



The FAIR ADVOCATE

FISHERIES,
AWARENESS,
INFORMATION, AND
RESPONSIBILITY

A PUBLICATION OF THE BERING SEA FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2010

Votes will affect the lives of rural and Native Alaskans *Candidate Surveys for the 2010 General Election*

Yes, it's election time again. Sometimes, election season can be exhausting for voters: your mailbox stuffed with election flyers, pollsters calling you on the phone, and sometimes nasty commercials from candidates. This year has been no different. But, these people who are running for office and asking for your votes have the ability to affect the things that are important to you (hopefully, for the better).

Now that the primary is behind us and we move toward the November 2nd general election, several issues weigh heavy on our minds—issues affecting our fisheries. Sometimes during the hectic election season, these issues get lost amidst the discussion of other important statewide issues like the budget, natural gas pipeline, and ANWR.

The space and funding we have to regularly print and distribute the FAIR Advocate is limited, so we didn't survey all the different candidates and races. We focused on two of the Statewide races that have garnered much of the attention of the public and the media: the races for U.S. Senator and the Alaska Governor. We also limited our surveys to candidates who received at least 10,000 votes in the primary.

Inside this issue, you'll find the questions we asked and the answers from the candidates that chose to respond. Due to limitations on our non-profit funding status, we can't endorse candidates. However, we can provide more information to help you make your decisions.

Who you vote for is your business, but you must vote in order to help elect the right people for the job. ❖

Turn to page 4 for Gubernatorial candidate replies, and page 6 for U.S. Senate candidate replies.

Primary Election overview

Write-in campaign adds new twist to U.S. Senate race

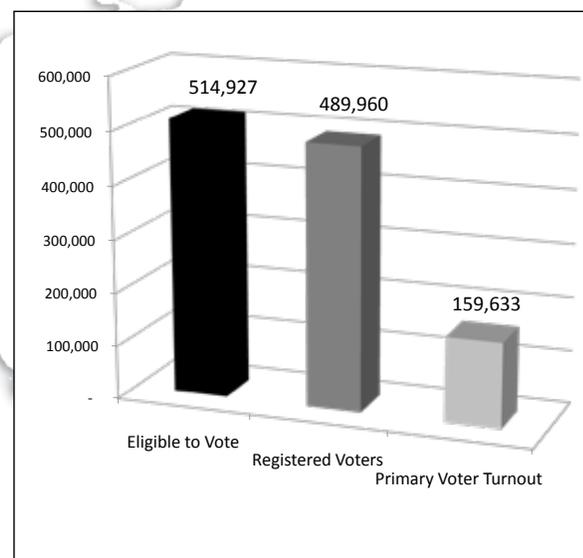
Alaska has a history of races that have been determined by just a handful of votes, and the August primary certainly held true to that in some districts. While the voter turnout was about as high—or higher—for comparable elections since 1994, many voters still chose not to make their voices heard: only 34% of registered voters came out for the primary election.

According to some, the biggest surprise from the August primary was on the republican ticket for U.S. Senate. Joe Miller, who lives in Fairbanks, beat incumbent Lisa Murkowski by just over 2,000 votes out of more than 110,000 republican ballots cast. Soon after the primary, Murkowski announced a write-in campaign for the November 2nd general election. Democrat Scott McAdams of Sitka also advanced to the general election, as did the unchallenged Libertarian candidate Frederick Haase.

For the U.S. House of Representatives, Republican incumbent Don Young fended off two challengers and will take on Democrat Harry Crawford.

In the race for Governor, Republican incumbent Sean Parnell advanced from among a crowded field of fellow Republicans. Parnell is now joined by Lieutenant Governor candidate Mead Treadwell. In the Democratic primary race, Ethan Berkowitz beat out Hollis French and is now paired with running mate Diane Benson as the Lt. Governor candidate. William Toien (Libertarian) and Donald Wright (Alaskan Independence) were each unchallenged in their primary races and will also appear on the November ballot.

State of Alaska 2010 Primary Election Turnout
Division of Elections: www.elections.alaska.gov/



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Alaska Gubernatorial Candidate Statements

Ethan Berkowitz (D) When we do it right, Alaska will have more fishermen working the decks of their own boats, processing catch here in Alaska, and selling high quality, value added product to hungry consumers across the world. To get there, we need better information about our fish stocks and better control over our fish—because knowing our fisheries and controlling our resources means controlling our future.



