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**ALASKAN ARTISTS HELP GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATE MESSAGE
OF OCEAN STEWARDSHIP**

Alaskan artists Ray Troll and Terry Pyles of Ketchikan, Alaska, have joined forces with the federal government to communicate and inspire public interest in sustaining the health and abundance of the nation's living oceans. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), commissioned Troll and Pyles to design original artwork that depicts the inter-relationships between species in marine ecosystems and with humans.

The artwork "Sustainability: It's In Our Hands" visually communicates the marine conservation and fisheries management missions of NOAA Fisheries. It captures both the big-picture complexity and individual responsibility of stewardship that all Americans share in sustaining the productivity of our oceans and in preserving coastal communities that rely on healthy marine ecosystems.

"This artwork is a dynamic and beautiful depiction of America's understanding and commitment to the stewardship of our oceans and living marine resources," said retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "This new visual depiction of the agency's mission and goals will help us reach out to younger Americans while increasing the public's awareness of government's role in maximizing the social and economic benefits of healthy marine ecosystems."

At a recent conference, "[Managing Our Nation's Fisheries – Past, Present and Future](#)" in Washington, D.C., Lautenbacher [unveiled the artwork](#) alongside Troll and Pyles, who were on-hand to sign posters. Framed and signed copies were presented to the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation for display in public forums on Capitol Hill.

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The agency recently relaunched its Web site with a new look developed from the artwork, along with mousepads and refrigerator magnets, with plans to use the graphics on annual report covers, in outreach materials, and for a new screensaver. This is the first time the agency has used a piece of artwork to create an integrated image for enhanced communications with the public.

“We believe this art will help inspire people to get more involved with local marine conservation efforts, think about careers in oceanography and marine biology, and become educated seafood consumers,” said NOAA Fisheries Director Bill Hogarth.

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation’s living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public. To learn more about NOAA Fisheries, please visit: www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

The Commerce Department’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation’s coastal and marine resources. To learn more about NOAA, please visit www.noaa.gov.

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Reporter Tools

For quotes and interviews, contact Ray Troll at (907) 225-5954 or Terry Pyles at (907) 225-2895.

Biographies of the artists are available online at:
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/about_bios/about_ray.htm and
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/about_bios/about_terry.htm

View the artwork and get the names of all the sea creatures and fishing vessels featured at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/about_bios/about.htm

Request a free copy of the poster! Send an e-mail to: cyber.fish@noaa.gov.