



Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Host: Molly McCammon

Notes by Darcy Dugan and 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 serve to receive a reminder and agenda for the next call, and summary notes following each call.

Eric Elam and Alex Schenk, Sen. Sullivan's office

- The senator has been appointed chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard. This subcommittee has jurisdiction over NOAA and the Coast Guard. At first the senator will be working to move bills through that aren't considered controversial, such as the NOAA Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Act, the reauthorization for Sea Grant, contracting/surveying/ocean mapping in Arctic and Magnuson-Stevens among others. The senator would also like to see the NOAA vessel Fairweather homeported somewhere in Alaska.
- Senator Sullivan participated in the confirmation hearing for Wilbur Ross as Secretary of the Commerce Department. In a private meeting with Ross, Sullivan found him to be open minded but with a lot to learn regarding fisheries. Ross was in Anchorage during the 1964 earthquake.
- The senator also met with Todd Ricketts, deputy secretary of commerce.
- The Commerce Department has approved some fishery disaster requests, one of which was for the Gulf of Alaska pink salmon fishery. Alaska State Rep. Louise Stutes of Kodiak championed this request.
- Senator Sullivan does not have any information on who the next head of NOAA might be but said that Mead Treadwell was on the list.
- The Commerce Committee will be considering the Vessel Incidental Discharge bill next week and the national standard as it relates to EPA and USCG enforcement.

Mike Defilippis, Rep. Don Young's office

- The Congressman introduced 38 bills on the first day of the session including the IOOS Reauthorization bill, the FTO Passport Revocation Act of 2015 and HR 200 to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Representative Young's office is hosting a National Sea Grant Knauss Fellow starting in February. She was nominated by Hawaii Sea Grant and has lived on Adak and worked at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. (Note: Sen. Murkowski's office will also be hosting a Knauss Fellow.)
- The make-up of many of the House committees has not been determined yet nor have chairmanships. Some subcommittees won't have their first meeting until March.

Barbara Blake, Lt Governor Mallott's office

- Barbara Blake represents both the Lt. Governor and Governor on natural resource issues.

- Blake reported that Governor Walker appointed her to the National Ocean Council Coordinating Committee.
- The governor is working on two pieces of legislation related to the Mariculture Revolving Fund and mariculture enhancement. This legislation would allow for the addition of shellfish and seaweed into hatchery programs.
- The Governor will be mentioning climate change briefly in his State of The State address. The administration is working on this issue, but it will not take precedence over the fiscal crisis. Governor Walker has asked the Lt. Governor to take the lead on climate change initiatives if one moves forward. The Lt. Governor's main goal is to involve as many Alaskan voices as possible in the conversation. Please contact Barbara at barbara.blake@alaska.gov if you want to be involved.
- There have been conversations on re-engaging with the Pacific Coast Collaborative.
- Darcy Dugan has been named to the Ocean Acidification work group that is part of the collaborative.
- The governor's office is currently receiving applications for the Board of Fish. Barbara asks that people send their applications her way.

Marc Swanson, Seward Marine Center

- Marc is the lead coordinator for the Tsunami Bowl, which is the Alaska regional competition for the National Ocean Science Bowl sponsored by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. The Tsunami Bowl occurs in Seward February 16 - 19 and is one of 24 regional competitions occurring around the nation.
- The national competition will be in Corvallis, Oregon this year.
- The Seward Tsunami Bowl, which is in its 20th year, has 16 teams, with 120 kids competing from all around Alaska. There are 80-90 volunteers and judges involved in this event.
- The Alaska competition has an additional research component unlike the other regions. This year's research focus is "Resource Management in a Warming Pacific Ocean". These research papers will be presented at the national competition.
- There is also an ocean art show component of the regional competition, with artwork on exhibit at the Alaska SeaLife Center in March.
- Marc says that they have key volunteer positions filled but if anyone is interested in helping they can contact him at 907-224-4311 or mswanso1@alaska.edu.

Amy Holman, NOAA

- The Coastal Resiliency Grant Program Federal Funding Opportunity announcement came out last week with two categories: Strengthen Coastal Communities and Habitat Restoration. 1-3 year projects can seek funding between \$250K and \$1M. There is \$15 M available. There is a 2-1 federal to non-federal match requirement. Tribes are eligible, and the match may be waived. All projects require a letter of support from the Governor. More information can be found [here](#).
- Amy reported on the damage from a series of large storms that moved up the west coast following Christmas. Extensive damage was done to rural areas, particularly on St. Lawrence Island. The National Weather Service sent representatives to the two communities on the island to view the damage and speak to the residents. The goal was to learn about impacts in order to improve future forecasts and communication.

Tara Borland, Alaska Sea Grant

- Alaska Sea Grant has an RFP out now for research proposals with a deadline of February 27 for pre-proposals.
- Applications for the National Sea Grant Knauss Fellowships are being accepted until February 21.
- The application deadline for the Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship is February 24.

- Tara would be happy to send flyers out to interested people and can be contacted at taborland@alaska.edu.
- The Wakefield Symposium, Impacts of a Changing Environment on the Dynamics of High-latitude Fish and Fisheries, will be May 9–12, 2017 at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage.

Betsy Baker, NPRB

- Betsy is the new Executive Director of NPRB.
- NPRB is currently soliciting nominations for their Science and Advisory Panels. The deadline is March 1. [More info](#).

Tina Buxbaum, ACCAP

- The deadline for abstracts for the Climate Prediction and Application Science Workshop has been extended to January 31.

Molly McCammon and Darcy Dugan, AOOS

- The Marine Technology Society conference will be in Anchorage this September.
- The Ocean Acidification State of the Science Workshop was held in Anchorage at the end of November with 14 presenters and more than 200 people attending either in person or online. All presentations, including videos, from this workshop are posted on the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network website. There will be a summary report on the website in the next month.

Next Alaska Marine Policy call: March 22, 2017, 1 pm Alaska time