As a deckhand in Bristol Bay, I learned to see each boat as a small family business and fishing as a way of life that can be passed from generation to generation. That means Alaskans should be free to fish without worrying about the government privatizing public resources, “rationalizing” boats out of the water, or surrendering Alaska’s fish to Outside interests. It means linking access privileges and vessel owners, reforging owner relations with processors and crew, so more Alaskans have the opportunity to prosper from the bounty of our fisheries. It means appointments to the Board of Fish, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and as Commissioner of Fish and Game who share my vision for a sustainable fishery economy where harvesters, processors, waterfronts and communities thrive. ❖



Sean Parnell (R) Commercial, subsistence, personal use and sport fisheries are vitally important to Alaska’s economy and culture. Bountiful fisheries mean jobs for generations and food for families. I’m a staunch advocate for fisheries and fishermen. First and foremost, that means we must have sound science. Providing adequate funding to protect and manage fisheries will continue to be a priority.

To ensure continued abundance, I’ve pushed for better observer coverage and more stringent bycatch controls in federal fisheries. I’ve addressed low salmon runs on the Yukon by securing a federal disaster declaration and research funding. I’ve supported increasing value by boosting marketing funding and streamlining regulations. Fishery management decisions should be based on science, not politics, and should be made through a public process that involves all Alaskans. My fight for fisheries, the jobs they create, and the food they provide for Alaskans will continue as long as I’m governor. ❖

U.S. Senate Candidate Statements

Scott McAdams (D) I currently serve as the Mayor of the City and Borough of Sitka, but I began my career as a commercial fisherman after becoming a deckhand at the age of twenty.



During the years I spent on deck, I developed a lifelong respect for fishermen. Fishing for a living is not a job, it is a culture with deep-rooted traditions, and the men and women who build their lives on the water have a deep appreciation for Alaska’s resources. The time I spent baiting hooks in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska, and pulling seine in Southeast Alaska and in the Kodiak area taught me the value of working as a team to do a tough job.

I’ve been married to my wife, Romee for 17 years, and we have raised three beautiful children. ❖



Lisa Murkowski (R, write-in)

Alaska’s subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries are major contributors to the state’s economy and our frontier way of life. Alaska has the nation’s most abundant fisheries, with an annual catch of nearly 5 billion pounds for the past two decades and an economic output of almost \$6 billion. In over a hundred coastal communities, thousands of fishing vessels

and tens of thousands of workers drive our commercial fishing, guiding and processing industry throughout Alaska. Alaska has the best managed fisheries in the world and is a testament to our sustainable management policies and active engagement of Alaskans in the management process.

Subsistence fishing is the lifeblood of coastal Alaska and meets vital nutritional, cultural and traditional needs. I recognize the contributions that all of these activities provide for Alaskans and I will continue to support and fight for Alaska’s coastal communities and fishing families.

Your vote is very important, and I would be honored to continue serving as your U.S. Senator. Please remember that you must fill in the oval and write “Lisa Murkowski” on the line as your write-in choice for U.S. Senator. ❖

Joe Miller (R) BSFA contacted Joe Miller’s campaign several times, but, unfortunately, he declined to participate. ❖



General Election FAQs

There are many ways for registered voters to vote on or before November 2nd.

On election day (Nov. 2), voting locations are open from 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. If you do not know where to vote, locations can be found online at:

<http://www.elections.alaska.gov> or by calling one of the phone numbers below.

Region 3 Elections Office, Fairbanks (Districts 6 through 12)

Fairbanks, Greater Fairbanks, Central and Southern Interior Alaska, Greater Valdez and Eastern Matanuska-Susitna Borough Areas

(866) 959-8683 (toll free)

Region 4 Elections Office, Nome (Districts 37 through 40)

Northern Alaska, Western Coastal Alaska and Aleutians

(866) 953-8683 (toll free)

Division of Elections, Statewide Director's Office, Juneau

(866) 952-8683 (toll free)



(photo by Dave Folletti)

If you are not able to vote in person on election day, there are still other ways to vote. Opportunities exist to vote early, by mail, or by fax. However, there are varying deadlines and locations for these options. You can learn more from the Division of Elections by calling one of the above phone numbers, or online at <http://www.elections.alaska.gov>.

If you are not currently a registered voter, you will not be eligible to vote in the November 2, 2010 election (the registration deadline is 30 days prior to the election date). However, you can register at any time and be eligible to vote in future elections. More information about becoming a registered voter can be found on the internet at http://www.elections.alaska.gov/vi_voter_reg.php or by calling 1-866-952-8683 (toll free). ❖

What is a write-in campaign?

