

SMALL BOATS,  
**BIG IDEAS**



 **Alaska Longline**  
FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**



# THE SEAS WE HAVE TRAVELED

## A Letter from Linda Behnken, Executive Director

2018 marks ALFA's 40th year as an organization. I am incredibly proud of what this small (but mighty) organization has accomplished over the past forty years. From rebuilding fish stocks to protecting habitat and coastal communities, crafting local management plans and helping write national legislation—we have done it all. New challenges have inspired new innovation, with resourceful fishermen leading the way to collaborative solutions. And, since the challenges keep coming, so too must the innovation, commitment and leadership.

2017 was a big year for ALFA. In the policy arena, we led the nation into electronic catch monitoring, securing an alternative to at-sea observers to meet federal regulations and improve accountability while still maintaining the viability of small boats. We worked with allies in Alaska to advance a groundbreaking approach to halibut bycatch management, and joined allies from around the nation to secure introduction of the Young Fishermen's Development Act in the House and Senate, which will establish the first federal program to support education and training for new fishermen.

Closer to home, we hosted educational, training and just plain fun events for commercial fishermen and people who care about fisheries, oceans, and seafood. In the spring and fall, ALFA hosted the second and third ever Sitka Fishermen's Expos, providing seafloor mapping workshops, marketing insights, bookkeeping classes, marine stability training, and the first ever young fishermen mixer and job fair. With our partners at the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust, we re-energized the Sitka Seafood



Festival, celebrating seafood and Sitka's fisheries with fisherfolk and non-fisherfolk alike. The events included activities, games, food, and a festival market- think paddling fish totes, survival suit three-legged races, and knot tying!

We are already scheming and dreaming about next year's Sitka Seafood Festival, and look forward to growing this event into a major celebration of Alaska's fish and fishermen.

2017 also brought an almost dizzying amount of recognition to ALFA. We were featured in local and national news over forty times, received recognition from the Alaska's State Legislature, appointment to Alaska's Climate Change Leadership Team, and several state and national grants. With federal and foundation support, we will take to scale our work in electronic monitoring, our Crewmember Apprenticeship Program, and our Community Supported Fishery (CSF) program, Alaskans Own. We will update our rockfish bycatch hotspot maps, incorporate a whopping 142 million data points into our seafloor bathymetry maps, and enhance tools that assist fishermen with dodging whale depredation.

We plan to mark ALFA's 40th anniversary with special events and a celebration of past accomplishments. Celebrating how far we have come is important but only as it informs and empowers us for the sea ahead. Climate change, ocean acidification, national policy that

undermines conservation, rising cost of entry to fisheries—all raise the risks and the challenges current and future fishermen face. With innovative programs and a deep commitment to conservation, community, and sustainable fisheries, we will carefully and successfully navigate them all.

ALFA's success rests on the shoulders of the many people and foundations who support and inform our work. From fishermen to community members; local partners to national collaborators; collaborating scientists to our Alaskans Own customers--your investment in what we do allows us to effectively advocate for the ocean and the conservation-minded fishermen at ALFA's core. My deepest gratitude to all of you.

Of our champions, I want especially thank Anne Henshaw of the Oak Foundation, who recognized ALFA's potential many years ago and supported our launch of the Fishery Conservation Network, the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust, and Alaskans Own. Your guidance and investment launched a groundswell that keeps on building.

Sincerely,

**Linda Behnken**  
**Executive Director**

# SNAPSHOT: A YEAR AT ALFA

This year, ALFA significantly increased our funding stream, expanded our outreach to fishermen and the public, and expanded our staff and programs.



Our Executive Director was named to Governor Walker's Climate Change Leadership Team.



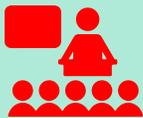
With member feedback, ALFA advocated for small-boat fisheries and healthy communities at **5 international, 10 national, and 10 regional/local forums.**

**100+**

**Volunteers donated their time (at-sea and on shore) to help us achieve our goals, run events, and conduct research.**

**\$530,956**

**Grants and contracts leveraged to support ALFA's mission in 2017.**



Engaged more than **200** fishermen in workshops, meetings, social events & trainings on topics such as bathymetric mapping, business skills, ocean acidification, policy, and other relevant issues.



Brought new and experienced fishermen to participate in the policy process and educate lawmakers on the **Young Fishermen's Development Act**, introduced in the House and Senate in 2017.



Added **one full time and one part time** staff position, formalized our **Crewmember Apprenticeship Program**, and partnered with the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust to take on the **Sitka Seafood Festival**.

