

## Murkowski Announces Exporter of the Year Award

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### Murkowski Announces Exporter of the Year Award Alaska Exported \$2.5 Billion in Goods in 2002

ANCHORAGE – Governor Frank H. Murkowski has announced that the Sealaska Timber Corporation, an Alaskan company with offices or operations in Juneau, Ketchikan, Craig, Kake, and Hoonah has won the prestigious Governor's Exporter of the Year award.

“Sealaska's key exports to Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan and Canada have helped strengthen the Alaskan economy,” said Murkowski. “Sealaska is a hard working company that has been successful in securing customers around the world. I congratulate them on their perseverance in the international marketplace. The outstanding efforts by these Alaskan exporters should serve as an inspirational model for all of us. The markets are out there, and we can do it by working harder and smarter. The award is well deserved.”

Rick Harris of Sealaska accepted the award Thursday evening, May 22, 2003 at the annual Export Alaska banquet in front of 180 business leaders, members of the international consular corps, and state and federal officials.

The Governor's Exporter of the Year award for small businesses went to Northern Keta of Juneau, a salmon caviar company owned by Elizabeth Babich. Northern Keta received Marine Stewardship Council certification for its products in 2002. Babich, who could not attend the event because of a halibut opening, said that her company is known for its delicate handling and storage of product, swift delivery, and specialized packaging promoting Alaska. She was honored with the award after developing three new export markets in 2002: Russia, Hong Kong and France.

Murkowski said Alaskan companies exported an impressive \$2.5 billion worth of seafood, petroleum products, LNG, minerals, wood, and other products in 2002. Japan buys more than 40 percent of Alaska's exports - over 1 billion dollars worth in each of the past four years. Korea bought over \$400 million of Alaska exports this past year. Canada, Germany and China each surpassed the \$100 million mark. The Netherlands, Spain, Mexico, and Belgium each bought more than \$50 million of Alaska exports.

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