

# PRIBILOF ISLANDS COLLABORATIVE



## Executive Summary of the Initial Issue Discussion

APRIL 6 – 7, 2004

UAA COMMONS • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Materials for the Initial Issue Discussion and this Executive Summary  
designed/provided by Resource Solutions, University of Alaska Anchorage

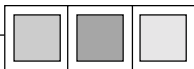
For the Full Meeting Summary, please contact Denise Woods at (907) 279-5504 or  
wwfberingsea@alaska.net; or Meg King at (907) 257-2716 or anmjk@uaa.alaska.edu

The summaries are also posted on [www.worldwildlife.org/beringsea\\_erb/](http://www.worldwildlife.org/beringsea_erb/)

*Thank you  
to the following organizations for providing funding support:*

Alaska Conservation Foundation  
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association  
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association  
Marine Conservation Alliance  
NOAA Fisheries—Protected Resources Division  
St. Paul Tribal Government  
TDX Corporation  
The Nature Conservancy  
World Wildlife Fund

---



## **Pribilof Islands Collaborative: Background**

On April 6 – 7, 2004, the first *formal stakeholder meeting* of the Pribilof Islands Collaborative was held. Over the past eighteen months, a series of discussions among the diverse, key stakeholders have been held to determine if the economic viability and sustainability of the Pribilof Islands' marine resources and the various communities and industries that depend on them were significant enough to warrant stakeholders' deliberate efforts to build agreement on recommendations. The intent is that the diverse stakeholders will together take these agreements forward to the decision making bodies of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service. These discussions have resulted in the Pribilof Islands Collaborative, which is anticipated to work for the next 18–24 months on key issues of mutual interest. The need to have formal stakeholder representatives was identified early in the discussions for the purpose of having consistent and accepted representation of the key stakeholder groups.

Previous organizing meetings for the Pribilof Islands Collaborative were held in November 2002, September 2003, and January 2004. Those participating in previous meetings were from St. Paul and St. George Islands, the fishing industry and conservation groups, federal government agencies, and universities. Executive summaries of the previous meetings are available. Please contact any of the Steering Committee members or Denise Woods at (907) 279-5504 or [wwfberingsea@alaska.net](mailto:wwfberingsea@alaska.net). The summaries are also posted on [www.worldwildlife.org/beringsea\\_erb/](http://www.worldwildlife.org/beringsea_erb/).

The next meetings are scheduled for August 24–26 on St. Paul and tentatively, November 3–5 in Anchorage to begin midday on Wednesday, November 3rd as Tuesday the 2nd is Election Day.

### **Purpose of the Collaborative**

The purpose of the Pribilof Islands Collaborative is for a consistent and representative group of stakeholders to identify areas of agreement on policies, strategies, and actions that promote a strong economy and a healthy ecosystem in and around the Pribilof Islands while maintaining viable commercial fisheries and subsistence harvests in the central Bering Sea.

The process will provide participating stakeholders with the opportunity to be proactive, rather than reactive, to a variety of marine resource concerns including fluctuations and declines in populations of northern fur seal and crab, changes in some seabird populations, and reductions in halibut availability around the Pribilof Islands.

### **Purpose and Outcomes of the Meeting**

The purpose of the April 2004 meeting was for formal stakeholders to discuss resource and economic concerns about the Pribilof Islands and surrounding marine ecosystem. By the end of the two days, four work groups were created.

#### **Work Groups**

**1. Halibut and Related Economic Issues.** This group will work on a number of items ranging from data needs to defining what goals the Collaborative should set for itself in relation to this issue.

### ***Workgroup Members***

Philip Lestenkof (St. Paul CBSFA)  
Thorn Smith (North Pacific Long Line Association)  
Ed Luttrell/John Govin (Groundfish Forum)  
Kevin Kennedy (TDX–St. Paul)  
Larry Prokopriof  
Larry Cotter (APICDA)  
Clair LeClair (Alaska Marine Conservation Council)  
Richard Zacharof (St. Paul Traditional Council)  
Phil Zavakil (St. Paul Traditional Council Ecosystem Office)

### ***Sample of Specific Goals Identified Related to Halibut and Associated Economic Issues***

- Develop prioritized research list
- Develop prioritized management techniques/actions/experiments, such as tagging and assessing the positive and negative effects and impacts of Pribilof No Trawl Zone, and others;
- Affect higher catch than currently for Islanders, and the Collaborative should search for ways to accomplish this.
- Increase and enhance economic opportunities on Islands for Islanders.

**2. Northern Fur Seals.** This group will primarily focus on the Northern Fur Seal Conservation Plan from the National Marine Fisheries Service – originally approved in 1993 and currently being revised – this will include creating support to fund the strategies and research needs identified in the plans.

