

A photograph of a longline fishing boat on the ocean. The boat is white with a dark cabin and is equipped with a large mast and outriggers. The sea is dark and choppy, and the sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**ALASKA LONGLINE
FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016**

The Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association is an alliance of small boat, commercial fishermen committed to sustainable fisheries and thriving coastal communities.

Our members support science-based fisheries management through collaborative research, advocacy and innovation. We work to safeguard ocean health and improve the economic viability of small boat fishing.

For our members, commercial fishing is more than a livelihood; it's a way of life.

2016 IN REVIEW

Thanks to the hard work of our community, members, donors, volunteers, partners and team, 2016 has been a year of advocacy, growth, success and recognition for the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA).

ALFA has advocated on behalf of small-boat fishermen on the local, state, national and international levels. Our Executive Director has been appointed to serve as a Commissioner to the International Pacific Halibut Commission. As per our strategic plan, we have added new members to our staff. ALFA has been identified as a national leader in the development of electronic monitoring and honored as a leader in sustainable fisheries. Among many programs and events held in 2016, ALFA organized and ran the first Fishermen's Expo in Sitka and launched a Young Fishermen's Initiative. Members, and all those who contribute to ALFA, have good reason to be proud of ALFA's work and their essential contribution to ALFA's success.

Whether you are an ALFA member, partner, donor, business member, volunteer, if you purchase ALFA gear or attend our events, or help further our mission in any way—**ALFA's staff and board would like to thank YOU for making what we do possible.**

Read on for an overview of ALFA 2016!

THE SEAS WE HAVE TRAVELED

FROM ALFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **LINDA BEHNKEN**

Welcome to ALFA's 2016 Annual Report!

Thanks to our members, partners and to all of those who have contributed to ALFA throughout the years, we have come a long way since the organization was founded in 1978. ALFA was launched soon after the Magnuson-Stevens Act claimed management of fisheries off the coast of the U.S. out to 200 miles. [Alaska fishermen wanted a voice](#) in protecting halibut and sablefish stocks from industrial foreign fishing, and created that voice by forming ALFA.

When I took over ALFA in 1991, the organization had no office and almost no records, since a fire at Sitka Sound Seafoods had destroyed boxes of history, but ALFA did have a great legacy of effective involvement in fisheries management. In 1992, I was appointed to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and Dan Falvey, ALFA Program Director, was appointed to the Council's Advisory Panel. After ALFA led a successful grassroots effort involving 23 coastal communities, ALFA [secured the Southeast AK Trawl Closure](#) and had a formative impact on the sablefish/halibut IFQ program by [designing and advocating for measures to protect small boats, owner-operators, and entry-level opportunities](#). We also secured a halibut bycatch set-aside for the local demersal shelf rockfish fishery, participated in developing the Sitka Local Area Management Plan, and won a series of battles to stop the open-ended reallocation of halibut to the charter fleet.

In the 2000s, ALFA developed and executed a number of cooperative research projects. Through this work we realized the potency of combining fishermen's expertise with the scientific process to improve fisheries management—and ALFA's [Fishery Conservation Network](#) was launched. ALFA's board also recognized the need to increase both staff and financial capacity. In 2008, the Oak Foundation invested in ALFA's potential and we gained strength and prominence as an organization. Around this same time, ALFA staff were involved in a two-day brainstorm to identify goals for Alaska's fisheries and chart a path to healthy community-based fisheries for the future. We recognized that we needed more leverage in the political and management realms, and that we needed to make sure future Alaska fishermen had a commitment to sustainable fisheries. As joint strategies to accomplish these goals, we launched the [Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust \(ASFT\)](#), which supports young fishermen in securing fisheries access, and [Alaskans Own](#), the first community supported fishery program in Alaska. In 2016, we engaged The Nature Conservancy as project partners in ASFT, and in 2017 we hope to capitalize ASFT's quota share financing fund. [In short, the year ahead promises to be as exciting as the year now behind us!](#)

Best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful 2017!



BIG NEWS!

LINDA BEHNKEN NAMED WHITE HOUSE CHAMPION OF CHANGE

Before we delve into our Annual Report, we would like to share some of ALFA's biggest news of 2016: **ALFA's Executive Director was named a White House Champion of Change for Sustainable Seafoods by President Obama's Administration.** This tremendous honor is shared by all who work with or belong to ALFA to promote healthy fisheries and healthy fishing communities. Linda traveled to Washington DC for a White House gathering, panel discussion and awards ceremony.

