

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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NEWS RELEASE

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MADSEN LEADS NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Juneau resident Stephanie Madsen was elected to lead the North Pacific Fishery Management Council this week by a unanimous vote of her Council peers. She took up the reins of the 15-person Council Wednesday.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council manages Alaska fisheries, the biggest in the nation with a 900,000 square mile territory in the North Pacific that annually provides about half the ocean protein caught in United States waters.

“I admire the accomplishments of the Council chairmen who came before me, Rick Lauber and Dave Benton,” said Madsen. “My goal is to keep the Council on the track they pioneered.”

Madsen is the first woman to lead the Council: citizens and Council members haven’t been sure how to address her formally. ‘Madam Chair’ appears to be winning out over other possible titles when Madsen is addressed during public testimony or council debate.

Madsen has been a Council member since 2001. She started serving on the Advisory Panel of the Council in 1993, and was Vice Chairman of that panel from 1995 until she was appointed to the Council.

The Council has four non-voting and 11 voting members, including three new voting members, Ed Rasmuson, Arnie Fuglvog and Dave Benson, who were sworn in at the October 2003 Council meeting.

Madsen is currently Vice-President of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association and formerly worked for the Aleutian Seafood Processor’s Association.

Madsen was raised in Ohio, but moved to Cordova in 1972. She also lived in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor before moving to Juneau in 1999. Her two children were born in Kodiak and spent most of their growing-up years in Unalaska. Stephanie Madsen’s husband was Tom Madsen, a well-known Aleutian aviator who died in 2002 in a plane crash.