# PHOTOS FROM THE FLEET

Here are some updates on a few (but by no means all!) of our ALFA members!



Eric & Sarah Jordan and crew. Eric has been an integral part in getting ALFA's Crewmember Apprenticeship Program off the ground.



Tad Fujioka out fishing. Tad was very involved with our policy work this year, as well as a few video projects!



Wendy Alderson and Jason Gjertsen provided spot prawns to Alaskans Own, our CSF program. Wendy is also a rockstar ALFA volunteer!



Jacquie Foss has been involved with advocacy this year, submitted an op ed to ADN about the Magnuson Act, and, she is helping update our bathymetric maps in 2018!



Terry Perenovich's first fishing trip on his brand new boat! (Photo by Annie Rosenthal).

**"I'M GLAD TO BE A PART OF  
AND SUPPORT ALFA BECAUSE  
OF ITS ADVOCACY FOR FISHING  
COMMUNITIES AND SMALL  
BOAT FISHERMEN."**

**-JACQUIE FOSS, ALFA MEMBER**

# ALFA THROUGH THE YEARS



## Our legacy: 40 years of fisheries advocacy

ALFA was founded in 1978, and 2018 marks our 40th year of leadership in fisheries advocacy. Here are a few of our notable achievements in the last 40 years- locally, regionally, and nationally.



### 1978

ALFA is launched by fishermen dedicated to protecting fish stocks from foreign fishing and keeping the economic benefits of fishing in Alaska.

### 1985-1991

When a statewide movement builds to implement a catch share program in the halibut and sablefish fisheries, ALFA advocates for protections to maintain access opportunities for small-boat fishermen.



### 1978-1985

ALFA successfully advocates for an end to foreign overfishing of local rockfish and sablefish stocks, and supports an aggressive rebuilding plan.



### 1991

Current ALFA director Linda Behnken is hired and ALFA launches effort to eliminate trawling from Southeast Alaska. ALFA Program Director Dan Falvey is appointed to the NPFMC's Advisory Panel.

We Are  
TROL  
TRAW

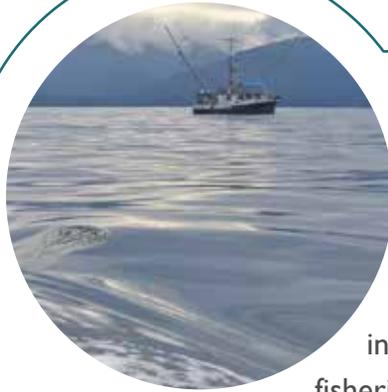
We approved to fish for  
is a selective fishing program  
subject to the use of selective  
equipment and techniques  
the work.

Before this the fish had  
and looking at the  
General Fisheries Council  
our leader. What  
is a serious  
of the



### 1991-1997

After several years of advocacy by ALFA, trawling is banned in Southeast Alaska. It's a victory for small boats and for the environment.



### 1993-1996

ALFA helps form the Marine Fish Conservation Network (MFCN) joining other small fishing and conservation groups in a coalition focused on shifting fisheries regulation towards sustainability measures. The MFCN helps secure passage of the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, which fundamentally alters the Magnuson-Stevens Act to prevent overfishing and allow the rebuilding of overfished stocks.



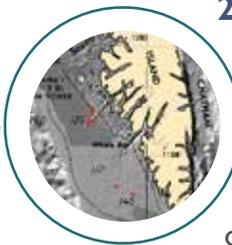
### 2003

ALFA fishermen join biologists in forming the Southeast Alaska Sperm Whale Avoidance Project (SEASWAP). Whales have learned to eat sablefish off of fishing gear, which costs fishermen thousands of dollars and poses a safety risk to both whales and humans. This lays the foundation for ALFA's Fishery Conservation Network, to be founded in 2009.



### 2006

ALFA and others successfully advocate for resource and community provisions during the most recent reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which establishes catch limits for many species and creates accountability measures to prevent overfishing.



### 2009

The Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust (ASFT), is founded to address the erosion of fishery access from coastal Alaska, and the associated loss of community advocacy for marine conservation. ALFA also starts the Fishery Conservation Network, Linda is named Highliner of the Year, and ALFA starts its bathymetric mapping program.



### Today

ALFA continues to be a leader in fishery policy and conservation. We have added new programs and events, and in 2017 took on the Sitka Seafood Festival in partnership with ASFT. Our staff has expanded to include a Deputy Director, a Communications Director, and an Alaskans Own Program Coordinator. Our membership has grown to include members from different gear groups throughout AK.