### ***Workgroup Members***

Aquilina Lestenkof (St. Paul Traditional Council Ecosystem Office)  
Robert Melovidov (TDX-St. Paul)  
Anthony B. Mercurief (St. George Traditional Council)  
Larry Cotter (APICDA)  
Heather McCarty (CBSFA)  
Evie Witten (World Wildlife Fund)  
Paul MacGregor (At Sea Processors)  
Char Kirkwood (City of St. Paul)  
Phil Zavakil (St. Paul Traditional Council Ecosystem Office)  
Randy Hagenstein (The Nature Conservancy)

**Note:** It was also noted that it may be useful to have researchers participate in this workgroup.

### ***Sample of Specific Goals Identified Related to Northern Fur Seals***

- Stop the decline of northern fur seals.  
(Copies of the current, 1993 NMFS Conservation Plan were distributed to participants. Explanation of why this plan is still relevant focused on a lack of funding and the plan—primarily a research plan—has not been implemented. The only research that’s been done is baseline monitoring.)
- First, the Workgroup should review the NMFS Conservation Plan(s)—current and the new draft of proposed plan.
- Identify those parts of the Conservation Plan the Collaborative can support and prioritize.
- Develop mechanisms to support implementation, e.g. assist to find research funds.

**3. Crab and Related Economic Issues.** This group will also work on a number of items ranging from data needs to defining what goals the Collaborative should set for itself in relation to this issue. The group is still trying to identify a crab industry representative to participate as a formal stakeholder in the Collaborative.

### **Workgroup Members**

Ron Philemonoff (TDX – St. Paul)  
Max Malavansky, Sr. (City of St. Paul)  
Kris Norosz (Icicle Seafoods)  
Heather McCarty (CBSFA)

Sample of Specific Goals Identified Related to Crab

- Recruit Formal Stakeholder Representative from the crab industry to participate in Collaborative.
- Revise strawman Problem Statement (Heather McCarty will take the lead on this.)

### **4) Pribilof No-Trawl Zone**

Although this was not a specifically identified issue at the start of the meeting, it continued to surface during discussions. The area has already been closed for almost 10 years and the following proposal was made and agreed to: *The workgroup will draft a letter or resolution from the Pribilof Islands Collaborative to the NPFMC, NMFS, USFW, PCCRC, and NPRB requesting them to evaluate the positive and negative effects and impacts of the closure after nearly 10 years by conducting the research or initiating a process to solicit proposals to conduct the research.*

### **Workgroup**

-Phillip Lestenkof (CBSFA)  
-Karin Holser (St. George Stewardship Program)  
-Heather McCarty (CBSFA)  
-Margaret Williams (World Wildlife Fund)  
-Paul MacGregor (At Sea Processors)  
-Randy Hagenstein (The Nature Conservancy)

**Seabirds** were also discussed, though no work group formed. The Collaborative identified the need to enhance and protect the habitat and environment for seabirds and sea duck populations on St. Paul and St. George Islands.

### **Emerging Strategies**

After reviewing the notes from the discussion on Halibut CPUE, several overarching strategies emerged that might be useful for the Collaborative to use to address all the identified issues.

### **Goal Setting: Sustainability of resource, economy, community and culture**

- Identify what is a healthy ecosystem.
- Identify what is a healthy economy.
- Identify what is a healthy subsistence harvest/lifestyle.
- Identify what is a healthy commercial harvest.
- Identify what we have now and create a “road map” to achieve the identified healthy future.

### **Biology and Research Concerns/Access to Data**

- Determine what information is already available and how to get it in useable formats.
- Determine what information is lacking.
- Determine what is needed and determine how to get it—ask those who have it, or determine if the Collaborative will need to contract for it.
- Determine how best to utilize the information/data.
- Use data others have developed: NPFMC, IPHC, NPRB.

***Understanding Research Funding Decisions***

- NPRB and the NMFS database on Steller Sea Lion Research.
- Management of funding and research.

***Accelerate our Learning***

- Consider what is already being done—current plans, proposals, and data available from others.
- Look back on and compile the history to help us in our decision-making (e.g., look to commercial fur seal industry as viable activity we could model for Islanders’ to benefit from—think in terms of fisheries and value added activities such as processing, marketing, etc.).

