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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **GLOBAL FOOD ALASKA - 2007 Semi-Finalists Announced For Leadership Recognition**

Organizers of Global Food Alaska – 2007 are pleased to announce the 9 semi-finalists for this year's Recognition of Achievement Award. The finalists in each category will be announced at a special awards dinner on June 13, 2007 at Global Food Alaska – 2007.

The Recognition of Achievement Award acknowledges and profiles the efforts of those who have persevered to build a sustainable and competitive business from Alaska's food, beverage or bio products. The award recognizes leadership by those who have succeeded or beat the odds in making commercial success of Alaska's bounty and made a positive difference. Nominees were sought out who created a successful business through the application of commitment, dedication, hard work, ingenuity and innovation while meeting Alaska's challenges of remoteness, geography, weather, technical know how, limited population base and infrastructure.

Semi-finalists were selected in the three following categories.

**Grower/Harvester/Direct-Marketer:** An individual, who has demonstrated leadership that grows, harvests or markets Alaska food, beverage or bio products.

- Kevin Sidelinger - Sea Farms of Alaska
- Bruce Gore - Triad Fisheries
- Ben VanderWeele - VanderWeele Farms

**Manufacturer/Processor:** An individual who has demonstrated leadership that processes or manufactures Alaska food, beverage or bio products.

- Geoff Larson - Alaskan Brewing Company
- Scott Haines - Denali BioTechnologies
- Chuck Bundrant - Trident Seafoods

**Market Development:** An individual that played a significant role in pulling Alaska food, beverage or bio products into the local, national or international market-place.

- Ralph Carney - Alaska Chip Company
- Rob Baer - Alaska Spirit
- Dr. Maureen McKenzie - Yukon BioSciences

More information on the conference, tradeshow and awards dinner can be located at [www.globalfoodalaska2007.com](http://www.globalfoodalaska2007.com)

This year's awards review committee members were Ruby Hollembaek, Chair (Interior Game Ranch), Susannah Morgan (Food Bank of Alaska), Jeff Jones (Alaska Journal of Commerce), Greg Obeso (Lynden International) and William Quantick (West Coast Paper).

### **About Global Food Alaska – 2007**

Event Website Address: [www.globalfoodalaska2007.com](http://www.globalfoodalaska2007.com)

A two day conference and tradeshow. Designed to welcome commercial and institutional buyers, investors and supply chain partners to meet Alaska's commercial harvesters and producers, of food and bio products. The biennial event highlights the diversity of Alaska's industry and encourages participants to work across industry sectors horizontally and vertically to leverage resources and reduce costs.

Event objectives:

- Set the stage to think bigger maximizing Alaska's bounty – water, land and location. A demonstration of the bigger picture – living off of our bounty. What can our contributions be in terms of generation of business and economic development? How can we contribute to good health and sustainable production to create commercially viable business?

- Bring together the collective knowledge of local and national and international experts - no such event exists in Alaska for Alaskans or those outside of Alaska that want to do business here. Institutionalize the event every other year to become a focal point for engagement and to serve as a catalyst for a common industry.

- **Recognize leaders who have succeeded or beat the odds – in making commercial success of Alaska’s bounty. Recognize and feature Alaskan leaders who succeeded to develop globally competitive businesses – doing the nearly impossible.**

- Reduce the isolation of segmented areas of interest. Identify and maximize common ground. Bring together the leaders in seafood, water, by-products, biodiesel, nutraceuticals, produce, meats and value added and profile common ground in terms of markets, infrastructure and supply chain and encourage collaborative pilot partnerships to support better and stronger business.

- Introduce new products and services that support stronger and more efficient supply chains in and from Alaska to maintain and enhance competitive products.

- Identify common barriers and focus areas of work to combat those barriers for this industry.

- Bring buyers, market and investors to Alaska. Provide highlighted destinations of interest to see how and where product is produced and create a greater understanding and relationship with harvesters and food producing regions not otherwise accessed.

### **About Global Food Collaborative**

Global Food Collaborative, LLC. (GFC) is a private business facilitation company engaging all aspect of the supply chain of food and food-based products. It supports a membership of food and food-based producers and their supply chain partners with an overall mission to grow a strong and healthy food and food-based industry sector into, out of and through Alaska. GFC produces an on-line newsletter, Collaborative INSIGHTS, which offers a window into Alaska’s food and food-based industry and linkages for Alaska’s food supply chain. [www.globalfoodcollaborative.com](http://www.globalfoodcollaborative.com).

### **About Kenai Wild**

Kenai Wild is a collaboration of Kenai Peninsula harvesters who have raised the quality standards for harvest and processing to meet customer demands for high quality, healthy and safe food products. Kenai Wild markets all natural, sockeye salmon that meets and surpasses certified processing standards by the Alaska Quality Seafood Program. Kenai Wild (Cook Inlet Salmon Branding, Inc.)

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