# Outreach & Events

2017 was a big year in terms of ALFA's community outreach for both fisherfolk and non-fisherfolk alike. Once again, ALFA participated at Whale Fest, hosted our popular Alaska Day Open House event, and held educational meetings for members and the public. Read on for a few highlighted events:

## ● Sitka Seafood Festival

ALFA partnered with the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust (ASFT) to host the Sitka Seafood Festival for the first time ever in 2017.

Twenty days of events culminated in a festival day at the Crescent Harbor Shelter, which included games, a vendor market, food, and prizes.

Other Seafood Festival events included a fascinating Tsunami talk and information-packed dock walks with visiting marine scientist Dr. Jim Carlton, seafood cooking classes for kids and adults with 2017 national seafood chef of the year Lionel Uddipa, and a showing of the film "Jiro Dreams of Sushi".



## ● Sitka Fishermen's Expo

We hosted two fishermen's expos in Sitka this year- one in the spring, and one in the fall. Topics included: bathymetric mapping, business skills for fishermen, a young fishermen's happy hour, seafood marketing, and an overview of sablefish stock assessment science.

### “Gearing up to 40 years” ●

Linda Behnken was granted an honorarium by the Alaska Legislature for her work protecting our small-boat fisheries and coastal communities. It read: *“Linda is an equally caring and tenacious champion for sustainable, environmentally friendly, socioeconomically nourishing fisheries in Alaska, and has helped make them the world's best by myriad metrics.”*

She received the honorarium during a “Gearing up to 40 years” reception in Sitka attended by ALFA's supporters, and featuring seafood prepared by chef Lionel Uddipa.



# MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

*WE ARE ALL FISHERMEN*  
features three local fishing families and the challenges they are facing.  
Photo by filmmaker Emmett Williams



ALFA has been working to expand our outreach efforts to expand our fishermen membership base as well as educate the public about fisheries & fishing.

Through grants funded by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, Patagonia, the City of Sitka, and the Oak Foundation, ALFA was able to produce a short documentary called *WE ARE ALL FISHERMEN* in 2017, which tells the story of local fishing families and the challenges faced by young fishermen. We were also able to create three videos educating consumers about Alaskans Own, our CSF program, and the benefits of purchasing high quality, frozen fish.

We have increased our visibility and outreach through a variety of methods: we are hosting more events, have created a Facebook page, are significantly increasing our media attention, and continue to send periodic updates to members.

*A Fish Story: Cooking Frozen* features local chef Beth Short-Rhoads cooking a delicious meal with local coho



*A Fish Story: Alaskans Own CSF* tells the AO story and features several of our ALFA fishermen!



*A Fish Story: Frozen is Fresh* discusses the blast freezing process and the high quality of frozen fish.

View the videos at [alaskansown.com](http://alaskansown.com)



## AT A GLANCE: 2017 OUTREACH



ALFA was featured over **40** times in regional and national news outlets, including *National Fisherman*, *The Economist*, and *Alaska Dispatch News*.

**23 K**

Page views on our [alfafish.org](http://alfafish.org) and [alaskansown.com](http://alaskansown.com) websites in 2017.



Counted **1,248** attendees at our outreach and educational events. They learned about fisheries advocacy, healthy communities, stewardship, innovation, and our work.



**420** new followers on our brand new ALFA Facebook page.

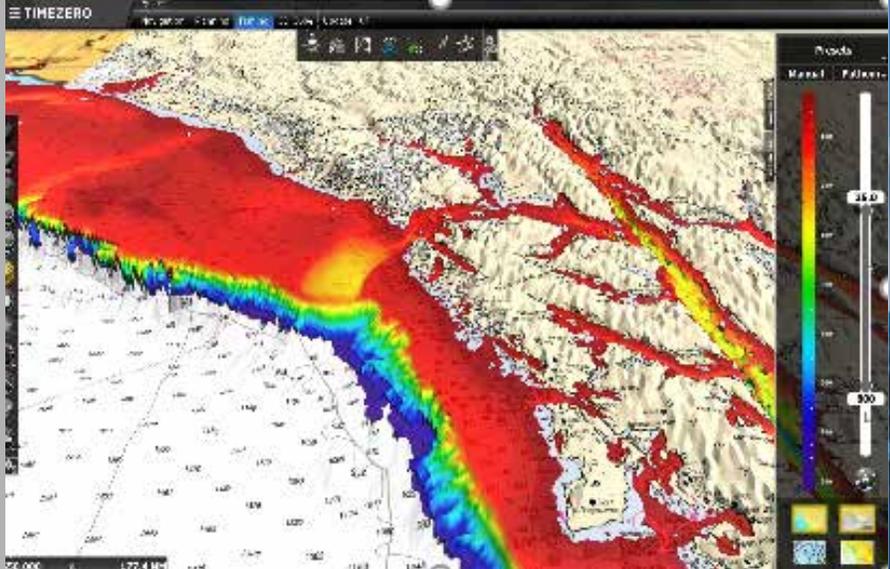
## "TOWN THAT BEST PROMOTES FISHING FUTURES: SITKA.

