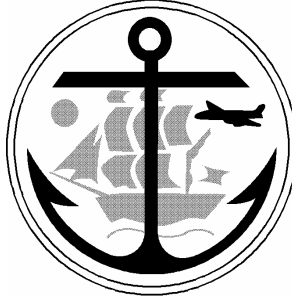


Municipality of  
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*Mark Begich, Mayor*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 6, 2006  
2006-38

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**PROJECT SIGNALS CONTINUED REHAB OF SHIP CREEK**  
***Comments from King Salmon Derby Anglers Sought***

As anglers flood the banks of Ship Creek to participate in the annual King Salmon Derby underway this week, efforts are underway to improve this premier fishing attraction for residents and visitors alike.

Annually, about 10,000 people fish Ship Creek – many returning for multiple fishing experiences. That’s 20,000 feet walking the banks of Ship Creek hoping to land a huge King or feisty Silver salmon.

The growing popularity of the Ship Creek fishery is resulting in bank trampling and stream bank erosion – which isn’t good for salmon and can be a safety hazard for anglers and for those who want to view salmon.

“There is no other city on the globe where you can land a 45-pound king salmon within sight of high-rise office towers and then walk just three blocks to a Broadway play or four-star restaurant,” said Mayor Mark Begich. “Anchorage is unique, and salmon in our city make us so.”

The City and numerous community groups, state and federal agencies are currently evaluating options to restore bank sections along the creek, improve angler access and public safety.

The public is invited to learn more about these activities and talk with City project managers Wednesday (June 7) from 3-6 pm at the Derby Pavilion/Ship Creek Plaza near the headquarters of the Alaska Railroad in Ship Creek.

The Ship Creek Fishing Access project is part of City’s *Salmon in the City* initiative focused on (among other projects) sustaining this extraordinary fishing experience just a short walking distance from downtown Anchorage.

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Ship Creek salmon recovery efforts began in 2005 with the removal of three corroded culverts and the subsequent installation of a new bridge providing access to Ship Creek Point.

Ship Creek and other *Salmon in the City* projects are being funded with a portion of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery fund designated for local salmon restoration work along Ship, Chester and Campbell creeks. The federal funding was secured through Alaska's congressional delegation, led by Sen. Ted Stevens.

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, overseen by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is a national program developed to ensure the sustainability of Pacific salmon. The City works in partnership with NOAA, the state Department of Fish and Game Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Service and other state and local organizations to implement eligible projects.

“This money appropriated by Congress, allows us to partner with other agencies that have money and expertise to move us forward on a number of important creek projects,” Begich said. “Local creek and salmon restoration activities provide significant economic, water quality and recreational benefits to our community.”

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