Shortly after this event, **Linda was appointed by President Obama to serve as a U.S. Commissioner to the International Pacific Halibut Commission.** Linda joins Jim Balsiger (NMFS) and Bob Alverson (Fishing Vessel Owners Association) as one of three U.S. Commissioners charged with conserving the halibut resource and managing the directed halibut fisheries to achieve optimal yield. The position brings new challenges but also new opportunities. Linda has been clear that her goals as commissioner are to rebuild halibut stocks and reduce halibut bycatch.

Behnken says "This award is a tremendous honor, and one I didn't earn on my own. This award belongs to the staff and fishermen I work with at the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, along with our many partners in promoting sustainable seafood, sustainable fisheries and healthy fishing communities—the SEASWAP team, the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, the Fishing Community Coalition, the Marine Fish Conservation Network, and the Community Fisheries Network, to name a few. Our work would also not be possible without the generous support of the **Oak Foundation**, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, The Nature Conservancy, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Alaska Conservation Foundation and the City of Sitka. It truly takes a community to change the world's oceans!"



ALFA Executive Director Linda Behnken meets with Obama Administration staff and other award recipients after receiving her "Champion of Change" award in Washington, DC.

Photo: Mark Alan Lovewell

ALFA PROGRAMS



RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

ALFA engages fishermen in marine research and stewardship to improve best fishing practices and the economic viability of small boat fishing.



YOUNG FISHERMEN'S INITIATIVE

We are supporting the next generation of community-based fishermen through entry-level opportunities, education, mentorship and innovative financing.



ADVOCACY

ALFA represents members in management forums at local, state, federal, national and international levels.

BUILDING A NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Supporting each of the core programs is key to ALFA's outreach and communication strategy:

ALFA OUTREACH

ALFA keeps our members and supporters informed and well-represented. ALFA's communication toolkit includes our brand new website, bimonthly newsletters, publications and workshops which facilitate direct communication between fishermen and fishery scientists.

ACTION ALERTS AND COALITION BUILDING

Sometimes we need to mobilize quickly— ALFA sends alerts regularly and works to bring many voices together into strong coalitions.

ALASKANS OWN COMMUNITY SUPPORTED FISHERY

Alaskans Own (AO) was Alaska's first Community Supported Fishery program. AO connects subscribers with sustainably harvested seafood and the conservation-minded fishermen behind the catch.

ADVOCACY

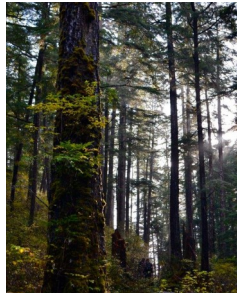
POLICY ENGAGEMENT ACROSS ALL LEVELS



At the **National Level**: ALFA is a member of three national coalitions that each serve different but complementary roles: the Community Fishery Network, a sharing/learning network of community-based fishing organizations; the Fishing Community Coalition, a powerful coalition of commercial fishing groups focused on promoting sustainable community-based fisheries through the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization process and other national legislation; and the Marine Fish Conservation Network, which brings together sport, commercial, environmental and aquaria groups to promote healthy fisheries and oceans through national policy.



At the **International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)**, ALFA is focused on identifying a consistent harvest policy for the directed fishery and using the harvest policy to drive a strong IPHC position on halibut bycatch.



At the **North Pacific Fishery Management Council**, ALFA is deeply involved in a host of halibut issues: halibut bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea, halibut discard mortality rates, halibut allocation issues, and the 20-year review of the sablefish/halibut IFQ program. ALFA continues to play a lead role on electronic monitoring and the Gulf of Alaska Observer Program.



At the **Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF)**, ALFA represented members at the Statewide meeting to protect member interests in the inside water sablefish fisheries and is developing proposals for the SE BOF proposal deadline on April 15, 2017.



At the **local level**, we highlight the importance of Sitka fisheries, providing presentations to groups such as the City of Sitka and the Sitka Rotary club. In February, we hosted the second annual Sablefish Summit, bringing together fishermen and both state and federal sablefish managers, and in October we hosted the first annual Sitka Fishermen's Expo.