A write-in candidate is a candidate in an election whose name does not appear on the ballot, but voters may vote for a write-in candidate by filling in the bubble and writing in the person's name in the blank space provided. The general election ballot will have a blank space—for each race—for this purpose.

In order for the write-in vote to be counted, the voter must write in the name of the candidate as well as fill in the oval next to the candidate's name.

How write-in votes are counted:

Write-in votes are reported as a group in each race, combining votes for all write-ins.

The votes will be counted for each individual write-in candidate if the candidate has filed a Letter of Intent with the Division of Elections as required, and the total of all votes cast for all write-in candidates for the particular office is:

- the highest number of votes received by any candidate for the office; or
- the total number of write-in votes in a race is the second highest, and the difference between the number of write-in votes and the highest votes received by a candidate is less than .5%. ❖

Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

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Frank Lagousak, Togiak
Tom Tilden, Dillingham

Kotzebue Sound

Willie Goodwin, Jr., Kotzebue
Billy Reich, Kotzebue
Langford Adams, Kotzebue

Norton Sound

Steve Ivanoff, Unalakleet
Eugene Asicksik, Shaktoolik
Vacant position

Yukon-Kuskokwim

David Bill, Sr., Toksook Bay
Ragnar Alstrom, Alakanuk
Vacant position

St. Paul

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Fisheries Biologist, Chris Stark

Data Manager, Rob Bochenek

Financial Administrator, Michele Henzler

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Candidate Survey: Alaska Governor

Fisheries issues concerning western Alaska

1) It has now been 20 years since the federal government began managing fish and game within Alaska. The scope of federal management has expanded as a result of court decisions and as the federal management program has become more established. While few support the often confusing and conflicting nature of this dual-management system, many rural subsistence users feel that the federal subsistence management program has been more responsive to their needs and may be reluctant to see full management authority returned to the State of Alaska. How would you address these concerns?

Ethan Berkowitz responds:

During my ten years in the State Legislature, I fought hard for the State's right to manage its own fish and game. I believe that the only way to regain the state's ability to manage fish and game within our borders is to amend the state's constitution. I understand the frustration of rural communities at the continual failure of our state's leaders to do this, and share their very real concerns that the reorganization of the Habitat division, eliminating the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, doing away with Coastal Zone Management, and serious discontent with the Department of Fish and Game all underscore the fact that the needs of Alaskans who live off of our natural resources are not being meaningfully addressed. Addressing all of these issues would be an extremely high priority for my administration.

Sean Parnell responds:

While the dual management system was originally envisioned as temporary, it is clear that this system is likely to be in place at least into the near future. For this reason, I support improved coordination and streamlining between the two processes to reduce regulatory duplication and confusion for subsistence users. I have appointed subsistence users to key state regulatory boards to ensure the subsistence viewpoint is represented in the state decision-making process.

2) Do you support a rural subsistence preference in times of shortage for Alaska's fish and game resources? (yes/no) Explain.

Ethan Berkowitz responds:

Yes. Without it, we cede state sovereignty to the federal government.

Sean Parnell responds:

Efforts to unite Alaskans around a rural subsistence preference were a major focus in Alaska several years ago, with limited success. In order to enact a preference or eliminate dual management, significant conversations and diplomacy will be required to bring Alaskans together to craft a solution that addresses everyone's concerns.

3) There have been 22 state and/or federal disaster declarations for western Alaska's salmon runs since 1997. According to Alaska's "Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries" (5 AAC 39.222), there are seven salmon "stocks of concern" and five of those are in western Alaska. As Governor, how would you ensure that these depressed

stocks are rebuilt and what can be done to provide more stability to western Alaska's salmon returns?

Ethan Berkowitz responds:

Aside from habitat protection and better research to understand the effects of climate change and ocean acidification, it is critical to keep the pressure on to reduce the amount of Bering Sea Chinook bycatch. This will require increased coordination with in-river and Canadian fisheries as well.

Sean Parnell responds:

One of my first acts as Governor was to secure a federal disaster declaration for fishermen impacted by low Chinook salmon runs on the Yukon River. Working with the federal agency and our congressional delegation, we were able to secure an appropriation to provide direct payments and net replacement funding to impacted fishermen. In addition, I prioritized millions of dollars in cooperative research and management funding to the region to ensure that local stakeholders and state managers have as much information as possible about these runs. I support research such as the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program to learn more about the distribution and migration patterns of these stocks.

