



Your
SouthEast Alaska Guides Organization
2009 Membership Information

March, 2009

- **Why should I join SEAGO?**
- **What has SEAGO accomplished?**
- **What are your plans for 2009?**
- **How much does it cost and how are you addressing the difficult 2009 economy?**
- **How do I sign up?**





SEAGO Goes to Work for You! 2009 Membership Information

Dear Members & Friends,

This 2009 season presents unique challenges for the guided sport industry in Southeast Alaska. The economy has put a damper on bookings and unstable regulations are creating uncertainty with our customers.

Despite the choppy waters, people are stepping up and supporting SEAGO because they know this year will be critical for the rules and regulations that sustain or constrain our businesses.

SEAGO will be aggressively speaking out and acting on your behalf. At the Sitka Board of Fisheries (BOF) meeting, our industry got a good look at what can be accomplished when we work together. The world is run by those who show up. It's that simple. If we don't show up, if we don't make our views known to elected officials, board and council members, as well as state and federal regulators, they will assume we can easily adapt to things like a one-per-day halibut limit, and king closures during our season.

We have developed innovative exciting goals for 2009. On the following pages we review our accomplishments and share our vision for supporting the sport fishing industry throughout Southeast Alaska.

Finally, we need your financial support in order to continue to be a strong voice for you. We recognize that 2009 is going to be a difficult year and have adjusted our fee schedule accordingly.

On behalf of everyone at SEAGO, I want offer my sincere thanks for your continued support of our organization.

Sincerely,

Tom Ohaus
President
tom@seagoalaska.org

ps: Please pass this information along to others who may also be interested in joining SEAGO.

SEAGO • P.O. Box 422 • Sitka, Alaska 99835 • 907.947.2121

www.seagoalaska.org



Recent Accomplishments and 2008 Results

Recent Activity

Since the beginning of 2009, SEAGO has ramped up efforts to take strong leadership role in issues affecting every one of us:

- ✓ Represented sport fishing interests at the IPHC meeting in Vancouver, BC in January, '09
- ✓ Wrote NMFS about unfairness of 1-halibut bag limit
- ✓ Led the Southeast-wide coordination efforts at the Sitka BOF meeting in February, '09
- ✓ Filed a letter to the Governor Palin arguing unprofessional action taken by Commissioner Jensen at the Sitka meeting.
- ✓ Participated in the Anchorage BOF meeting in March, '09.
- ✓ Currently building a broad ranging Advisory Board consisting of experts in fishing science/biology, executives from other sport fishing groups, technology and political experts to ensure we represent the broad voice of all groups across Southeast

Over the Past Year

In our first full year of operation, SEAGO has been diligently working for you. In 2008 we:

- ✓ Assembled a strong Board of Directors and built a core base organization of dedicated sport fishing guides and lodge owners
- ✓ Participated in several Pacific Salmon Treaty initiatives on behalf of Sport fishers
- ✓ Participated in the Sportfish Guides Services Board Task Force
- ✓ Represented sport fisherman at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) meetings
- ✓ Supported efforts by the Charter Halibut Taskforce
- ✓ Hired an experienced Director
- ✓ Started an ongoing communications program of newsletters and email alerts





2009 Plan What are We Doing for You Now?

What's next?

With the hard won Sitka results, we will continue the momentum to achieve even more throughout the remainder of the year. For the remainder of 2009 we have identified nine key initiatives to advance sport fishing interests:

- Limited Entry Alternative – The verdict is in from the BOF and the NPFMC: increased allocation for growing the guided sport fishery isn't in the cards. Our industry will either design some form of regulation or have one designed for us by others – it's that simple. Several programs are currently being evaluated:**
 - Support/modify existing sport fishing guide bill draft or build an alternative. We see a need for critical changes in order to achieve wide acceptance
 - A halibut moratorium permit program with a control date of December 2005, passed by the NPFMC, is nearly ready for the Secretary of Commerce to sign.
- Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) conservation and allocation matters – We didn't achieve the results we hoped for at the Sitka BOF so we face the possibility of area wide closures. We will look for deep release options, regulation change, and we must continue to address the allocation issue.**
- Develop a long term plan to get us back to a two per day bag limit for halibut. The catch sharing plan passed in October 2008 at the NPFMC nearly assures a one per day bag limit for the guided anglers in Southeast Alaska forever – this isn't acceptable.**
- Push for more predictable regulations that are announced well in advance of our season.**
- Develop a plan for the 2010 statewide BOF meeting. We need to continue to show up in numbers to promote our issues.**
- Participate in the task force on "definition-of-possession" resulting from the Sitka BOF meeting.**
- Promote SEAGO as an umbrella organization working with other organizations.**
- Support salmon sportfishing initiatives including the Pacific Salmon Treaty, habitat restoration and preservation, and enhancement.**
- Expand our organization to include guides, lodge owners, and individual sport fishermen with a goal to reach more than 10,000 sport fishers in two years.**



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2009 Membership Your Support is Requested

And now we need your help!

Your membership and participation is key to us. Our industry can no longer rely on the efforts of a few well intentioned volunteers. In order for charter fishing to survive and continue to make major contributions to the coastal communities of Alaska we need a well funded organization and professional representation.

In recognition of the difficult economy, we have lowered our fees and created a flexible payment program for 2009.

- Installment payment plan – pay one half of your membership fee now and the remainder at the end of the fishing season in September.
- Pay what you can – More than anything else we want your participation in SEAGO. We want your insights & ideas, comments, opinions, and your participation in our various activities.

How much are membership fees? Much less than the cost of bad regulations!

We have simplified our fee structure into two categories, full and associate members.

- What is a Full Member? - If you own the boat or lodging, you fit in the Full Membership dues category. We made the fee structure based on the size of your business which allows you to pay according to your stake in the outcomes.
- Who can be an Associate Member? - Anyone who supports SEAGO but is not a charter fishing business owner. Associate memberships are for employees of charter businesses, other business owners (ie local merchants, tackle stores, fuel vendors, restaurants) and individuals who support our vision. Two levels of dues allow businesses and individuals to select the right level of support.

How do I become a member or renew if I'm an existing member? – It's very simple, just fill out the form on the next page and mail it to us along with your check.

Corporate sponsors – We have a special program for companies who wish to become SEAGO sponsors. Contact John Blair directly at 925-366-6638 for details.

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Please complete this form and mail with your check payable to SEAGO to:

SEAGO
PO Box 422
Sitka, AK 99835

If you have any questions or comments please contact John Blair at 925-366-6638 or john@seagoalaska.org

Sample Membership Fee Calculation

Full Membership: ## ____ vessel(s) x \$ 1,000 = _____
Or
 ## ____ lodging units (unit = housing for 1 boat load of
 guests, i.e.: 4-6 anglers) x \$1,000 = _____

Associate Membership: \$750 sustaining, \$250 supporting

Pay what you can Your membership participation is very important to us

2009 SEAGO Membership Information

Name:	
Business Name	
Address(street, city, state, zip)	
Phone	
Email	
Website	
Membership Type	Full <input type="checkbox"/> Associate <input type="checkbox"/>
Payment:	Full <input type="checkbox"/> Installment payment, (2 nd payment due Sept 1) <input type="checkbox"/>
Amount enclosed:	I'm paying what I can <input type="checkbox"/> Amount Enclosed \$ _____
\$ _____	Please call me, I can't pay but want to help <input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you very much for your support! We will acknowledge receipt with an email back to you as soon as received.

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