



## Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Host: Paula Cullenberg

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

### **Juan Ramirez (USCG Fellow), Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office**

VIDA, Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, may move forward in the March 23<sup>rd</sup> omnibus.

### **Ann Robertson (Knauss Fellow), Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office**

- \$200M has been secured by NMFS for fisheries disasters along the west coast including the pink salmon disaster declaration. Work is happening to get this distributed as soon as possible.
- The Ocean Caucus is working to set up a Blue Economy briefing, so stay tuned for that.

### **Barbara Blake, Lt Governor Byron Mallott's office**

- NOAA has, in the past, used the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to disperse fisheries disaster funding and there is a good chance these new fishing disaster relief funds will be distributed using the same organization. There are a total of nine fishing disaster relief submissions to be considered for this funding.
- We have received many comments on the Magnuson Stevens Act Reauthorization from different viewpoints and are looking for any more to be forwarded to the Lt. Governor's office or to Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Commissioner Sam Cotten.
- Data is now being analyzed from the Pacific cod steep decline in the Gulf of Alaska to determine whether or not to recommend that the Governor and Lt. Governor move forward with a declaration.
- Negotiations are continuing with Canada on the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
- The Lt. Governor has established a Fisheries Cabinet to include ADF&G, Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Dept. of Law, and Dept. of Public Safety, meeting once a month.

### **Matt Gruening, Rep. Stutes's office**

- Matt was not able to attend.

### **Roundtable**

Becky Heim, National Weather Service (NWS) -

- The NWS is closely watching the serious storm situation going on in the Bering Sea right now.
- The U.S. Navy is in the Beaufort Sea right now working Operation Ice X through March. This is the biennial exercise used to validate the SAS operational readiness of the submarine force while also working on scientific projects.

- The Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will be hosting a Bering Strait resiliency workshop June 12-14 in Nome. Folks from 23 different Bering Strait communities will be gathering to participate in the workshop.

Pete Jones, NMFS -

- Doug DeMaster will be retiring at the end of March after a long and distinguished career with NOAA Fisheries. He is the director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and Senior Scientist for the North Pacific.

Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant

- Regional science conferences coming up: Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference will be held in Nome March 28-30 and the Copper River Delta Science Symposium will be held in Cordova March 27-29.
- Alaska Sea Grant will be interviewing ten out of twenty two applicants for the Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship program. Six Fellow host positions are available this year at NOAA Fisheries, USGS, North Pacific Research Board, and the Alaska Ocean Observing System.

**Next Alaska Marine Policy call: April 18, 2018, 1 pm Alaska time**

### **Upcoming Events**

March 6-9, 2018: Alaska Board of Fish meeting, Anchorage

March 7-10, 2018: Kachemak Bay Science Conference: Science Without Borders: Working Across Disciplines, Boundaries, and Barriers, Homer

March 27-29, 2018: The 14th Copper River Delta Science Symposium, Cordova

March 28 - 30, 2018: Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium - Anchorage

March 28 - 30, 2018: 2018 Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference And Forum: Sharing Science And Knowledge - Nome