4) In 2003, several changes were made to the Coastal Zone Management program that significantly reduced the voice that communities had regarding development decisions in their regions. Recent efforts in the Legislature have sought to restore some of the opportunity for local participation in the state and federal decision making process.

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Gubernatorial survey response

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Do you support these changes (yes/no)? Explain.

Ethan Berkowitz responds:

Yes. Coastal Zone Management gives local communities a meaningful say in critical issues, including oil and gas and mining developments.

Sean Parnell responds:

The Coastal Zone Management program is currently undergoing a legislative audit and is scheduled to sunset next year. I plan to examine the results of the audit and consider recommended changes. My preference would be to see the program continue so that coastal communities can continue to have input into the federal decision-making process.

5) The Pebble Mine project will soon be entering the permitting process. As Governor, how would you ensure that fishery resources are protected?

Ethan Berkowitz responds:

I have always said that we should never sacrifice one resource for another. I think

the Pebble Mine project poses undue risks to Bristol Bay fisheries. As Governor I would require that all natural resource development projects stand up to a balanced permitting process. We do need to insure that clean water requirements and mixing zone regulations adequately protect fisheries.

Sean Parnell responds:

I believe a robust and transparent permitting process, not politicians, should decide if a mine gets built. I won't sacrifice one resource for another, and I believe that the information gained through the ongoing public process will best educate us on how to protect the region's incredible fishery resources if this project does proceed.

6) Last year, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted a plan intended to limit Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. The plan included provisions designed to close the pollock fishery if bycatch exceeds 60,000 Chinook salmon and includes other components intended to incentivize

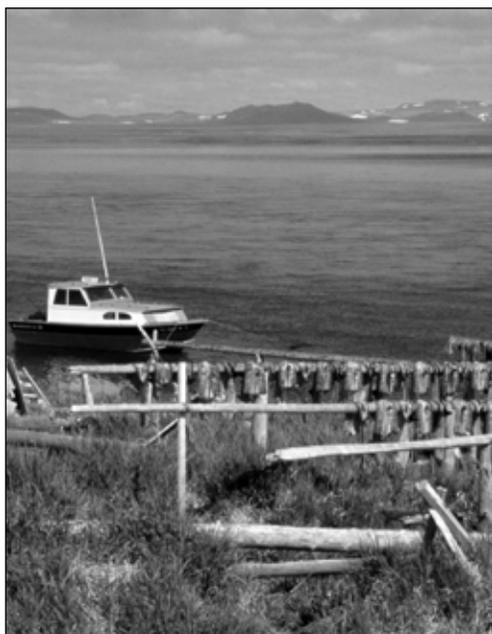
clean fishing. Do you support this approach (yes/no)? Explain.

Ethan Berkowitz responds:

Yes. However, it is important to monitor the hard cap. If it is not working adequately to ensure protection of the salmon stocks, then we must move quickly to make the necessary corrections.

Sean Parnell responds:

I support the implementation of a hard cap on Chinook bycatch in the pollock fishery, so that the fleet must stop fishing if their bycatch reaches a certain level, and I further support a lower cap that they must achieve in most years in order maintain the hard cap level. Analysis suggests that the components to incentivize clean fishing will be effective at keeping the fleet well below the cap, and I support regular reevaluation of this approach and the cap levels to ensure we are doing everything we can to minimize bycatch. In addition, I support the ongoing research on effective salmon excluder devices for trawl nets, genetic sampling to improve information on the river of origin for salmon caught in these fisheries, and improved sampling to verify bycatch numbers. ❖



(photo by Dave Cannon)

Election overview

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Among the rural members of the State House of Representatives, incumbent Democrats Woodie Salmon (district 6), Bryce Edgmon (district 37), Bob Herron (district 38), and Reggie Joule (district 40) were all unchallenged in their primaries. In House district 39, Democrat and incumbent Neal Foster defeated Vincent Beans. Representatives Edgmon, Herron, Joule, and Foster will be unchallenged in the general election (however, write-in candidates can declare up to 5 days before the election). Rep. Salmon will face Republican challenger Alan Dick.

Democrat incumbent Lyman Hoffman (State Senate, seat D) was unchallenged in his primary race and will likely be unchallenged in the general election.

You can find out more about the candidates, where to vote and other general election information on the internet at http://www.elections.alaska.gov/ei_general.php or by calling the Division of Elections (toll free) at 1-866-952-8683.

The Division of Elections also has a Yup'ik language assistance coordinator who can be reached toll free at 1-866-954-8683. ❖

Candidate Survey: U.S. Senate

Alaskans want answers to tough questions

1) Do you support retention of ANILCA's rural preference for subsistence users? (yes/no) Explain.