***Maps/Information Needs Identified***

- Bering Sea Area
- 100 miles around the Pribilofs, a “zoom-in” map
- Data, based on geography
  - Distribution of fishing fleet
    - Target fishing
    - Bycatch removals
  - Average Size of Fish Taken
    - Target Fishery
    - Bycatch
  - Overall abundance trends of Halibut overtime
  - Migration Patterns
    - Biomass Distribution Overtime
- Data prior to 200 mile limit for comparison

**Formally Designated Stakeholder Representatives for the Pribilof Islands Collaborative**

\* = Present at the meeting

\*\* = Steering Committee members present at meeting. (Steering Committee members not listed are Greg McGlashan and Max Melavanski, Jr. from St. George Island, and Joe Sullivan of Mundt MacGregor.)

<b><i>Stakeholder Group</i></b>	<b><i>Organization/Industry Sector</i></b>	<b><i>Representative or Organization</i></b>
<b>St. Paul Island</b>	TDX Corporation	Kevin Kennedy (alt: Ron Philemonoff*)
	City of St. Paul	John R. Merculieff (alt: Simeon Swetsof)
	St. Paul Tribal Government	Richard Zacharof*
	At-Large	Aquilina Lestenkof**
<b>St. George Island</b>	At Large	Phillip Zavadil*
	Tanaq Corporation	Lee Little* (alt: Andy Kashevarof)
	City of St. George	Max Malavansky, Sr.*
	St. George Tribal Government	Andy Malavansky (flight cancelled, missed mtg.)
<b>CDQ Groups</b>	At-Large	Lawrence Prokopriof (flight cancelled, missed mtg.)
	CBSFA	Karen Holser*
	APICDA	Phillip Lestenkof* (alt: Robert Melovidov*)
<b>Industry</b>		Larry Cotter**
	Head & Gut Sector	Ed Luttrell* (Groundfish Forum)
	Long Liner Sector	Thorn Smith* (North Pacific Long Line Assoc.)
	Pelagic Trawl Catch/Process Sector	Paul MacGregor* (At-Sea Processors Assoc.)
	Crab Sector	(alt: Art Nelson*) None present (Kris Norosz* and Heather McCarty** will contact organizations)
<b>Conservation</b>	The Nature Conservancy	Randy Hagenstein**
	World Wildlife Fund	Margaret Williams* (alt: Evie Witten**)
	AMCC	Claire LeClair*
	The Ocean Conservancy	Jeremiah Millen*
	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Seat Currently Not Filled</i>	

**Note:** Due to difficult travel logistics, the group may have to be flexible with those participating from the Islands. For example, St. George air service was cancelled on the day prior to the meeting, so those on St. George planning to attend were unable to do so. Those from the City of St. Paul were also unable to attend; Char Kirkwood filled the chair for the City. Kris Norosz of Icicle Seafoods participated as a “stand-in” for a formal stakeholder to help balance representation for the fishing industry. The group agreed to designate and name official alternates prior to the next meeting.

## List of Participants

Wanetta Ayers • Southwest Alaska Municipal Council

3300 Arctic Blvd., Suite 203, Anchorage AK 907-562-7380 wayers@swamc.org

David Banks • Alaska State Director, The Nature Conservancy

715 L Street, Suite 100, Anchorage AK 99501 907.276-3133 Fax 907.267-2485  
dbanks@tnc.org

Dave Cormany • Pribilof Islands Program Mgr., NMFS, AK Region, Protected Resources Division

222 West 7th Avenue, Suite 43, Anchorage AK 99513 907.271-3024 Fax 907.271-3030  
dcormany@noaa.gov

Larry Cotter • Chief Executive Officer, APICDA

234 Gold Street, Juneau AK 99801 907.586-0161 Fax 907.586-0165 lcotter@apicda.com

Connie Fredenberg • Natural Resources Coordinator, A/PIA

201 East 3rd Avenue, Anchorage AK 99501 907.222-4222 constancef@apiai.com

Randy Hagenstein • Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy

715 L Street, Suite 100, Anchorage AK 99501 907.276-3133 Fax 907.276-2584  
rhagenstein@tnc.org

Karin Holser • Coordinator, Pribilof Islands Stewardship Program

P.O. Box 306, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-3190 Fax 907.546-2210 kholser1@yahoo.com

Shelley Johnson, Program Coordinator, AON

308 G Street, Suite 219, Anchorage AK 99501 907.929-3553 Fax 907.929-1562  
shelley@alaskaoceans.net

Charlotte Kirkwood • 31424 7th Place SW, Seattle WA 98023 253.946-5362 or 907.546-3110

Fax 253.946-0723 or 907.546-3118 ckirkwood@earthlink.net

Clair LeClair • Board Member, Alaska Marine Conservation Council

P.O. Box 101145, Anchorage AK 99517 907.277-5357 northsister@acsalaska.net

Aquilina Lestenkof • Co-Director, Ecosystem Office, Tribal Government of St. Paul

P.O. Box 86, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2641 Fax 907.546-2655 aquilina@tdxak.com

