



Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Host: Molly McCammon

Notes by Holly Kent

The Alaska Marine Policy Forum is a bimonthly teleconference for Alaskans to network and share information about marine policy, budgets, and legislation at state, national, and international levels, sponsored by Alaska Sea Grant and the Alaska Ocean Observing System. Contact Sue.Keller@alaska.edu to be added to the list to receive a reminder and agenda for the next call, and summary notes following each call.

Alex Schenk, Sen. Sullivan's office

- Alex introduced Tom Mansour who is the US Coast Guard fellow working in the senator's office on marine issues, including the issue of marine sanctuaries and their impacts on local economies with Ernie Weiss, Natural Resources Director for the Aleutians East Borough. Tom's email contact is: Thomas_mansour@sullivan.senate.gov.
- Sullivan chaired a recent hearing on the marine debris issue with several witnesses testifying including Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI).
- The Save Our Seas Act on Marine Debris was held up by the health care issue but they do not expect any opposition.
- Hearings for the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act are scheduled to begin next week with a field hearing to be held in Alaska on August 23.

Ephraim Froehlich, Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office

Charlotte Regula-Whitefield, Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow

Juan Ramirez, USCG Fellow

- The budgets for programs important to Alaska including the National Sea Grant Program, National Estuarine Research Reserves and other science programs are doing well in the Senate Appropriations subcommittee process.
- Senator Murkowski and staff will be in Alaska for the month of August. Let Ephraim know if there are any events that they should attend.

Barbara Blake, Lt Governor Mallott's office

- The Lt Governor will be touring rural communities in August to talk about fisheries issues including both commercial and subsistence issues.
- The Alaska Sea Grant State Fellow, Danielle Meeker, is working in the Lt. Governor's office and is helping with fisheries, transboundary, and climate change issues.
- Lt Governor Mallott will be in Canada next week for a series of high level discussions including fisheries and transboundary issues.
- King salmon stocks increased enough this month to open a commercial harvest of incidental kings for the Lower Yukon Area.
- Barbara has taken back the lead on transboundary issues and is engaged with the DC leadership and Canadian officials. She has been trying to keep up with all the changes that are happening in the administration, State Department, EPA, etc. while the Lt. Governor is looking forward to an Ottawa visit with Senators Murkowski and Sullivan this fall.

Representative Paul Seaton, Homer

- He is busy with budget talks and also reports that the invasive species bill is moving through the state legislature.

Presentation on the statewide Adapt Alaska effort by Daniel Ahrens, NOAA Hollings intern working with Amy Holman at NOAA. PowerPoint slides are attached as a PDF

Doug DeMaster, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA

Doug announced that NOAA's Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute in Juneau will be hosting a 10th anniversary celebration and open house on August 19, 2017 from 1-4 PM. The UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences will also host an open house in partnership.

- AFSC will be hosting the NMFS Science Board meeting Aug 22-24 in Juneau.
- AFSC circulated a press release today about the discovery of a green deep-sea sponge that shows promise for cancer research.

Molly McCammon, Alaska Ocean Observing System

- Molly reminded folks about the upcoming Oceans' '17 conference hosted by MTS and IEEE from September 18-21 with 400 presentations, 20 special sessions, and 13 workshops.
- The Alaska Ocean Acidification Network published an information sheet on the [Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Alaskan species](#) which has seen great circulation. The OA network has a list of experts available to give presentations for communities and groups. If interested, contact [Darcy Dugan](#) to arrange for a speaker for your group.
- AOS will be hosting an Animal Telemetry Network workshop from December 5-6, 2017; more details will be available for the next call.

Next Alaska Marine Policy call: September 27, 2017, 1 pm Alaska time

Upcoming Events

September 18-21 [Oceans' '17 conference](#), Anchorage

December 5-6 Animal Telemetry Network Workshop, Anchorage