Scott McAdams responds:

Yes and like Senator Ted Stevens I would urge the Alaska Legislature pass an amendment to bring our Constitution into compliance with the ANILCA provision and resolve the dual management of our fish and game. The rural priority helps ensure those most dependent on subsistence resources have access to fish and game when needed. Many urban residents also depend on these resources but have more options to meet their needs.

Joe Miller did not respond.

Lisa Murkowski responds:

Yes. I supported this when I was in the Alaska State legislature and I still support the rural preference.

2) Since 1997, there have been 22 state and/or federal disaster declarations for failed salmon returns in western Alaska. As senator, what will you do to help prevent future run failures?

Scott McAdams responds:

I am very concerned by the weak returns to western Alaska and overall downturn in Chinook stocks throughout the state in recent years. Salmon management is a state responsibility but given the transboundary nature of their migration, the federal government has a responsibility to support those efforts. As Senator I will support needed scientific research and management efforts by seeking full funding for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, grants for co management efforts by regional fishing groups, and legislation such as the proposed Salmon Strongholds bill. I will support high seas enforcement efforts by the U.S.

Coast Guard. I will encourage the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to take actions to minimize interactions between marine fisheries and salmon.

Joe Miller did not respond.

Lisa Murkowski responds:

I did get a \$5 million appropriation for the recent Yukon River Chinook salmon commercial fishing disaster. While this was so important to the fishermen and families in the region, what we need is a good research program, like the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative that will help us understand exactly what is happening to the runs in Western Alaska. We need adequate funding to support this vital research and I will work hard to fund research and monitoring in Western Alaska.

3) The Pebble Mine project will soon begin the permitting process. As Senator, how would you ensure that fishery resources are protected?

Scott McAdams responds:

The size and scope of the proposed Pebble Mine raise serious concerns for the protection of Bristol Bay's most abundant and lucrative salmon runs and their habitat. I do not believe we should risk a renewable resource such as the Bristol Bay sockeye fishery and its 130 year history for a non renewable resource. Mining proponents have yet to release their plans to mitigate development impacts and I cannot support their effort. Local tribes and fishing groups have asked the EPA to review potential adverse impacts to the watershed and fisheries under section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act and I would encourage the EPA to give this request a thorough review.

Joe Miller did not respond.

Lisa Murkowski responds:

When we have a mine plan to evaluate,

I will take a very thorough review of all the research and baseline environmental data to see if it is possible to develop this project without impacting the hydrology of the region and the salmon runs. I have expressed my concerns about this project and it can not go forward if it negatively impacts the Bristol Bay salmon runs.

4) In March of this year, the Interior Department withdrew pending offshore oil and gas lease sales in Bristol Bay (North Aleutian Basin, lease sale 214). Do you support making these protections permanent for Bristol Bay?

Scott McAdams responds:

Yes. We have argued over whether to drill in the North Aleutian Basin for decades now and always reached the same conclusion: the risk to the renewable fishery resources in Bristol Bay and the eastern Bering Sea is just too great. Alaska has tremendous resources of natural gas elsewhere that can and should be safely developed but let's end the debate and protect Bristol Bay from offshore development once and for all.

Joe Miller did not respond.

Lisa Murkowski responds:

I only support offshore oil and natural gas development where the coastal communities that must host that development are involved and generally supportive. The MMS did not do the necessary environmental studies to adequately evaluate the potential impacts of development of the gas fields in this area. After that, lease sale 214 was taken off the current schedule. I understand the concerns with oil development in this area, remembering these are mostly gas leases, and I have not opposed the current

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Senate survey response

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moratorium in place through 2017. Before that time is up, there has to be a number of honest and probably hard discussions between Aleutians East and West, and a recognition that permanent moratorium really could be permanent next time. I'm happy to broker those discussions. And as with Pebble, I'm not going to support any plan that would destroy the Bristol Bay fisheries.

5) In light of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, how can you assure adequate spill prevention safeguards for offshore oil/gas development in the Chukchi Sea and Arctic region? What technology and capability exists to adequately respond to and clean-up a major oil spill in Arctic waters?

Scott McAdams responds:

I support offshore development in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas and it will be up to the next Congress to ensure any such development can be conducted in a safe and responsible manner. That means investing in the basic research of oil spill response and prevention techniques and technology that is effective in Arctic ice conditions and stationing this equipment before development begins, including the use of acoustic triggers. This research so far has been lacking. Funding should come from lease revenues.