FISHERY CONSERVATION NETWORK & COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH



Photo: A sperm whale dives near a commercial vessel. ALFA collaborates with scientists to help prevent sperm whale depredation of fish from commercial gear. Learn more at <http://seaswap.info>
Photo credit: SEASWAP

“I am proud to be an ALFA member and to be participating in their fishery conservation network. They’re ahead of the curve. With all of the information that our fishermen gather by taking these bathy readings... we can find the pinacles and we can avoid them to keep our bycatch rates down.”

George Eliason, commercial fisherman and ALFA member

SMALL BOATS, BIG IDEAS

ALFA’s Fishery Conservation Network inspires stewardship through research and collaboration. This fishermen-led network addresses resource conservation issues and develops tools to promote sustainable fisheries and the economic viability of small boat fishing. **We are always looking for new ideas and new members.**



A sperm whale dives after being tagged.
Photo credit: SEASWAP

FISHERY CONSERVATION NETWORK (FCN)



ROCKFISH BYCATCH

Each year, ALFA collects rockfish logbook information from FCN fishermen to monitor rockfish bycatch rates and update bycatch “hot spot” maps. Rockfish are long-lived (up to 120 years!) and slow growing; once overfished they are very slow to recover. Rockfish stocks in the North Pacific are healthy, but there is good reason to keep the FCN bycatch tool sharp: British Columbia hook and line fishermen expect their target fisheries to be severely limited this season by low quotas for yelloweye rockfish.



BATHYMETRIC MAPPING

With the help of Nobletec software and our outstanding technology team, ALFA has constructed bathymetry maps that provide fishermen with impressive detail of seafloor structure. The maps blend fishermen-collected data with multi-beam sonar data from NOAA and ADFG, a database these government agencies share to support ALFA’s FCN bycatch avoidance mission. We recently updated our fleet database, which now includes a truly impressive amount of bathymetric data. Bathymetric maps allow fishermen to effectively harvest target species while limiting bycatch and minimizing habitat impacts. By overlaying bycatch rate data on seafloor bathymetry, ALFA members can avoid reefs and pinnacles that host high densities of juvenile rockfish. ALFA is working with Nobeltec to create a members-only on-line installation site that will allow FCN fishermen to easily update bathymetric files.



ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM)

For the past six years, ALFA has been fighting to promote EM systems, which are significantly less expensive than observers, and potentially introduce less bias. Thanks to ALFA’s relentless efforts, Dan Falvey’s leadership, and Senator Murkowski’s determined support, EM is in the pre-implementation stage with full integration to the observer program scheduled for 2018. In 2017, **ninety** fixed-gear boats will carry EM and EM trips will be selected on the same basis as observer trips. Data generated by the EM program will be integrated with observer data, and by 2018 observer fees collected from the groundfish and halibut fleets will be used to pay for both observers AND EM. These mark giant steps forward that seemed unattainable just three years ago. Recognition is also due to Council member Bill Tweit, who broke the EM logjam when he took over as observer and EM committee chair.



SOUTHEAST ALASKA SPERM WHALE AVOIDANCE PROJECT (SEASWAP)

The Southeast Alaska Sperm Whale Avoidance Network was founded in 2003 and has gained national recognition as a unique and successful collaboration between fishermen and scientists. We know a lot more about sperm whale biology and behavior than we did when SEASWAP started. For example, we know the sound of an engine shifting in and out of gear is the dinner bell for hungry sperm whales, signaling as it does a fishing boat hauling longline gear. Sperm whales can be expected to respond to the sound within seven miles of a boat hauling gear.

Because SEASWAP has not yet found an effective deterrent, we are currently more focused on avoidance. The SEASWAP team has satellite tagged six whales in the past year (one whale that was tagged in July spent the summer off Sitka, then swam to Mexico—and at last transmission was working his way back north!); we also worked with project partners to coordinate a whale reporting network. Network members use DeLorme InReach devices to allow sablefish fishermen to notify ALFA twice daily of whale activity and predation even when fishing out of cell range, and a network coordinator compiles this data and responds back to the fleet.