TRAINING YOUNG FISHERMEN, MARKETING LOCAL CATCH, FISH QUALITY STUDIES, SUPPORTING BUY-IN OPTIONS FOR NEW ENTRANTS – THE ALASKA LONGLINE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION HELPS LEAD SITKA'S INVESTMENT IN FUTURE FISHING CAREERS."

"AK Fishing Picks and Pans, 2017"  
-Laine Welch, AK Fish Radio

ALFA is working with a talented GIS specialist (and young fisherwoman!) to incorporate NOAA and ADFG multi beam bathymetry data and fleet data to generate the next generation of ALFA FCN bathy maps, which will be provided to fishermen in interactive digital form to improve fishing efficiency and cut bycatch.

Right: sneak peek of latest maps



# FISHERY CONSERVATION NETWORK

The Fishery Conservation Network engages fishermen in research and conservation and encourages collaboration between fishermen and scientists. Now in its tenth year, the Fishery Conservation Network has grown to include **105 fishermen**, over **100 different fishing vessels**, and **seven** fishermen-led projects.

## FCN PROJECT: BATHYMETRY AND BYCATCH REDUCTION

To identify high rockfish bycatch areas, map the habitat where rockfish are concentrated, and provide the tools needed to efficiently harvest target species while controlling rockfish bycatch rates, ALFA runs:

- 1) A rockfish bycatch logbook program:** Participating fishermen contribute logbook data so that ALFA can identify areas that are “rockfish hot spots”, or locations where fishermen are more likely to encounter bycatch.
- 2) A seafloor mapping network:** ALFA members contribute bathymetric data (collected while fishing via a program called Nobeltec), which we then compile to create detailed bathymetric maps. This allows members to fish more efficiently and avoid bycatch.

70

Number of fishermen contributing data in 2017 (compared to 12 collecting bathy data in 2009).

110

MILLION

bathymetric data points gathered to date.

BYCATCH DATA FROM

1,105

SETS

Contributed to date by fishermen (verified by ADFG fish tickets)



1,000

At-sea days were donated by Fishery Conservation Network members to support research projects in 2016.

## FCN PROJECT: SOUTHEAST ALASKA SPERM WHALE AVOIDANCE PROJECT (SEASWAP)

Small boat fisheries are the social and economic backbone of Alaska’s working waterfronts. In Alaska, these small boat fleets depend on sustained and profitable participation in near-shore fisheries, including the longline halibut and sablefish fisheries. Long-term management and ecosystem changes have resulted in increasing depredation by sperm whales in these fisheries. Depredation is economically costly to fishermen and presents risk of injury or mortality to whales.

This past year, ALFA continued our collaboration with the Southeast Alaska Sperm Whale Avoidance Project (SEASWAP) to wrap up two projects aimed at helping fishermen avoid sperm whale depredation on longline gear. The first was a two year pilot project to develop a near-real time reporting network for the Chatham Straight black cod fishery to help fishermen avoid sperm whale encounters. The project tested satellite tags, vessel reports, stationary hydrophones and a towed array hydrophone array as means to locate whales in near real time. During the project, 34 vessels, (58% of the vessels participating in the fishery) reported sperm whale presence/absence to SEASWAP,

which then integrated the information with other sources and sent reports back to the fleet twice each day.

ALFA and SEASWAP also continued to evaluate the use of a towed array hydrophone and automation processes to identify sperm whales locations as vessels transit to and from the fishing grounds, then transmit this information to the whale avoidance network.

The pilot test was highly successful, but additional refinements of the towed array and the software that interprets hydro-acoustic information collected by the array are needed before the tool can be incorporated into commercial fishing operations.

