain such a fleet. We must prepare now for tomorrow."

New Legislation

The following article appeared in the March 13, 1978 Alaska on Alaska newsletter.

"Noting that it has been one year since implementation of the 200-mile limit which had a large impact on the state of Alaska, Senator Ted Stevens urged support for another bill which he says would increase the capacity of American fishermen to use the resources off the coast. The Kennedy-Stevens Act would funnel import duties on fisheries products into regionally controlled financial assistance funds which could be used to revitalize local fishing industries, he said.

"He added that, for example, the U. S. fishery could develop pollock harvest into a \$100 million a year industry. American fishermen do not harvest pollock but last year in Alaska alone, almost three billion pounds were taken by Japanese, Russian and Korean fishermen. Stevens said his bill could provide investment incentive to the private sector."

A.F.D.C. Regions

For organizational and membership purposes the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation has divided the state of Alaska into five regions as follows:

- Region 1. Petersburg and South
- Region 2. Yakutat and South to Sitka
- Region 3. Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound
- Region 4. Kodiak to Chignik
- Region 5. Aleutian/Pribilof and Bering Sea

Alaska Fishing Development Corporation
Box 969
Cordova, Alaska 99574

I am interested in learning more about your work. Please send me the following additional information:

- _____ Copy of Articles of Incorporation
- _____ Abstract of proposal for Saltonstall-Kennedy funds to promote bottom fishing off Alaska
- _____ Applications for membership
- _____ Nomination forms for June 1st elections
- _____ Additional copies of AFDC Newsletter

Name _____

Representing _____

Address _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Voting membership in the Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation is open to bona fide fishery organizations representing Alaska fishermen and to processors who are licensed in the state of Alaska.

To become a member you need only fill out an application and send it to the corporation office. Fishery groups should designate their regional affiliation. Processors will not be bound to regions for the purpose of membership.

Fishery groups should include with their application a copy of their articles of incorporation or by-laws or other evidence of their purpose and objectives. Processors should include a copy of their Alaska Processor's License.

Associate memberships and supporting memberships are open to any individual or company that is interested in promoting the Alaska fishing industry.

Dues for one year:

Voting membership \$200

Associate membership \$100

Supporting membership \$500

To:

Alaska Fisheries Development Corporation
Box 969
Cordova, Alaska 99574

A. F. D. C. Calendar

May 1: last date to pay annual dues to be eligible to vote at annual meeting.

May 1: late date to submit candidates' names for inclusion on the written ballot

May 15: last date to request absentee ballots

June 1: 1978 annual meeting