We are also collaborating internationally with a small team of scientists from Scotland to develop a device that can be towed behind a boat and used to determine sperm whale presence in an area before gear is set; we are hopeful this device can also be used to assess North Pacific sperm whale populations. Next year we hope to deploy underwater gliders that will “listen” for whales and report activity to the SEASWAP coordinator. The SEASWAP team is always open to new ideas. Do not hesitate to call with questions or suggestions! Learn more at <http://seaswap.info> For a full list of SEASWAP partners, visit <http://seaswap.info/team/>



FUEL EFFICIENCY

ALFA has been part of a collaborative project to improve fuel use awareness and efficiency in the commercial fleet for the past two years. The end result of this project will be an online tool that allows fishermen to input data specific to their vessel and to learn the relative cost/benefit of making operational or structural modifications to improve fuel efficiency. The online tool is available now, but requires a guided tour as we continue to develop a more user-friendly version. Guided tour appointments can be made by contacting Dan Falvey through the ALFA office, at (907) 747-3400. The next stage of this project will include testing major modifications on a few vessels, such as hybrid engines.

YOUNG FISHERMEN'S INITIATIVE

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Photo: Annika Ord



Thirty years ago, a young person who wanted to fish commercially needed a boat, some fishing gear, and a sense of adventure to get started in the business. Today young fishermen face staggering entry level costs, high operating expenses, and a level of risk that is equivalent to buying a starter hotel instead of a starter house as a first step in home-ownership. Studies such as *The Greying of the Alaskan Fishing Fleet*, (Rachel Donkersloot & Courtney Carothers, 2016) show that the average age of Alaska's commercial fishermen is now 50, up by nearly 10 years since 1980, and that not only are fishery access permits and quota being lost from rural Alaska communities, but gaining access to the fisheries off Alaska is increasingly difficult for young rural Alaska residents.

Since 2009, ALFA has focused on developing programs to assist young people with gaining access to fisheries and supporting these young fishermen as they gain skills and experience. ALFA has piloted a number of strategies to support the next generation of fishermen, such as launching the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust and the Local Fish Fund. These programs are designed to improve local retention of economic benefits from Alaska fisheries. In addition to these programs, ALFA seeks to support young fishermen through FCN data sharing, a deckhand apprentice program facilitated by ALFA member Eric Jordan, and education/training programs such as the Sitka Fishermen's Expo. We are currently working with the Fishing Communities Coalition to secure national legislation to support a Young Fishermen's Development Fund, which would provide financial support to organizations offering training and education to young fishermen, comparable to existing programs for young farmers, ranchers and aquaculturists.

ALFA is committed to supporting the next generation of independent, community-based fishermen in gaining access to Alaska's fisheries.

ALASKANS OWN SEAFOOD

A COMMUNITY SUPPORTED FISHERY



Alaskans Own (AO) was the first Community Supported Fishery (CSF) program in Alaska. Initially housed at ALFA's partner organization, the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust, in the spring of 2016, AO became an ALFA program to improve management and coordination and to tighten the connection to ALFA's Fishery Conservation Network. AO connects consumers to the fishermen who catch their fish, with the goal of improving public awareness of the economic importance of commercial fishing and changing the political climate in Alaska to one more favorable to fish and fishermen. ALFA works with Sitka Sound Seafoods and Seafood Producers Cooperative to process fish for AO, supporting rather than competing with Sitka's important processing sector.

Through Alaskans Own we are working to secure a permanent revenue stream for ALFA's research and conservation work; using revenue from the seafood that sustains our customers to sustain healthy fisheries and small-boat fishermen for generations to come. We have expanded AO to include both subscriptions and bulk sales, and intend to increase volume and capacity over the next two years. One of the primary outreach tools for Alaskan's Own is the publication of *Docklines*—a customer-focused newsletter distributed with monthly AO subscriptions. Like AO, *Docklines* is designed to build connections between fishermen, fishing communities, and seafood consumers.



OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

TELLING OUR STORY

Looking Back

“I was on the *Chichagof*, a power scow, and we were on our way across the gulf, I believe to Kodiak. The *Pacific Sea* was a Petersburg boat fishing on the Fair-weather Grounds. Halibut fishermen in those years made 20-day trips.”

Photo submitted by James Mackovjak, to ALFA’s 2016 “Then & Now” photo contest.