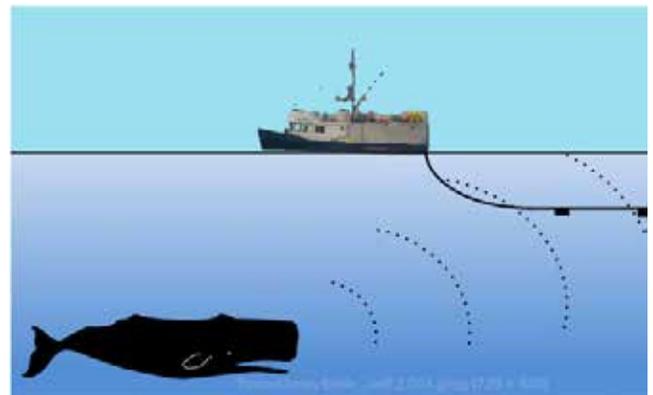


Diagram of a Towed Array hydrophone in use.

## FCN PROJECT: ELECTRONIC MONITORING

In 2013, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implemented a new system for observer coverage in North Pacific fisheries, which provides NMFS with authority to randomly deploy observers on vessels participating in fisheries with less than 100% observer coverage. This includes vessels less than 60 feet in length and vessels participating in the halibut fishery which did not previously have at-sea monitoring requirements.

Deployment of observers in this sector is funded through a 1.25% fee on the ex-vessel value of landings covered under the new system. Costs to deploy observers are higher than anticipated, resulting in lower monitoring rates than desired.

ALFA, in collaboration with other fixed gear industry organizations and the Council, NMFS, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), have been working since 2010 to develop and integrate Electronic Monitoring (EM) into the restructured observer program. EM may be more operationally compatible with small vessels and will improve the collection of data needed by reducing potential bias and improving cost efficiency.

After several years of research and pre-implementation, in 2016 the Council approved on final action an EM option for small fixed gear vessels in the partial coverage sector of the Observer Program. Implementation costs have been (in part) funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to ALFA. ALFA in turn uses this money to offset the high initial costs of purchasing the EM equipment and installation services through a contract with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC).

ALFA also uses the money to ensure stakeholders have an



Example of footage shot by EM device onboard a fishing vessel.

effective voice in program design to ensure operational compatibility with the fishing fleet.

ALFA received our third NFWF grant to assist with EM implementation which will help provide the equipment and field services needed to expand the program to the new vessels.

# 77

# of vessels participated in the EM program in 2017, volunteering for higher at-sea coverage rates than required for observed vessels to demonstrate the effectiveness of this technology.

# 122

vessels have volunteered to use EM in 2018, showing growing support for this stakeholder driven initiative.



**\$70,000**

Amount granted to ALFA's Crewmember Apprenticeship Program by NFWF in 2017. 3-5 skippers will join the program in 2018.

Photo by Keith Greba

## YOUNG FISHERMEN'S INITIATIVE

In 2017, ALFA greatly expanded its Young Fishermen's Initiative. Through a number of programs, we are helping the next generation of commercial fishermen launch and support viable commercial fishing businesses.

In late 2017, ALFA was awarded a \$70,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support and expand ALFA's Crewmember Apprenticeship Program. Over 40 young people (over half were women) have already apprenticed with ALFA members Eric Jordan and Terry Perensovich, and we are thrilled to announce the expansion of our crewmember apprenticeship program for the 2018 season. ALFA plans to bring 5 more skippers aboard to mentor young people and rising fishermen who want to get out fishing.

ALFA has also been a leader in advocating for policies that benefit the next generation of young fishermen. As part of ALFA's national advocacy for the Magnuson-Stevens Act (see next two pages), we have worked with other fishing groups

across the country to educate lawmakers about the **Young Fishermen's Development Act**. In 2017, Alaska's Congressional delegation introduced the Act in the House and Senate. It would establish the first federal program to support education and training for young fishermen. We will be working in 2018 to advance the Young Fishermen's Development Act through Congress.

ALFA also offered two Fishermen's Expos in Sitka this year, with workshops specifically geared towards young fishermen such as beginning bathymetric mapping trainings, bookeeping & business courses, and a first ever fishermen's job fair & happy hour.

# POLICY & ADVOCACY

Every year, ALFA engages on a host of science and policy issues that range from stock assessment to bycatch management, observer deployment and electronic monitoring to halibut management. We read and synthesize biological and socioeconomic analysis for our members and provide data to inform their engagement in fisheries management.

Carina Nichols represents ALFA on the Advisory Panel to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Dan Falvey is on a number of Council committees, Jeff Farvour is on the IFQ committee for the Council, and Linda Behnken is a Commissioner to the International Pacific Halibut Commission. ALFA is well represented and well respected in management forums, and often plays a leadership role in crafting management policy.

