

**Daniel S. Sullivan**  
*Commissioner*  
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste 1400  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-269-8431



**Public Information Center**  
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste. 1260  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
[www.dnr.alaska.gov](http://www.dnr.alaska.gov)  
907-269-8400

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**CONTACT:**  
**Division of Agriculture**  
**Johanna Herron, Farm to School Program, 907-799-0186**

### **Sitka Fish to School Project to be honored**

(Anchorage, AK) – First Lady Sandy Parnell will join Alaska Division of Agriculture Director Franci Havemeister in Sitka on Wednesday, April 11, to honor a coalition of Sitka residents and school officials for winning the grand prize in the division's first Alaska Farm to School Challenge.

The First Lady and Director Havemeister will honor Sitka's "Fish to School" project by attending a lunch from 11:20 – 12:30 pm at the Keet Goshi Heen Elementary school. Reporters are invited to attend and take pictures, though students shall not be identified in photos.

Sitka's Fish to School project was unique in that it brought together multiple stakeholders including the school food service program, a local non-profit, teachers, fishermen, and other community members to launch a program where Sitka-caught seafood is utilized in the school lunch program. The project has proven successful and sets an example for what can be done in other areas of the State.

"We are excited to honor Sitka in their efforts and appreciate that First Lady Sandy Parnell also sees the value in projects like this that highlight both Alaska's youth and natural resource bounty," Division Director Franci Havemeister.

For more information about the Farm to School Challenge, go to [http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag\\_challengeFTS.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_challengeFTS.htm).

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