ALFA’s communication and outreach efforts are focused on: 1) informing ALFA members about current events that affect their livelihoods; 2) facilitating direct communication between fishermen and fishery managers; and 3) promoting ALFA’s work and the benefits of sustainable community based fisheries to outside stakeholders, including fishery scientists, seafood consumers, and policy makers at the local, state and national levels.

ALFA has an important story to tell and skilled staff to help tell that story. In Spring 2016, as per ALFA’s Strategic Plan, we hired Willow Moore as Assistant Executive Director to further our organizational goals, program sustainability, and outreach and communications strategy. In Summer 2016, ALFA had the good fortune to hire Brooke Schafer as Office Manager to replace longtime, outgoing Office Manager, Brandie Cheatham. Brooke is responsible for keeping our office running and our membership informed and updated. In early 2016, ALFA hosted two brilliant young interns who significantly upgraded the ALFA website and other outreach materials. ALFA added Alyssa Russell, one of the two brilliant interns, to our staff in Fall 2016. Alyssa’s responsibilities include event planning, website updates, and communication/media outreach.

ALFA regularly publishes a membership newsletter and emails action alerts to members. ALFA also routinely hosts IPHC and sablefish scientists in Sitka to meet with fishermen. We facilitate member participation and testimony at Council, IPHC, and BOF meetings. ALFA reaches the larger group of outside stakeholders through presentations at local events such as Rotary, statewide events such as the Young Fishermen’s Summit, and national events such as the Seattle Fish Expo. ALFA staff are frequently interviewed or provide articles for local or regional magazines or radio stations.

ALFA has forged strong communication partnerships with many groups including the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), sablefish stock assessment scientists, Alaska SeaGrant, and news media such as Pacific Fishing magazine and KCAW.

STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORT CARD



Thank you to all who participated in the ALFA Strategic Planning Session in 2016! We are very grateful for everyone who took the time to fill out our strategic planning surveys, for all those that thoughtfully provided feedback on our organizational and development plans, and finally, we are very grateful to the ALFA board for your work and time providing industry expertise and ensuring that the 2017-2018 strategic plan is both dynamic and resilient!

One of the objectives of the strategic planning process was to identify ALFA's top three goals for the coming year. The top three goals selected by ALFA members and our board of directors are

1. ADVOCACY 2. OUTREACH 3. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The board and staff are focusing efforts around these three goals for 2017 and beyond.

"ALFA's greatest strengths are concern for [fisheries] access, new entrants, young fisherpeople; influential and credible staff seeking real solutions to problems, not just more money for members. Ability to move mountains at times for the right reasons. Ability to secure grants for meaningful projects."

- Identified by one respondent as ALFA's greatest strengths via anonymous strategic planning survey.



PARTNERSHIPS

YOUNG FISHERMEN'S INITIATIVE

To support the next generation of fishermen, ALFA partners with the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust and the Fishing Community Coalition. This year we received support for this work from the City of Sitka's Fishery Enhancement Fund.

The mission of the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust (ASFT) is to strengthen Alaskan fishing communities and marine resources through scientific research, education and economic opportunity. ASFT's financing strategy lowers initial entry costs and shares the risk between new entrants and loan participants. Financed fishermen participate in ALFA's FCN and in the future will receive business training and support. In 2016 ASFT assisted Haa' Aani in identifying fishermen candidates for their Community Development Fund and engaged local fishermen in supporting a quota share loan for a Sitka ALFA member. ASFT is currently working with the Nature Conservancy and NatureVest to take the ASFT program to scale.

FISHERY CONSERVATION NETWORK (FCN)

SEASWAP partnerships include the Sitka Sound Science Center, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, UAS, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, multiple longline groups (e.g., PVOA, SEAFA, and NPFA) and government agencies such as NOAA Auke Bay lab. Much of ALFA's grant funding is a result of the FCN and ongoing FCN projects.

ALFA has forged partnerships and coalitions to address halibut bycatch and marine mammal issues, advance at-sea data collection, and improved national fisheries legislation. We are founding members of the Community Fisheries Network, the Fishing Community Coalition, and the Marine Fish Conservation Network. ALFA was instrumental in forming the Halibut Coalition in 1998, an umbrella organization uniting longline fishermen, processors and consumers in protecting halibut stocks and historic access. We also worked with the Alaska Conservation Foundation to protect and promote sustainable fisheries and communities. The FCN was launched with support from the Oak Foundation. Specific FCN projects have been funded by the North Pacific Research Board, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Saltonstall-Kennedy Funds, the Bycatch Reduction and Engineering Program, and the Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE:

THIS YEAR, WE...