## Bycatch Reduction

Bycatch, or the taking of non-target fish, continues to be an important focus for ALFA. ALFA has worked for decades to address the bycatch of halibut and salmon in the trawl fisheries, and for the past 10 years to ensure our members had the tools they needed to control bycatch in our own fisheries (see Page 9).

Three years ago, the projected trawl bycatch of halibut in the Bering Sea threatened to preempt the region's traditional hook and line fisheries. At 5 million pounds of mostly juvenile fish, that bycatch also threatened the future viability of the halibut stocks in both the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska, which is fed by migration from the Bering Sea. Bycatch limits, set when halibut stocks were at high abundance, had not been

measurably reduced even as halibut abundance plummeted. As a result, the directed fisheries were reducing catch to protect stocks only to have that reduction eaten up as bycatch in the trawl fisheries.

A 2015 NPFMC meeting resulted in a 24% reduction in bycatch caps, but did not correct the underlying management flaw, which assigns available halibut resource to bycatch first and leaves the remainder, if any, for the traditional directed hook and line fisheries.

Therefore, ALFA and project partners launched a campaign to re-design halibut bycatch

management. Campaign goals are to protect both the resource and historic users by tying bycatch caps to halibut abundance. While this sounds relatively simple, identifying the proper index to tie bycatch abundance to has proved challenging and the analysis has advanced slowly. Final action on abundance-based bycatch management is now scheduled for fall, 2018. ALFA will be working hard to ensure that the analysis is comprehensive, the public is well informed and engaged, and that the outcome protects both the halibut resource and the small-scale fishermen that depend on it.

## Halibut charter management

2017 marked unprecedented growth in the Area 2C “assisted unguided” halibut sector. Assisted unguided boats are charter operations thinly disguised as unguided. By guiding fishing efforts from a separate boat, “unguided” clients are able to circumvent the more restrictive halibut catch limits currently in place for guided operations.

ALFA, the Halibut Coalition and concerned charter operators brought the issue to the Council’s attention early in the year, and also flagged that the poor regulatory process has also allowed the transfer of “non-transferable” charter permits. The Council initiated amendments in 2017 to address both issues. One amendment will require

annual registration by charter operators; another will ensure “guided” and “unguided” halibut are not mixed on any one boat, which will improve enforcement but not stop the shift to assisted unguided. Late in 2017, charter operators opened the discussion of holding both guided and unguided fishermen to the same bag or catch limits, an approach that would solve the problem but could be highly controversial.

## National Policy

ALFA continues to work closely with two national coalitions to promote sustainable fisheries and sustainable access to those fisheries by conservation-minded small-scale fishermen. The Marine Fish Conservation Network (MFCN), which includes sport, commercial, environmental and aquaria groups, is focused on preserving the conservation mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). Linda is co-chair of the policy committee and a member of the MFCN board. ALFA is also a founding member of the Fishing Communities Coalition, which unites community-based commercial fishing groups from around

the country, also focusing on MSA reauthorization but through the lens of advocating for young fishermen and their future access to healthy oceans. (see page 12). We will be working in 2018 to advocate for an MSA bill that protects the long-term health of the nation’s fisheries.

