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Press Release

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Seasonal Hiring to Boost Alaska Job Market

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's job market will begin to see a boost with seasonal hiring by the seafood, tourism and construction industries, which will create opportunities for Alaskans seeking work.

"Alaska puts more people to work in our spring and summer seasons than other times of the year," Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. "After our short winter days and inclement weather, these industries take advantage of our long summer days."

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities estimates that its 143 projects – more than \$1.2 billion in the state capital budget for highways, aviation and transit infrastructure – will bring an estimated 12,000 direct and indirect jobs, with associated wages and business growth throughout Alaska.

Also, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is expecting an increase in commercial salmon catches this year.

To help connect job seekers and employers, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is hosting career fairs and participating in others across the state.

A Fairbanks Job Fair will be Tuesday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Carlson Center. Free to job seekers, the fair provides an opportunity to meet with more than 100 employers and job trainers, including apprenticeships and internships. The Department of Labor suggests attendees bring a resume and dress for on-site interviews.

Job seekers interested in the seafood industry are encouraged to attend the At-Sea Processors Association Job Fair on Thursday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Anchorage Job Center-Midtown. Applicants must attend a seafood orientation and pre-register prior to interviews.

The Department of Labor-sponsored Mat-Su Valley Job Fair will be Wednesday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mat-Su College in Palmer. More than 50 employers will participate.

The 2009 Alaska Teacher Placement Educator Expo will be Friday and Saturday, April 17-18 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage.

Alaska's job market creates ripple effects throughout the economy. Statistics continue to show that Alaska has weathered the national mortgage problems better than almost any state. Alaska's housing market is stronger than the rest of the nation, with home prices remaining steady. Alaska had the second lowest percentage of delinquent mortgages in the nation in 2008 and the third lowest percentage of foreclosures of all 50 states.

Large per capita income gains in 2008 provided local consumers with ample disposable income and allowed them to pay off debt. Federal and military spending is also expected to be a stabilizing influence on Alaska's economy throughout this year.

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Alaska Job Center Network
jobs.alaska.gov

Job Fair Calendar & Recruiting
jobs.alaska.gov/jobfairs/index.htm

Alaska Economic Trends
labor.alaska.gov/trends/home.htm