Created opportunities for collaborative stewardship

ALFA facilitated **18** cooperative research projects with scientists in 2016. These projects directly engaged **72** fishermen and **15** scientists and engineers in collaborative stewardship innovation work, which included:



Creating information sharing networks for **bycatch** and **marine mammal avoidance** involving **45** fishermen.



Facilitating **cooperative research projects** involving scientists and working fishermen



Offering **technical support to fishermen** developing new tools to address key industry challenges.

34

Working with **34 key partners and funders** to increase the impact of our programs

ALFA VOLUNTEERS : Our supporters donated more than **1,694 volunteer hours** to this work.

Advocated for healthy fisheries far and wide



We traveled as near as **Sitka** and as far as **Newfoundland, Chile,** and **Washington, D.C.** to advocate for small-boat fisheries



Addressed fishery management and policy issues in **20** management forums, including the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the IPHC, and the Board of Fisheries.



ALFA staff and board utilized membership feedback to advocate for small-boat fisheries and healthy communities more than **60** times at the local, state, national and international levels.



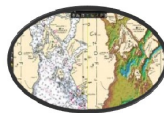
Provided opportunities for new and experienced fishermen to learn about the policy process and helped gain bipartisan support for a Young Fishermen's Development bill to be introduced in 2017.

Provided education, resources, and outreach to fishermen and the public

In 2016, ALFA staff and board made community outreach beyond the docks a priority. Here's how we delivered on that promise:



Brought more than **1100** people to our **outreach and educational events** to learn about fisheries advocacy, healthy communities, stewardship innovation, and our work.



Collected bathymetric data from and provided data to more than **60** fishermen, mapping hundreds of miles of seafloor to avoid bycatch and increase efficiency.



Engaged more than **200** fishermen in workshops on improving use of gear and marine electronics, increasing fuel efficiency on fishing vessels, and other topics at our first ever Fishermen's Expo.

Offered wild-caught Alaskan seafood straight from boat to table

Did you know that less than **1% of fish caught in Alaska is sold here?**

Alaskan's Own is Alaska's first ever Community Supported Fishery (CSF) program. All proceeds support ALFA's Fishery Conservation Network, which engages fishermen in research and conservation initiatives.



In 2016, we connected consumers with more than **11,875 pounds** of local seafood from small-boat fishing families who are committed to best fishing practices, fighting for good fisheries policy and innovative research.

3,000%

Since 2009, we have had a **3,000% increase** in sales thanks to our customers, who support small boats, big ideas, and sustainable fishing practices.



We sell **spot prawns, king and coho salmon, halibut, rockfish, lingcod, and sablefish** caught by our members through bulk sales and subscription.

Learn more or sign up at alaskansown.com

Were noticed for our impact



11,200

Attracted 11,200 website hits on our **brand new site** created at the start of this year



ALFA was featured over **30** times in local and national news outlets, including: The Economist, Newsweek, Seattle Times, Seafood News, National Fishermen, Pacific Fishing, Juneau Empire, the Daily Sitka Sentinel, and many more.

Were recognized for our work



Our Executive Director Linda Behnken was recognized as a White House **"Champion of Change for Sustainable Seafood"**



Our Program Director Dan Falvey serves on the **NPRB Advisory Panel; NPFMC's Observer Advisory Committee and Electronic Monitoring Workgroup; National EM workshop Steering Committee**



Linda was also named as a **commissioner to the International Pacific Halibut Commission**



ALFA Board Member, Jeff Farvour and ALFA member, Carina Nichols were appointed to the **NPFMC Advisory Panel** and the **NPFMC IFQ Implementation Committee**

FINANCES

FUNDING OUR WORK

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 FCN research and engagement with national networks. In our most recently completed and audited fiscal year, 2015, ALFA secured grant funding from the OAK Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Northwest Farm Credit Service, the Alaska Conservation Foundation and was awarded contracts from Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, and Sitka Sound Science Center to address challenges facing Alaskan, community-based fishermen. 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.

