

For Immediate Release

February 13, 2006

Alaska Fishing Industry Relief Mission

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**City of Valdez and AFIRM Donate
Critical Equipment to Help Stranded Gulf Fishing Boats**



Last week, in snowy Alaska weather, a 60-ton Marine Travel Lift, a mechanical harness device to move vessels from shore to sea, was donated by the City of Valdez, Alaska to aid Gulf of Mexico fishing industry relief efforts was prepared for transportation. Technician Dennis Sargent of Marine Travelift was on hand in Valdez to supervise the dismantling of the Travelift. The lift was packed onto a flatbed trailer to travel by barge and road. It is expected to leave Valdez by the end of January, en route to Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, where an estimated 3,000 commercial fishing boats were washed ashore during Hurricane Katrina.



While arrangements were being made, residents of Valdez were able to personalize the donation with an inscription and signatures.

The Alaska Fishing Industry Relief Mission (AFIRM) and the City of Valdez thank Marine Travelift Corporation of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, for the donation of the technician's work. Northwest Airlines donated the airfare to fly Sargent to Alaska and to Louisiana for reassembly when it arrives in February. North Star Terminal and Stevedore Company generously provided the crane and heavy equipment for the dismantling. AFIRM will cover any additional travel, lodging, labor and transportation costs to ensure that the City of Valdez will not incur incidental costs as a result of its generous donation.

AFIRM is a 100% volunteer, 501 (c) (3) qualified non profit organization of the Alaska seafood industry. It was organized by Senator Lisa Murkowski and members of the industry to help the Gulf of Mexico fishing industry in the wake last Fall's hurricanes. AFIRM is seeking donations from fishermen, processors, and other fishing industry participants that recognize the importance of a healthy and unified domestic U.S. seafood industry. For more information see the AFIRM website at www.akgulfhelp.org .

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Travelift loaded and ready to go.