

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks

Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting

Yupit Kaniautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk

Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak

Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

Fish and Game responds to Sparck

To the editor:

Articles have recently appeared in your paper that imply that Department of Fish and Game personnel are misrepresenting information concerning the origin of herring stocks being taken off the north side of the Alaska Peninsula in a directed herring bait fishery and as incidental catches during domestic trawl fishing for pollock.

While I can understand that the author of these articles is concerned that Western Alaska herring stocks may be taken in these fisheries, I must take exception to the allegations that department staff members from the Division of Commercial Fisheries Westward Region have misrepresented information to the Board of Fisheries or anyone else, or that the staff members from the other regions have not been involved in data review or the board's process.

Some of the facts relating to the issues that were not presented in the letters are as follows:

- The Board of Fisheries has reduced the take of herring in the Dutch Harbor herring bait fishery from past catch levels of 13-15 percent of the Togiak herring sac-rope harvest to 7 percent in 1989. The board also capped the fishery at 3,100 tons. Only 1,016 tons are expected to be taken for bait in 1989.

The board's decision was based, in part, on scale analysis that demonstrated that Togiak herring stock were the principal contributors to the Dutch Harbor bait fishery. The information presented to the board included stock information presented by Division of Commercial Fisheries personnel from the Central Region — Togiak Stocks — stock status of

Western Alaska herring stocks by A.Y.K. staff and stock identification work on Dutch Harbor bait herring catches by division headquarters staff.

In addition, the University of Washington Fisheries Research Institute study was presented. That study demonstrated that only a slight possibility exists that A.Y.K. herring stocks contribute any herring to the Dutch Harbor fishery.

The board action to limit this fishery was taken to prevent any impact on the Togiak sac-rope fishery. The presentation of information to the board was a team effort to provide the best available information from all available sources.

- To date, no information exists on the stock composition of herring taken as bycatch in the domestic pollock trawl fishery off the north peninsula. Prior to 1988 no information on actual herring bycatch for this fishery was available, only rumor that it was occurring.

Only through the efforts of the Westward Region department staff and the cooperation of shore-based processors was some information on herring bycatch information for 1988 collected.

- Department technical personnel have been working with the North Pacific Fisheries Council Bycatch Committee to develop a plan for a program to attempt to identify whether or not A.Y.K. herring are present in the pollock trawl fishery bycatch.

A funding source for such sample collection and analysis will need to be found for such a program to occur. If planned properly and implemented, this program should identify if any

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Alcohol is prosecutor, jury and finally, judge

To the editor:

It was the hardest thing for me to admit that I am an alcoholic. I must credit the leadership of the Tanana Chiefs Conference for declaring war on alcoholism to help our Native brothers and sisters to overcome this terrible disease.

It is not the way it started out to be. Everyone and everything was absolute high. From one bottle to the next, the tender balance of sobriety had vanished. Alcohol had become the prosecutor, jury and finally, the judge.

Alcohol accused me of being a bad person, thief, the best trapper, hunter

and dog musher, idiot, tough, and all the rest of the 10 yards that goes with drinking.

Alcohol is the jury in the form of drunken friends, empty bottles and lost pay checks. Friends encouraged me to continue drinking by offering a drink. The empty bottles signaled it was time for a refill, and the lost pay checks deprived me of home, food and clothing.

Finally, alcohol was the judge which passed judgement on me. My sentence could have been — your liver can't work any more. Your heart beats irregularly causing shortness of

breath. Your stomach has ulcers and is in pain. Your nerves are at different ends pulling at each other. Your brain is soaked to the point of indecision, but quick to send a message for one last drink. Your best friends lose faith in you. Your employer throws you out the door and says don't come back. Your landlord kicks you out.

Alcohol in its final judgement leaves you homeless, broke, lonely and dead.

Learn to recognize the symptoms of alcoholism in your life. For those like myself, an alcoholic, learn the symptoms when you take your first drink. Go to Alcoholics Anonymous

meetings and don't worry about what people say, seek an education about alcohol.

It was easy to say I won the snow shoe race, made a racing sled, killed a big bull moose, worked all summer and bought a new snow machine. It was the hardest thing for me to say that I'm an alcoholic. Finally, I admitted that I could not control alcohol and what it did to my life.

I can now say I'm a recovering alcoholic.

Sincerely,
Gene A. George
Fairbanks

SEACOPS continue fight for fisheries

To the editor:

SEACOPS' fight against illegal Asian interception of North American salmon and steelhead has brought us the following encouragement from a sport fisherman in Loomis, Calif. Since his words succinctly reflect the feelings of many members of SEACOPS, we wish to share them with your readers:

"I read the story in Salmon/Trout/Steelheader, March '89 issue. In my opinion part of the problem are all the jellyfish in Washington, D.C. God bless your efforts — I wish I could send more."

Some American political officials have shown true leadership fighting the pirates. SEACOPS wishes to single out Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-

Alaska, as deserving of praise. We ask that concerned fishermen give Murkowski a "pat on the back" for a job well done. Murkowski's phone number is (202) 224-6665.

Sincerely,
Lonnie Haughton
Acting President, SEACOPS
Ketchikan

•Fish & Game

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A.K.Y. stocks are present and the level of the contribution to the fishery.

The author of the subject articles is a member of the Bycatch Committee and should be aware that department staff members are working to provide answers to his concerns and not attempting to sway the Board of Fisheries with erroneous or slanted presentations of date.

Sincerely,
Ken Parker
Director

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Juneau



Unfair trial

To the editor:

I have in my possession a trial tape No. J-852 of my case No. 3AN-S85-3302 Cr. where I allege my trial counsel and the prosecutor are whispering to the trial judge in an at sidebar conference just before the state's alleged victim is to be cross examined, that they had already secretly conspired together before trial to withhold material and exculpatory evidence, and the alleged victim did not make it to the grand jury that returned the indictment.

It was disclosed at trial by the alleged victim upon cross examination that his plane fare was paid for out of the prosecutor's witness fund.

And there is the fact that the alleged victim and I were the only material witnesses to the entire criminal incident. That this whispered disclosure at sidebar along with the suppression of evidence that was I allege, used to secure the indictment was found by this judge as legally admissible before trial court. That it should have alerted him that when he joined their conspiracy by allowing the trial to proceed, that his acts were in clear absence of all jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Craig Lecornu
Cook Inlet Pre-Trial Facility