All together, 2015 was a year of strategic development and program expansion, providing us with new tools and resources to offer our fishermen and our community. 2016 continued our success as an organization and our commitment to fiscal responsibility. 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. **JOIN US and learn more at alfafish.org**

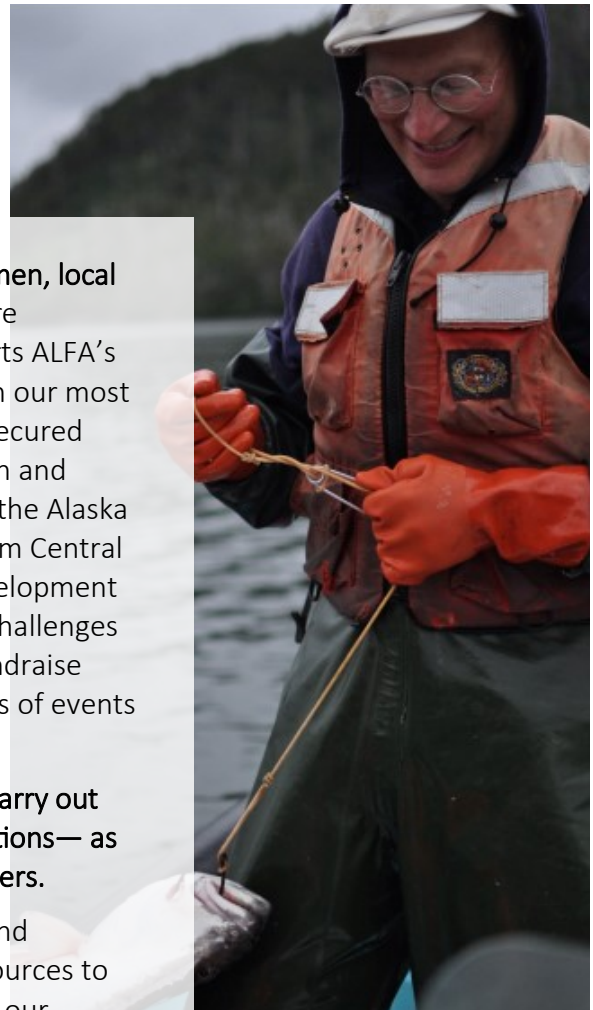
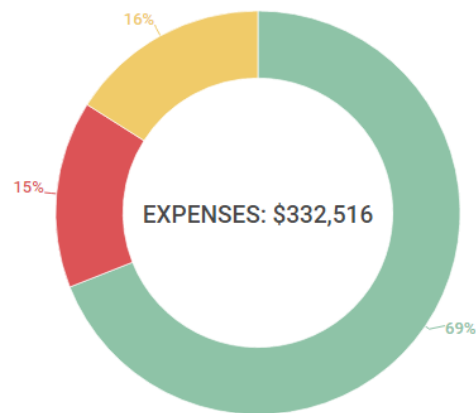
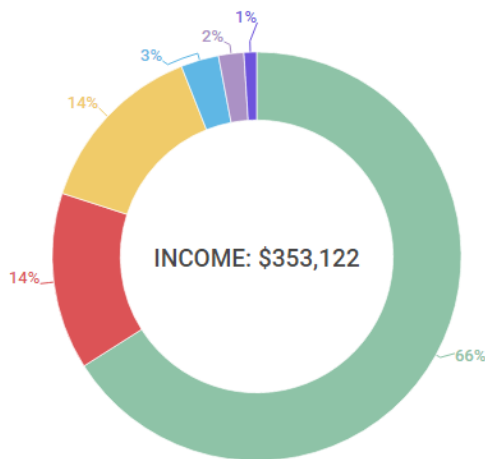


Photo Credit: Caroline Lester



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

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

EVENTS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Executive Director, Linda Behnken greets attendees of ALFA's Alaska Day Open House.

All Photos by Alyssa Russell

ALASKA DAY OPEN HOUSE

What do you get when you combine over 130 amazing Sitkans, tables of delicious smoked seafood, a smorgasbord of fresh baked goods, local foods, breakfast treats and a wealth of information on the importance of small boat fisheries and sustainable fisheries policy? ALFA's Alaska Day Open House, of course!