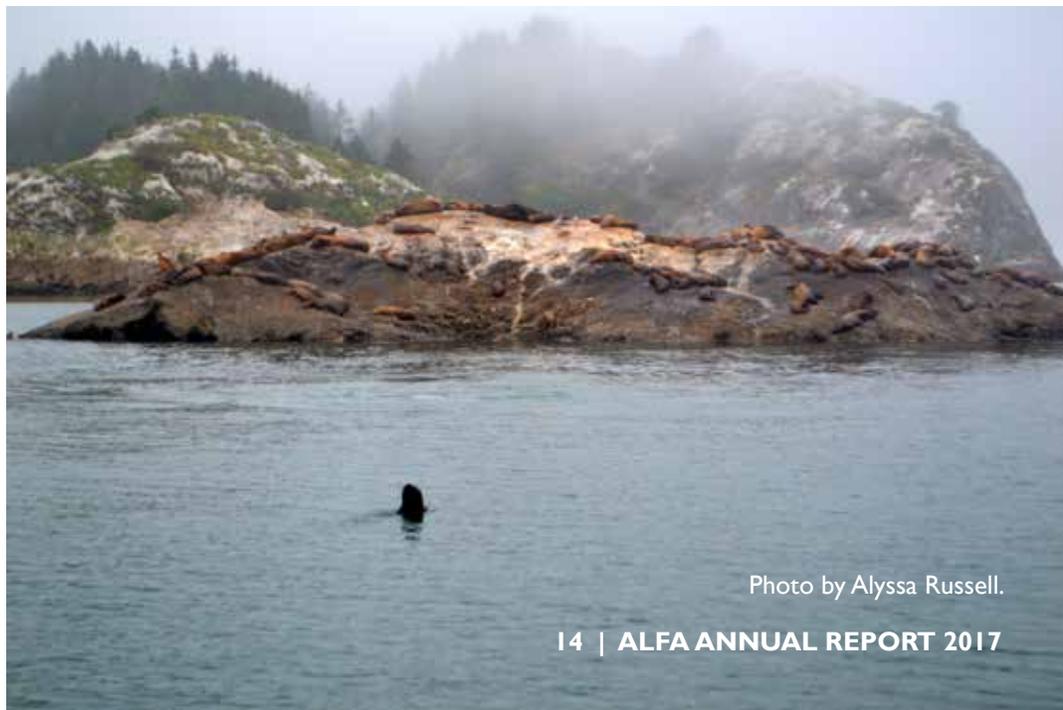


Photo by Alyssa Russell.



## ALASKANS OWN SEAFOOD

Alaskans Own (AO), is our Community Supported Fishery (CSF) program, which connects consumers to high quality, frozen seafood in benefit of our Fishery Conservation Network.

This year, we delivered monthly shipments of fish to CSF communities in Sitka, Juneau, Anchorage, Seattle, and Fairbanks, as well as bulk orders throughout the US.

This season, we sold **4,850** pounds of seafood, and also made significant gains in our outreach efforts to consumers throughout the US.

### Changing attitudes towards frozen seafood

In the US, 23% of fresh seafood sold at retail counters goes to waste. Not only do we believe that working with frozen fish allows us to guarantee the highest and most consistent quality, but we know that frozen seafood is often better for fishermen, consumers, and the planet as

2017 AO Fairbanks Customer, when asked their favorite thing about AO:

"THE GREAT HIGH QUALITY FISH! SECOND WOULD BE THE FRIENDLY, PERSONABLE SERVICE. YOUR FAIRBANKS COORDINATOR, ANGELA, IS VERY NICE AND A PLEASURE TO INTERACT WITH."

## 2017 SPECIES OFFERED:

Less than 1% of the fish caught in Alaska stays in Alaska. Here are the species we offered via our CSF program this year:



**Coho & King**  
*Troll caught*



**Halibut**  
*Longline caught*



**Spot Prawns**  
*Pot caught*



**Rockfish**  
*Longline caught*



**Lingcod**  
*Longline caught*



**Sablefish**  
*Longline caught*

a whole.

In 2016-17, ALFA worked with project partners at Ecotrust, Port Orford, Sustainable Seafood, Real Good Fish, Seafood Analytics, and the Oregon Food Innovation Lab to test consumer preferences between fresh and frozen seafood. In a blind taste test, consumers choose AO flash frozen coho and Port Orford flash frozen sablefish over “fresh” fish procured from Portland markets.

In 2017, ALFA was awarded a major grant from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide support for consumer education on the environmental and quality benefits of purchasing frozen seafood, as well as to expand markets for and access to, locally-caught seafood.

With this support, ALFA will create a multi-media toolkit to help seafood producers,

processors, and sellers share information on the advantages of flash frozen seafood, helping to establish or diversify their businesses. ALFA will also provide training to producers

and fishermen on using Seafood Analytics CQR tool (a device that determines freshness by measuring cell structure) to develop quality assurance programs.

# \$

In 2017, we connected consumers with more than **4,850** pounds of local seafood from small-boat fishing families who are committed to best fishing practices, fighting for good fisheries policy and innovative research.

# 205

Customers subscribed to our Community Supported Fishery (CSF) program or purchased bulk orders and/or merchandise through AO in 2017.



