



## **Alaska Marine Policy Forum**

Summary from Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Host: Amy Holman

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](mailto:Sue.Keller@alaska.edu) to be added to the list serve to receive a reminder and agenda for the next call, and summary notes following each call.*

### **Ephraim Froehlich, Office of Senator Murkowski – Congressional Update**

Senator Murkowski introduced a bill related to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing last week, which was passed this morning in the Senate.

The Senate Oceans Caucus, which Senator Murkowski co-chairs with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, sent invitations to all senate members and has created an agenda for consideration. Marine debris will be first item on the agenda with several other ocean issues planned, including ocean acidification. The caucus' purpose is to both take on ocean issues legislatively and educate staff about ocean issues.

Ephraim will be in Anchorage and Fairbanks next week. Please contact him via email if you have issues to discuss.

### **Phil Mundy, NOAA - Chinook Run Timing Forecast and Partnership**

Three years ago, a partnership began between NOAA, ADF&G, and AOOS to use weather data from the AOOS data portal to forecast when Chinook will enter the Yukon River delta. This project was started in 2010 due to steep declines in the run. The latest recorded return occurred in 2012 and last year was the first time that no harvest was allowed - either commercial or subsistence.

Sea ice data, air temperatures, and sea surface temperatures were run through a model to create a research (not public) forecasting. This model has been run since 2011, and the first operational forecast was issued in 2014.

Based on the relatively mild winter of 2014-2015 and concerns over the "blob" of warm water circulating in the Pacific, there is the expectation of a slightly earlier run in 2015 so a preliminary forecast was issued recently predicting June 12<sup>th</sup> for the first fishable run. The forecast will be updated on June 1 and then periodically throughout the run.

The preliminary outlook can be found on the AOOS website, [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).

### **Chris Oliver, NPFMC - Update from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

The Council is meeting in Sitka the week of June 1 and the main issues include Chinook and chum salmon bycatch, halibut bycatch, and crab management. They will be discussing changes to bycatch limits in the Bering Sea.

The annual program review for the structured observer program will also be presented at the June meeting.

The Council is currently tracking legislation including the Magnuson-Stevens Act and HR1335 introduced by Congressman Young at the North Pacific Fisheries convention.

### **Sue Keller, Alaska Sea Grant - Wakefield Symposium Debrief**

Last week was the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium, and the theme was *Tools and Strategies for Assessment and Management of Data-Limited Fish Stocks*. The 3.5 day symposium went smoothly, and included 85 participants and 48 presentations with researchers from 11 different countries.

The topic for next year has not yet been selected and Alaska SeaGrant welcomes suggestions. Previous topics have included: high latitude crabs, forage fishes, and ecosystem-based management approaches.

### **Open Floor**

Danielle Dickson from the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) reported that NPRB has released a call for proposals for an integrated Arctic marine research program with \$1M in funding each from BOEM and the North Slope Borough/Shell Baseline Studies Program. Look for more information on the NPRB website, <http://www.nprb.org/>

### **Important Dates**

- May 12: National Association for Fisheries Economists - Ketchikan.
- June 6: Anchorage Coastal Clean-up Day – Lyn Ary Park
- Sept 15: Deadline for AOOS Ocean Film Contest, <http://www.aos.org/film-contest/>
- Sept 23-26: 8<sup>th</sup> Polar Law Symposium, Fairbanks and Anchorage
- Nov 6-8: WhaleFest, Sitka
- Nov 9-13: SeaGrant's Alaska Seafood Processing Leadership Institute - Kodiak.
- January 27-29, 2016: The Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit - Juneau.

Next Marine Policy call: July 22, 2015, 1 pm Alaska time