Thank you to all who attended ALFA's second annual Alaska Day Open House and Smoked Seafood contest! Community members and fishermen alike arrived in crowds at the Sitka Sound Science Center to learn about ALFA's programs, enjoy a huge brunch (including smoked black cod), and take part in our smoked seafood contest. Senator Lisa Murkowski came by to talk about her work with fisheries policy and to commend ALFA for its successes and efforts in advocating for strong coastal communities. The event was a huge success and brought together a diverse crowd of Sitkans to learn more about ALFA and to share delicious meal!

A special thank you to our smoked seafood contest judges Jonathan Kreiss-Tompkins and Cindy Edwards and to our amazing Alaska Day volunteers: Megan Pasternak, Terry Perensovich, Kelli Leonard, Elisabeth Schafer and Jeff Farve.



Megan Pasternak sells ALFA Seafood Raffle Tickets.



Smoked Salmon entered into the ALFA Smoked Seafood Contest & Seafood Contest Judges Jonathan Kreiss-Tompkins and Cindy Edwards announcing winners of the Smoked Seafood Contest.



Senator Lisa Murkowski is presented an ALFA Sweatshirt by ALFA staff and board.

FISHERMEN'S EXPO

In October, ALFA hosted a series of workshops and on-board training programs for local fishermen. The workshops started with a day of bathymetric mapping classes that included both beginner instruction and an advanced session. Many participants also received free onboard trouble-shooting or installation assistance from Nobeltec technicians the following day. Many thanks to workshop co-sponsors: Current Navigation, Nutritional Alaskan Foods in Schools, Mustad, Precision Boatworks, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Sustainable Southeast Partnership, and Renewable Energy Alaska Project!



ALFA EXPO Presenter: Highliner Poggy Lapham.

The bathymetric mapping workshop was followed by two days of presentations on the costs, logistics, and challenges associated with converting from hook and line to pot longlining for sablefish. Gear manufacturers, hydraulic experts, and an experienced pot fisherman from Oregon were on hand to share knowledge and answer questions.

Over a two-hour lunch session, project partners in the ongoing commercial fleet fuel efficiency study joined forces to update fishermen on study results, which included a number of ways fishermen can save fuel through operational changes. Call Chandler Kemp (747 3400) if you are interested in using our online audit tool to see where you are losing efficiency on your vessel.

If you have questions about bathymetric mapping or if you would like to see a specific topic covered in the upcoming 2017 Sitka Fishermen's Expo, let us know! We can be reached at (907) 747-3400 or email alfa.staff@gmail.com

OUR CREW

ALFA'S STAFF AND BOARD



Linda Behnken
Executive Director



Dan Falvey
Program Director



Willow Moore
Assistant Executive
Director



Brooke Schafer
Office Manager



Alyssa Russell
Outreach & Communications
Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Dick Curran, F/V Cherokee

Vice-President: Jeff Favour, Deckhand Representative

Secretary: Terry Perensovich, Skiff Representative

Treasurer: Stephen Rhoads, F/V Magia

Frank Balovich, F/V Carol D

Richie Davis, F/V West Bank

Steve Fish, F/V Kariel

Norm Pillen, F/V Sherri Marie

Phil Wyman, F/V Archangel

THANK YOU

No annual report would be complete without a heartfelt thank you to the foundations, businesses and members who support ALFA's work. First and foremost, the Oak Foundation recognized ALFA's potential in 2008 and invested in our Fishery Conservation Network. The Oak Foundation continues to support our work through a core capacity grant.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has selected ALFA and Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust for multiple Fisheries Innovation Fund grants and one specific to Electronic Monitoring that is supporting our current EM work. Saltonstall-Kennedy, the Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, and the North Pacific Research Board have supported SEASWAP, and the Bycatch Reduction and Engineering Program has supported FCN work with Scripps to develop Smarhooks.

The Alaska Conservation Foundation awarded ALFA a Rapid Response grant to work on abundance based halibut bycatch management, and the City of Sitka invested in ALFA's Young Fishermen's Initiative.

The Seafood Producers Cooperative is our highliner business member, and many other businesses, both inside and outside Sitka, support ALFA's work.

Last but not least—thank you to ALFA's fishermen members, who inspire and inform our work each and every day.