



Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Host: Paula Cullenberg

Notes by Sue Keller

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.

Ephraim Froehlich, Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office

- The Alaska delegation has written a letter to Secretary Kerry on the transboundary mining issue, requesting a meeting with him.
- During this congressional session the main concern now is the continuing resolution. Most likely the base bill issues will be addressed in an omnibus or mini-buses.
- Also of current concern is a Coast Guard–NMFS issue on using fishing vessels for conducting stock surveys. Sen. Murkowski is tracking the issue, with an interest in making the situation easy on Alaska fishermen.
- A letter has been sent to the US Navy who will conduct Northern Edge operations in the Gulf of Alaska in 2017. The concern is that stakeholders should have input into the effect on fisheries.
- As a member of the Ocean Caucus Sen. Murkowski will participate in briefings on invasive species and on the effects of climate change on fisheries. [See the new lay-person publication on the effects of climate change on Alaska fisheries published by Alaska Sea Grant: <https://seagrant.uaf.edu/bookstore/pubs/MAB-67.html>.]
- Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System (ICOOS) was re-authorized at noon today.

Mike Defilippis, Rep. Don Young's office

- Rep. Young's office has an appointment with the Director of Canadian Affairs this Friday regarding the transboundary mining issue.
- HR 4576 on Pacific Fisheries has passed the House and was sent to the Senate.

Barbara Blake, Office of Lt. Governor Byron Mallott

- The Governor has issued a letter to the Department of Commerce requesting disaster declaration for several pink salmon fisheries (LCI, PWS, Kodiak and Chignik). The Governor is considering requesting disaster declaration for pink salmon fisheries in King Cove and Sand Point as well as the Northern Southeast herring fishery. The process can take three years. A memo to DCCED has been issued to expedite any loan relief processing.
- The Governor issued a moratorium halting any action on A0279 (to move administrative functions of CFEC to ADF&G). More public input will be sought.
- Papers on coastal erosion and fish migration due to warming oceans went to the National Ocean Council.

- The Lt. Governor participated in the State Department's Our Oceans Conference held in Washington DC. He engaged in discussions on the effects of warming waters and ocean acidification on fisheries.
- Alaska may try to re-engage with the Pacific Coast Collaborative (WA, OR, CA, BC).
- The Mariculture Task Force will hold its second meeting September 30 at 8 am. Anyone can participate; contact barbara.blake@alaska.gov.
- The transboundary mining affects the headwaters of the three main rivers in Southeast Alaska. October 6 is a signing date for the Statement of Cooperation between the State of Alaska and British Columbia. The State of Alaska is also in contact with Secretary Kerry on this.
- The 9th circuit appeal by United Cook Inlet Drift Association against the NMFS and the State of Alaska received judgement in favor of UCIDA. This will have fisheries impacts.

Pete Jones, NMFS

- NMFS is closing in on the fiscal year. An NPRB meeting is coming up in Sitka. NMFS is preparing for the next NPFMC meeting in December. One issue is setting ABC quota. Staff are working on an abundance based management workshop for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.
- There have been some stranded whales.
- Most humpback whales will be removed from the Endangered Species List, but a few stocks will still be protected. This will be good news for Alaska.
- Three weeks ago NMFS was notified by the USCG that they may not be able to use chartered fishing vessels to do surveys; 60% of surveys are done this way now. NMFS may have to use passenger vessels and oceanographic vessels. This would cost more. Legal counsel is involved now.

Mark Everett, US Coast Guard

- Everett is willing to serve as a facilitator on sharing information on the charter issue, and direct people to the right personnel in USCG.
- The Bering Strait Arctic Chinook exercise went well. During the third week of August USCG partnered with Homeland Security and others to conduct this mass rescue drill operation, on procedures to follow if a disaster occurs on a cruise ship. Community residents practiced abandon ship exercises in life boats, etc. The successful operation happened to coincide with the presence of the *Crystal Serenity*.
- A dispersant use plan was signed in January 2016. Over the next 24 months USCG will conduct an outreach program to captains in western Alaska and Prince William Sound. Dispersants are used on crude oil spills. USCG wants to determine where more protection is needed; they will listen to residents, industry and others about potential avoidance areas (where dispersants would not be used). Community meetings will be held in Kenai, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, and Valdez.
- The EPPR (Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response) working group is preparing a survey for communities to assess resiliency to oil spills, including eight arctic nations.

Erin Shew, White House Knauss Fellow

The White House Council on Environmental Quality, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, Environmental Law Program of the William S. Richardson School of Law (University of Hawai'i), and the Alaska and Hawai'i Sea Grant College Programs will host the international Symposium on Climate Displacement, Migration, and Relocation, Dec. 13-14, 2016, in Manoa, Hawai'i. A call for papers will be issued, which may be published in the *Climate Law* journal. They will look at opportunities and challenges of climate relocation, including case studies. The goal is to find ways for governments and locals to address relocation. The symposium builds on President Obama's visit to Alaska a year ago, when he committed to assist communities in building resilience. Alaskans have been addressing this and communities nationwide are also affected.

Molly McCammon: At a recent ANTHC workshop in Anchorage, Alaskans expressed concern that East Coast communities may get a higher profile on this issue and Alaskans may be ignored.

Erin Shew: In Alaska many of the communities are federally recognized tribes, which provides added opportunities. Alaska has demonstrated a lot of need for addressing community relocation.

Betsy Baker

- See the new biography of John Knauss: <http://www.gso.uri.edu/blog/gso-bids-farewell-to-dr-john-knauss/>
- The SEARCH science steering committee coastal resilience working group is looking for the three most important research topics for coastal resilience. Submit suggestions to BBAKER@vermontlaw.edu.

Molly McCammon: At least some of the National Climate Assessment report has to be from a nongovernment source. Due September 30; contact mccammon@aoos.org.

Important Dates

September 27: Northwest Subarea Meeting for Spill Planning, USCG, Nome

September 28: ARRT Oil Spill Preparedness and Response, USCG, Nome

October: AOOS Regional Climate Change Project Meeting

November 1–4: [Long-term Challenges to Alaska Salmon and Salmon-Dependent Communities](#), Anchorage

November 30–December 1: [Alaska Ocean Acidification Network Workshop](#), Anchorage

December 8–9: [Harmful Algal Bloom Workshop](#), Anchorage

December 13-14: [Symposium on Climate Displacement, Migration, and Relocation](#), Manoa, Hawai'i

Next Marine Policy call: November 16, 2016, 1 pm Alaska time