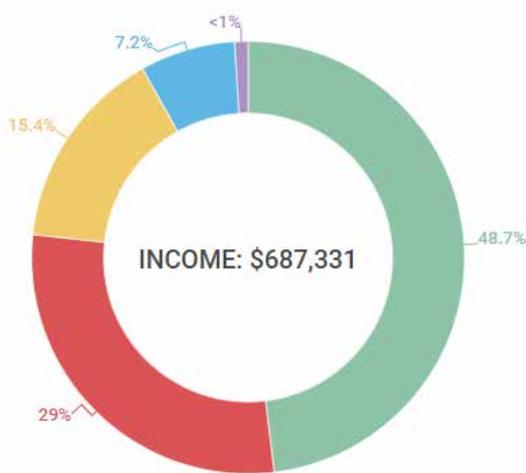
# ABOUT ALFA

## OUR FINANCES

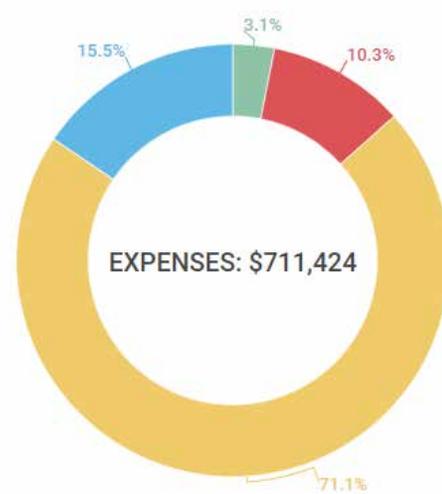
ALFA runs on important membership funding from fishermen, local businesses, and seafood processors. Membership dues are supplemented by grant and contract funding that supports ALFA’s Fishery Conservation Network research, engagement with national networks, and education & outreach.

We also fundraise annually with fish raffles, membership drives, and a series of events that serve both to raise funds and educate the public.

As the year ends, we extend our gratitude: we could not carry out our work without the generous support of these organizations- as well as local businesses, fishermen and community members. We remain committed to safeguarding the health and productivity of Alaska’s fisheries and to enhancing the economic viability of our community-based small boat membership.



- Grants
- Contracts
- Memberships, Donations, Fundraising
- Product Sales
- Interest



- Information Outreach to Public Policy Forums
- Management Support
- Marine Conservation and Protection
- Direct Support to Consumers

# OUR CREW



**Linda Behnken**  
*Executive Director*



**Dan Falvey**  
*Program Director*



**Paul Olsen**  
*Office Manager*



**Anthony Vlahovich**  
*Alaskans Own Manager*



**Willow Moore**  
*Deputy Director*



**Alyssa Russell**  
*Communications Director*



**Kelley Whitson**  
*Event Coordinator*

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dick Curran**  
**Terry Perensovich**  
**Richie Davis**  
**Phil Wyman**  
**Carina Nichols**

**Jeff Farvour**  
**Frank Balovich**  
**Steve Fish**  
**Norm Pillen**

# THANK YOU

## 2017 VOLUNTEERS

Elizabeth Herendeen  
Aurora Lang  
Anothony Valohovich  
Terry Perensovich  
Nancy Behnken  
Cecilia Dumouchel  
Cathryn Klusmeier  
Bobbi Jordan  
Michelle Parke  
Mackenzie Gilliam  
Tad Fujioka  
Shanzila Ahmed  
Angie Scheiler  
Peggy Federoff

Cindy Edwards  
Jacquie Foss  
Mohammed Ahsan  
Renusha Indralingam  
Steve Warren  
Ben Timby  
Tom Crane  
Kim Gleason  
John Skeele  
Beth Cafferty  
Carina Nichols  
Kat Rhoads  
Elisabeth Schafer  
Mary Beth Nelson

Kari Sagel  
Peggy Federoff  
Beth Short-Rhoads  
Megan Pasternak  
Kelli Leonard  
James Swift  
Aurora Roth  
Susea Albee  
Max Kritzer  
Joe D'Arienzo  
Dick Curran  
Justin, Kai & Ada Olbrych  
Carina Nichols  
FCN Fishermen

Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
Clara Gray  
Wendy Alderson  
Elisabeth Schafer  
Sophia Kecskes  
Julia Carnes  
Jackie Farrow  
Sarah Jordan  
Eric Jordan  
Jeff Favour  
Steve Fish  
Rio, Hahlen & Kent Barkhau  
Ann Robertson

## 2017 FUNDERS

Patagonia  
Oak Foundation  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
US Department of Agriculture  
The City and Borough of Sitka  
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

Alaska Conservation Foundation  
Marine Fish Conservation Network  
First Bank  
Northwest Farm Credit Services Commercial Company

## LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST

Thank you so much to our fishermen & local business members- you are the lifeblood of our organization. Your support, input, and countless hours of time donated (at sea and on land) are an integral part of our success.

## Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

834 Lincoln Street, Sitka, Alaska 99835  
907.747.3400 | [alfish.org](http://alfish.org)