

## **New Leader in Valdez Silver Salmon Derby Weighs In at 18.42 Pounds**

VALDEZ – A Valdez woman was talked into buying a Valdez Fish Derbies ticket and after she picked up a 18.42 pound silver aboard the Marti Kay her investment of ten dollars could pay off big. Paula Groundwater reeled in the big silver salmon under sunny skies Sunday and will have to until Sunday to find out if it holds on to win the first place prize of \$15,000. Richard Kruckenberg of Fairbanks drops to 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the standings with his 17.64 pounder and Paula Noel of Circle, Alaska drops to 3<sup>rd</sup> place with her 17.50 pounder.

The Silver Salmon and Halibut Derbies end this Sunday at noon, so there are still a few days left to reel in a big one. According the Brian Marston of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, silver angling has been good near the narrows and out by Sawmill Bay. Silvers are also being caught by Shelter Bay near Hinchinbrook Entrance, but watch for abrupt changes in the weather out that way warns Marston. This coming Friday is *Big Prize Friday* and the 1<sup>st</sup> place daily winner will take home a Maxxon Inflatable Sport Boat from *Marita Sea & Ski* worth close to \$3,000 in addition to the daily 1<sup>st</sup> place prizes.

Strong winds and rain held back many halibut anglers last week, but sunny skies and calmer seas prevailed over the weekend. With the halibut derby ending Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> it looks like Kevin Lincoln of North Pole has a lock on the \$15,000 first place prize with his 343.6 pound flatfish. The Valdez Fish Derbies Spawn ‘til Dawn Derby Awards Party is Sunday night, 7pm at the Valdez Civic Center. Admission is free with a derby ticket. The evening will feature: presentation of winner checks; Fish Olympics; Seekins Ford truck drawing, Alaska Airlines Ticket Drawing, no-host bar, hors d’ouvres and more.

### **SILVER SALMON DERBY – OVERALL LEADERS**

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Charter</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Paula Groundwater	Valdez, AK	18.42 lbs.	8/27	Aurora
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Richard Kruckenberg	Fbks, AK	17.64 lbs.	8/11	Private
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Paula Noel	Circle, AK	17.50 lbs.	8/12	Tango

### **HALIBUT DERBY – OVERALL LEADERS**

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Charter</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kevin Lincoln	Fbks, AK	343.6 lbs.	8/5	Harvester
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Derek Nahinu	North Pole, AK	262.3 lbs.	7/7	North Country
3 <sup>rd</sup>	James Fields	Glennallen, AK	253.8 lbs.	8/1	No Excuses

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