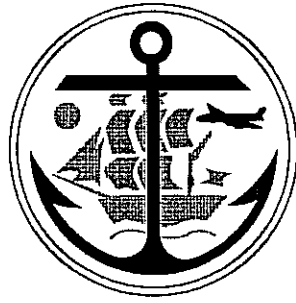


Municipality of
Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650
Telephone: (907) 343-7100
Fax: (907) 343-7180
Email : www.muni.org

Mark Begich, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2008
2008-02

Contact: Julie Hasquet, 343-7103
David Wigglesworth, 343-7116

Ship Creek Gets New Salmon Learning Center ***Public Invited to Help Design New Facility***

Anchorage is poised to become a regional destination for education and information about fisheries and aquatic resources with the construction of the **Ship Creek Salmon Learning Center**.

The Municipality of Anchorage is partnering with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to locate the learning center along side the planned upgrade to the ADF&G Hatchery Facility near Elmendorf Air Force Base.

The public is invited to provide ideas for the center's design and education venues at a free workshop sponsored by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) – Central Alaska, as part of the AIA150 program celebrating the 150th anniversary of the organization, on Jan. 19 at Eagle Glen Clubhouse, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Throughout the day professional architects will work with the public to identify facility design features to inspire visitors and build life-long stewardship of Alaska's salmon and aquatic resources. AIA-Alaska's architects will volunteer their time to translate ideas from the public into a working concept design for the facility that will be used by the City and ADFG to advance the project.

“Alaskans care deeply about salmon and aquatic resources and depend on them for food, jobs, and recreation,” said Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich. “We are excited about our partnership with Fish and Game and appreciate AIA’s willingness to help us make sure the center meets the needs of the public.”

Anchorage's Ship Creek is home to one of the most popular urban sport fisheries in Alaska, providing tremendous economic and recreational benefit to the entire state. The addition of the learning center offers an unparalleled opportunity to nourish a growing appetite for knowledge-based visitor experiences and to support statewide appreciation and stewardship of salmon and aquatic resources.

“The Division of Sport Fish delivers several statewide public information and education programs and demand for these programs is increasing,” said Charlie Swanton, director of the Division of Sport Fish. “Partnering with the MOA to design and building the learning center provides a tremendous opportunity to engage all Alaskans in the stewardship of our abundant fisheries resources.”

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s hatchery facility is a popular attraction for tourists and residents. In any given year as many as 60,000 people visit the facility and marvel at salmon viewing opportunities in nearby Ship Creek. ADF&G is embarking on an ambitious capital project to modernize the existing hatchery facility and the learning center is an exciting addition to the vision for this area. Venues being considered for the facility include a Living Stream Habitat, interactive visual kiosks, classrooms, multi-purpose area for community use, salmon viewing and links to Anchorage trails.

“AIA-Central Alaska is proud to help the City and ADF&G bring this project to fruition. This is an exciting project for Alaska,” said Marcie Errico, AIA Alaska 2008 President.

How to Participate

When: Saturday January 19, 2008 9:00am – 3:00pm

Where: Eagle Glen Clubhouse – immediately before Post Road Gate to Elmendorf AFB
No Security Check-In Required. Food and Refreshments Served

###