Joe Miller did not respond.

Lisa Murkowski responds:

I support offshore oil and gas development in Alaska, but it must be done in a way that protects the environment and the subsistence way of life of Alaskans. We learned a tremendous amount from the recent Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico and I believe the industry and regulators have a much clearer idea of what we need for spill prevention and response. As a member of the Energy Committee

I worked with my colleagues on both sides to unanimously pass a bill for better environmental and safety requirements on all OCS leasing this past summer. For Shell or anyone in the Alaska OCS, I have advocated requiring onsite, purpose built containment systems like the one finally developed to contain the Gulf spill. I also think a secondary shear ram mechanism (to cut off an uncontrolled pipe) would be useful since the shear rams were one key factor in the Gulf blowout. This past week I signed three different letters to the Administration proposing that they adjust certain tonnage rules so as to allow oil rig service vessels to upgrade into doubling as certified spill response vessels. I think there is more we will continue to learn and improve upon, but these are some major enhancements to our ability to respond to a blowout in the Chukchi or Beaufort. We need to remember these are very shallow waters and pretty low pressure wells, so that makes up for some of the challenges related to ice and other things. But Alaska needs major discoveries so we cannot get this program wrong. I believe coastal state revenue sharing is not only necessary to make our offshore exploration fair; it is necessary to make it safe and environmentally sound. I have brought the Republican caucus into unanimous support for revenue sharing in this Congress.

6) Do you support the approval of genetically modified salmon for human consumption by the U.S. Food and Drug Association? (yes/no) Explain.

Scott McAdams responds:

Absolutely not. I hope the FDA rejects the AquaBounty proposal or at a minimum requires labeling of such fish as "genetically engineered." Genetic engineering poses unknown health threats to consumers, risks the spread of fish disease and degradation of wild salmon habitat, and only promises to flood the seafood market with low-quality salmon. The process the FDA is using to review this request is flawed and

lacks transparency. I do not trust assurances that these creatures can be contained. Once approved, I don't think we can get the genetically engineered genie back into the bottle. Alaska wisely rejected finfish farming and instead focused efforts to sustain and grow our wild salmon stocks. While challenges remain, especially out west, Alaska has been largely successful in managing our wild salmon and we should all agree that the answer is not Frankenfish.

Joe Miller did not respond.

Lisa Murkowski responds:

NO. I absolutely oppose any approval by the FDA of GE salmon. Not only are there serious concerns with the science behind the process, the FDA did not evaluate what the impacts might be on seafood markets for wild salmon. It is too risky to approve this product and I will do all I can to prohibit it's approval in the U.S.

7) Rural Alaskans have voiced concerns about a lack of representation on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and have asked for additional, designated seats on the Council for rural residents. Do you support this request? (yes/no) Explain.

Scott McAdams responds:

The issue of trawl bycatch of Chinook and other salmon demonstrates that actions by the Council can impact rural fisheries and it is important rural residents have a strong voice before and on the Council. While the current chairman hails from Dillingham and works for a CDQ group, I understand the concerns for broader rural representation on the council. Alaska is not alone on the Council, however, and altering its composition is contentious and risky. I would first encourage qualified candidates to seek options such as working through the council's committee process, rural outreach

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Senate survey response

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

panel, and gubernatorial appointment to existing council seats.

Joe Miller did not respond.

Lisa Murkowski responds:

I do support representation by rural Alaskans on the NPFMC, but I do not support adding additional seats at this time. Opening the Magnuson-Stevens Act to add seats is a very risky proposition and one that may jeopardize many of the important safeguards for Alaskan fisheries.

8) Do you support tax-exempt status for the core economic development activities of the Community

Development Quota (CDQ) program? (yes/no) Explain.

Scott McAdams responds:

Yes for the CDQ group's core activities which benefit local economic development. CDQs were formed as non profits to boost jobs, training, scholarships and local infrastructure development to benefit their regions. They have been largely successful and this exemption should continue for their fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian regions. As the CDQ corporations have grown and their holdings expanded beyond the Bering Sea, I do not believe these assets should be exempt as they would have a competitive advantage over other processors with no benefit for those regions.

Joe Miller did not respond.

Lisa Murkowski responds:

Yes. I introduced an amendment to clarify the tax status of the CDQ groups in this Congress and I continue to support this important provision to insure the CDQ groups can continue to provide the maximum contribution to the economic development and standard of living in Western Alaska. ❖



(photo by Joni Sweetman)

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