



Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, July 20, 2016

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

Erik Elam, Office of Senator Sullivan – Congressional Update

Congress is on summer recess until September and Senator Sullivan is in Anchorage right now.

The Senate passed the Sea Grant reauthorization bill.

Senator Sullivan is working with Senator Cantwell's office on the Marine Mammal bill, which passed the Commerce Committee and on a marine debris bill. The ICOOS Act reauthorization has passed out of Senate Commerce and is awaiting final action.

Chris Oliver, North Pacific Fishery Management Council – Meeting Update

The Council met in Kodiak in June and said goodbye to Duncan Fields whose term limited out.

The Council made several revisions and additions to alternatives for the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Groundfish Trawl Fisheries Program, which will be back on the Council's December meeting agenda before moving to a formal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

The Council reviewed the early years of the restructured Observer Program. The Council also revamped the list of research priorities required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. They divided the list of 143 priorities into four priority categories and have expanded their relationships to include more research institutions and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as well as working more closely with the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC).

Darcy Dugan, AOS – Update on the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network

The Alaska OA Network was established this spring and is now the fourth regional ocean acidification (OA) network in the US. The mission of the network is to help expand the understanding of ocean acidification processes and impacts in Alaska, as well as potential adaptation and mitigation actions and is overseen by a committee of stakeholders, with AOS providing coordination and facilitation support.

The new Alaska OA Network website will be launched on July 28, 2016 and will include information describing ocean acidification and identifying current monitoring activities in Alaska. A database of experts available to give presentations on the topic and links to research and additional information will also be found on the website. The goal of the website is to provide a central clearinghouse for Alaska for the public and researchers. Additionally, the network hosts a [list serve](#) open for subscription.

The Alaska OA Network is sponsoring a session on OA at the upcoming Aleutian Life Forum in Unalaska from August 16-19, 2016 and will be holding a State of the Science Workshop in Anchorage November 30–December 1, 2016. The network is currently looking for organizations that would like to host a presentation or briefing on OA in Alaska in addition to more collaborators to join the network.

Phil Mundy, NOAA – Yukon River Chinook Salmon Run Forecasting

This project was started six years ago and went public five years ago in response to stakeholder concerns over Chinook runs on the river. The run typically starts between June 10 and July 2, which is a broad range despite the 55 years of data that has been accumulated on run timing. The difficulty in predicting this run had always been the inaccessibility of environmental data, but with AOOs now providing that data this project is now possible. This year's run was a textbook example. The old timing methods were based on mean air temperatures and with the second warmest air temperatures on record for this year, the prediction could have been for a very early run, possibly June 10. However, data on sea ice and sea surface temperatures from AOOs were used to predict a slightly early to normal run.

Mundy says this type of prediction can be done for any river system with long-term data available, like the Copper River, and would most likely rely on a different combination of environmental parameters.

Matt Baker, NPRB – Arctic Integrated Ecosystem Research Program (AIERP)

The AIERP, the third integrated program for NPRB, was kicked off last month. This program is using a different approach than past IERPs by bringing in more partner programs to contribute both data and personnel time. The field portion of the program will start in 2017 and continue through 2019 followed by data analysis and synthesis. NPRB is working with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission to coordinate sampling activities with subsistence operations. The first project with potential timing conflicts has already been working to include local community member advisors onboard the RV *Sikuliak*. The AIERP program has been collaborating with Henry Huntington who has agreed to act as a liaison between researchers and local communities within the Northwest Arctic and North Slope Boroughs.

Open Floor

Holly Kent reminded folks that registration is open for the [Aleutian Life Forum](#) in Unalaska August 16-19 and that AOOs is accepting entries for the [2016 Short Film Contest](#).

Molly McCammon announced that the second [Promoting Coastal Resilience and Adaptation in Alaska](#) Workshop will be held immediately following the Aleutian Life Forum in Unalaska from August 19-20. She also mentioned that the [Arctic Council](#) will meet in Portland Maine October 4-6 and AOOs and its northeast Atlantic counterpart NERACOOS will be hosting an Arctic Ocean science symposium and reception. An Arctic science ministerial conference is being held at the end of September in Washington, D.C. to discuss Arctic science.

The [White House Office of Science and Technology Policy](#) is contracting an assessment of US Arctic observations and will be interviewing people regarding the systems that we now have in place.

Molly is participating on an external review committee for the Sustaining Arctic Observations Network (SAON) and will be conducting interviews and in-person meetings next week.

Important Dates

- Sept 15: Deadline for AOOs Ocean Film Contest, <http://www.aos.org/film-contest/>
- Oct 5-10: 9th Polar Law Symposium, Akureyri & Reykjavík, Iceland
- Sept ?: Coastal Resiliency Workshop, King Salmon
- Nov 6-8: WhaleFest, Sitka
- Nov 30-Dec 1, Ocean Acidification State of the Science conference, Anchorage
- December 8-9, Harmful Algal Bloom Workshop, Anchorage

Next Marine Policy call: September 21, 2016, 1 pm Alaska time