



BRISTOL BAY

Regional Seafood Development Association

**** COVID-19 FLEET ADVISORY #01: Travel Planning & Interim Guidance ****

March 26, 2020

ATTENTION BRISTOL BAY FISHERMEN:

BRISTOL BAY FISHERMEN ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO DELAY TRAVELING TO BRISTOL BAY TO GIVE THE REGION TIME TO PREPARE FOR A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SEASON.

BBRSDA is working with processors and local government leaders to develop a set of protocols to successfully prosecute the fishery without jeopardizing the health and lives of local residents or industry workers. An update about the COVID-19 Fleet Plan effort will be provided on the BBRSDA website (www.bbrsda.com) on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Until then, BBRSDA will be conducting the following activities:

- Adding final COVID-19 Fleet Team members and begin drafting the COVID-19 Fleet Plan
- Preparing and presenting a draft plan outline/update to the Naknek/King Salmon COVID-19 taskforce on March 31, 2020
- Directly collaborating with local government leaders, processors, and others
- Making arrangements for the next Virtual Town Hall meeting, as well as posting answers to questions from the March 25, 2020 meeting

In the meantime:

All non-local Bristol Bay fishermen are strongly urged to postpone all travel to Bristol Bay until at least May 1, 2020. The State of Alaska has issued mandates and guidance seeking to manage the inflow of people to Alaska in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. BBRSDA strongly recommends postponing scheduled boat work in Bristol Bay until at least May 1, 2020 to “flatten the curve” and curtail the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Keep in mind, it is possible to carry this virus without symptoms and unknowingly infect others leading to overtaxed medical capacity and/or death(s). Now is a critical time, if this virus is not contained and planned for properly, there may not be a Bristol Bay salmon fishery this year.

Most airlines are waiving cancellation and change fees due to the COVID-19 virus, thereby reducing the cost and inconvenience of changing travel plans. If you do incur change or cancellation costs, start a log of COVID-19 related costs and add this to that list. There may be funding available later to offset costs for doing the right thing at this critical time.

If you absolutely must travel to Bristol Bay or anywhere else in Alaska prior to May 1, 2020, there are some requirements and precautions to follow:

TEL (907) 677-2371 • INFO@BBRSDA.COM

3705 ARCTIC BLVD #1188, ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

bbrsda.com • bristolbaysockeye.org • facebook.com/bbrsda

REQUIRED: if traveling prior to May 1, 2020 for fishery-related purposes, you must file a Travel Protocol Plan (per [Governor Dunleavy's Health Mandate 010](#)) to the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (via email to AlaskaDevelopment@alaska.gov). The State of Alaska is currently accepting submitted plans after the 3/24/20 deadline, but do not delay. Specifically, your submitted plan must explain protocols for:

“maintaining critical infrastructure... and outlining how you will avoid the spread of COVID-19 and not endanger the lives of the communities in which you operate, of others who serve as a part of that infrastructure or the ability of that critical infrastructure to function.”

Failure to abide by either a 14-day self-quarantine upon arriving in Alaska, or submitting a Travel Protocol Plan for critical infrastructure workers could result in a \$25,000 fine or up to a year in prison.

SUGGESTED: Avoid absolutely all contact with local people and public spaces/surfaces during your stay in Alaska, unless you've successfully self-quarantined for a period of 14-days (meaning you haven't used shared restrooms/etc.) with people who arrived after you. If you need to make local purchases, call ahead and pay via credit card over the phone. Coordinate for delivery or pickup outside of a store or designated location – again, attempt to find ways to avoid contact such as signing receipts or passing credit cards to store staff. Get in and out of town as fast as possible. Remain in the boatyard unless it's critical to your business, failure to do so could put you in violation of your Travel Protocol Plan and create legal problems. Finally, diligently practice good hygiene.

You do NOT want to be the outsider photographed or seen around town in public spaces if this situation turns for the worst. Such actions could quite literally jeopardize your business, fishing career, and even personal health. Do not risk it, and make sure your crew does not place your business at risk either.