

FISHING SEASON CELEBRATED AT SPAWN 'TIL DAWN PARTY

VALDEZ – Close to 300 people celebrated the end of the Valdez Fish Derbies Sunday night at the Spawn 'til Dawn Derby Awards Party at the Valdez Civic Center. Several of the winners were on hand to receive their checks, including Paula Groundwater who gave credit to the two women who talked her into buying a derby ticket on the dock before she caught the 18.42 pounder that eventually won her \$15,000. A \$500 cash prize was awarded to Stacey Mitchell, who sold the ticket to Groundwater. The \$500 1st Place winners captain's prize went to Paula's husband Lance Groundwater who skippered his private boat, the *Walrus* on the winning trip. Richard Krukenberg of Fairbanks won \$5,000 for 2nd place with his 17.64 pound silver and Mila Neubert of Fairbanks jumped onto 3rd place on the leader board Saturday with a 16.74 pounder to win \$2,000.

In the halibut derby, Kevin Lincoln's record 343.6 pound halibut took home the \$15,000 prize, with Donovan Swindel of Indio California jumping into 2nd place with the 262.7 pounder he caught late in the derby. Derek Nahinu of North Pole picked up his \$2,000 3rd place check for the 262.3 pounder he caught back in July. Steve Thurneau of Harvest Charters picked up both the \$500 cash prizes for selling the winning the ticket and the 1st place captain's prize for taking out Lincoln.

Several winners were on hand to pick up their checks, but G. Bennett of Sioux Falls, South Dakota was not on hand to find out he had won the truck from the Valdez Fish Derbies and Seekins Ford. Emcee Glenn Anderson called Bennett on a speaker phone from the Civic Center, but ended up leaving a message with the help of the screaming anglers in the room. Anderson also got the crowd involved in the annual Fish Olympics games that culminated in green team members winning lots of prizes. The dates for the 2007 Fish Derbies have been set and they can be found online at www.valdezfishderbies.com.

SILVER SALMON DERBY – OVERALL WINNERS

Place	Name	City/State	Weight	Date	Charter
1 st	Paula Groundwater	Valdez	18.42 lbs.	8/27	Walrus
2 nd	Richard Krukenberg	Fbks, AK	17.64 lbs.	8/11	Private
3 rd	Mila Neubert	Fbks, AK	17.62 lbs.	9/2	Private

HALIBUT DERBY – OVERALL LEADERS

Place	Name	City/State	Weight	Date	Charter
1 st	Kevin Lincoln	Fbks, AK	343.6 lbs.	8/5	Harvester
2 nd	Donovan Swindel	Indio, CA	262.7	8/29	Orion
3 rd	Derek Nahinu	North Pole, AK	262.3 lbs.	7/7	North Country

TRUCK WINNER

G. Bennett Sioux Falls, SD

BIG PRIZE FRIDAY WINNER– September 1st

Winner of Maxxon Inflatable Sport boat Courtesy of *Marita Sea & Ski*

1 st	Ross Hayden	Fairbanks, AK	17.44	9/1	Private Boat
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