Phillip Lestenkof • President, Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association

P.O. Box 127, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2597 Fax 907-546-2450 plestenkof@cbsfa.com

Leland Little • Chief Executive Officer, St. George Tanaq Corporation

2600 Denali Street, Suite 300, Anchorage AK 99503 907.272-9886 leland.sgt@ak.net

Ed Luttrell • Executive Director, Groundfish Forum 206/213-6270 edluttrell@seanet.com

Paul MacGregor • General Council, At-Sea Processors

999 3rd Avenue, Suite 4200, Seattle WA 98104 206.624-5950 Fax 206.624-5469  
pmacgregor@mundtmac.com

Martha Malavansky • The Aleut Corporation

4000 Old Seward Highway, Anchorage AK 99503 907.561-4300 mmalavansky@aleutcorp.com

Max Malavansky, Sr. • Administrator, City of St. George

P.O. Box 929, St. George Island AK 99591 907.859-2263 Fax 907.859-2212  
mayormax@yahoo.com

Molly McCammon • Alaska Earth Observation Systems  
 3007 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Suite 100, Anchorage AK 99501 907.770-6543 mccammon@aoos.org

Heather McCarty • CBSFA 319 Seward Street, No. 3, Juneau AK 99801 rising@ptialaska.net

Robert Melovidov • P.O. Box 87, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2597

Victor Mercurief • TDX Corporation  
 P.O. Box 88, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2478 vnm\_senior@tdxak.com

Jeremiah Millen The Ocean Conservancy  
 425 G Street, Suite 400, Anchorage AK 99501 907.230-5650 jjmillen@yahoo.com

Art Nelson • At-Sea Processors Association  
 431 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 201, Anchorage AK 99501 907.276-8252 anelson@atsea.org

Kris Norosz • Icicle Seafoods  
 P.O. Box 1147 Petersburg AK 99833 907.772-4294 krisn@icicleseafoods.com

Brent Paine • Executive Director, United Catcher Boats  
 3491 Andree Drive, Anchorage AK 907.243-2222 bpaine@ucba.org

Kurt Parkin • The Nature Conservancy  
 715 L Street, Suite 100, Anchorage AK 99501 907.276-3133 Fax 907.276-2584 kparkan@tnc.org

Karen Plentikoff • Trade Food Assistant, A/PIA  
 201 East 3rd Avenue, Anchorage AK 99501 907.222-4286 Fax 907.222-4273 karenp@apiai.org

Ron Philimonof • Chief Executive Officer, TDX Corporation  
 4300 B Street, Suite 220, Anchorage AK 99503 907.278-2312 ron@tdx.alaska.com

Greg Siekaniec • USFWS/ AMNWR  
 95 Sterling Hwy Suite 1, Homer AK 907.235-6546 gregory\_siekaniec@fws.gov

Thorn Smith • North Pacific Longline Association  
 4209 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, Seattle WA 206.282-4639 thorndog@npla.net

Art SOWLS • USFWS/ AMNWR  
 95 Sterling Hwy Suite 1, Homer AK 907.235-6546 art\_sowls@fws.gov

Joe Sullivan • Attorney at Law, Mundt MacGregor  
 999 Third Avenue, Suite 4200, Seattle WA 98104 206.624-5950 Fax 206.624-5469  
 jsullivan@mundtmac.com

Margaret Williams • Director, World Wildlife Fund, Bering Sea Ecoregion Program  
 1250 24th Street NW, Washington DC 20037 202.778-9573 Fax 202.822-3451  
 margaret.williams@wwfus.org

Evie Witten • Director, Alaska Field Office, World Wildlife Fund  
 406 G Street, Suite 303, Anchorage AK 99501 907.279-5504 Fax 907.279-5509 wwff@acsalaska.net

Denise Woods • Research Assistant, Alaska Field Office, World Wildlife Fund  
 406 G Street, Suite 303, Anchorage AK 99501 907.279-5504 Fax 907.279-5509  
 wwffberingsea@alaska.net

Richard Zacharof • President, Tribal Government of St. Paul  
 P.O. Box 86, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2211 Fax 907.546-2407 rzacharof@tdxak.com

Phil Zavadil • Co-Director, Tribal Government of St. Paul, Ecosystem Conservation Office  
 P.O. Box 86, St. Paul Island AK 99660 907.546-2641 Fax 907.546-2655 pazavadil@tdxak.com

***Facilitator***

Margaret (Meg) King • Program Manager, Resource Solutions, Environment and Natural Resources Institute,  
 University of Alaska Anchorage, 707 A St., Suite 101, Anchorage AK 99501  
 907.257-2716 Fax 907.257-2754 anmjk@uaa.alaska.edu