



Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, August 22, 2018

Host: Molly McCammon, Director Alaska Ocean Observing System

Notes by Dawn Montano

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 dawn.montano@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.

Tom Mansour, Sen. Sullivan's office

- There are no major updates from Senator Sullivan's office.
- There will be a harmful algal bloom meeting hearing next week in Washington D.C.
- Molly McCammon: There were no Alaskans available to travel to DC to give a report at the harmful algal bloom hearing, but Don Anderson from Woods Hole will report on the Bering Strait Region activities.

Barbara Blake, Governor Walker's office

- Barbara introduced the new Alaska Fish and Game Policy Advisor, Ephraim Froehlich, former staff for Senator Murkowski. He will take over the Governor's Fish and Game portfolio and will also be the Deputy Director for State and Federal Affairs, helping the governor in Washington D.C. He began on Aug. 20, 2018.
- The results of the Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations should be in soon (end of August).
- Ephraim Froehlich is working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, NOAA, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission on the upcoming pink salmon disaster funds that will be dispersed soon and is working with these organization to create a spending plan.
- Ann Robertson will replace Ephraim in Sen. Sullivan's office as the lead policy staffer. Ann was a 2018 Sea Grant Knauss fellow.
- Molly McCammon: Lt. Governor Mallot and Retired Navy Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet will speak at the Hydrographic Services Review Panel meeting August 28-30, 2018 in Juneau. There will also be a joint meeting with Integrated Ocean Observing System Federal Advisory Committee.
<http://www.noaa.gov/media-advisory/noaa-advisory-panels-to-meet-in-juneau-focus-on-alaska-and-arctic-navigation> events include;
 - A NOAA Public Listening Session on Ocean Sustainability on Friday, Aug. 31, at Juneau Centennial Hall, 101 Egan Drive, Doors open at 3:30 pm; Listening Session 4-5:45pm
 - NOAA is conducting a series of Listening Sessions across the United States to receive public input regarding the implementation of the Department of Commerce's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan (available [here](#)). As part of the Department of Commerce, NOAA has a role in expanding the Blue Economy, including fishing, shipping, energy, recreation and tourism.
 - RDML Timothy Gallaudet, PhD, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, will

discuss opportunities to reduce the nation's seafood trade deficit and promote marine commerce, fisheries, and tourism. His remarks will be followed by a period for public comments. This is an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on implementation of these and other NOAA and Department of Commerce priorities.

Governor's Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team

- Molly introduced the Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team by saying she has been participating in it since December 2017, and the Secretariat has been managed by the Institute of the North's Nils Andreassen. Nils has left the Institute and is moving to Juneau, serving as the new Executive Director of the Alaska Municipal League. Jim Gambell will be taking over as Interim Secretariat of the team. <https://institutenorth.org/project/alaska-climate-leadership/>

Jim Gambell, Governor's Climate Action Leadership Team

- On October 31, 2017, Governor Bill Walker signed Administrative Order 289 establishing the Alaska Climate Change Strategy and Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team. The team focuses on four action areas: mitigation, research, response, and adaptation. This team is comprised of 15-members and of a number of government representatives around the state. On Aug. 2, 2018, the team gathered at UAA campus and developed a [Climate Change Policy](#), a short document that expresses the goals dealing with climate change effects, research, adaptation, and mitigation. They also worked on a Climate Change Action Plan, a much broader document that goes into detail of how these action items will happen. It gives specific details, assigns agencies responsibilities, and offers ideas about what Alaskans can do in the near-term and what should be the longer-term goals. The team is also developing a Communications Strategy, which is key to communicate to the public and different audiences. These documents will be formally delivered to the Governor sometime in mid-September. State agencies will have the opportunity to work with the plan and develop their plans around it. This is all open to the public. All the notes and documents are available at <https://dec.alaska.gov/climate-change/climatechange.gov.alaska.gov>
- Two advisory panels were formed by the Climate Action Leadership Team. Team members that specialized in certain science and technical areas serve on a Science Advisory Panel and an Oil and Gas Advisory Panel. These two panels are working with the Leadership Team and summaries of their meetings can be found online on the Governor's website. A new version of the Climate Change Action Plan will be available soon (Aug. 2018).
- Representative Paul Seaton asked about science—New science is constantly coming out, so the panel is using the best available science and latest data.
- Public input is needed and appreciated. Submit at <https://institutenorth.org/engage/project-portfolio/public-input/>

Paul Seaton, Alaska State Representative

- “Please be aware that the Kenai Peninsula borough mayor is moving to repeal the anadromous stream ordinance, which sets standards for habitat. Since the state is already in noncompliance with the federal Magnuson-Stevens Act, we might expect essential fish habitat standards to be imposed in state waters as the rearing waters for federally manage species (salmon) if they are no longer able to give the State of Alaska management responsibility. If those standards were removed for an essential fish habitat (Magnuson-Stevens), it would probably come to the forefront in that ongoing management plan debate.”
- Molly suggested having a pro/con discussion on the salmon initiative on the next Marine Policy Forum call.

Kris Holderied, NOAA's Kasitsna Bay Lab

- Opportunity: NOAA has a new Cook Inlet Operational Forecast System that will be operational at the end of this calendar year. They are looking for input on the beta system and any other features to be added. There was a briefing given last week to the National Center of Environmental Prediction director, operators of the system. Comments are requested for both things that could be done in the near-term, and improvements for the next iteration. Contact Kris if you would like more information: Kris.holderied@noaa.gov.

Karen Gillis, Executive Director at Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

- The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is seeking nominations for the Social Science Planning Team. They are seeking nominations from coastal rural communities or tribal representatives. Nominations close on September 28, 2018. <https://www.npfmc.org/call-for-nominations-3/>
- [Hosting on Sept. 8-9 a Net Hack Challenge – how to deal with waste fishing nets and ropes.](#)
- [BSFA is hosting the Alaska Ocean Cluster \(\[alaskacluster.com\]\(http://alaskacluster.com\)\) which hosts weekly webinars.](#)

Next Alaska Marine Policy call: October 17 or 24, 2018, 1 pm Alaska time. Date depends on availability of speakers on upcoming Salmon Initiative.

Coming Up/Events

Every Tuesday, 10am (AKST): [Ocean Tuesday](#), webinar (Zoom video conference)

Aug. 27: New Alaska Sea Grant Director [Heather Brandon](#) begins. She is based in Juneau.

Aug. 28: [Alaska Ocean Cluster](#) Tour of the Port of Alaska, Anchorage

Aug. 28-29: [Accelerate Alaska](#) event, Anchorage

Sept. 5-7: [US Arctic Research Commission](#), Kotzebue and Northwest Alaska site visit

Sept. 7: Cook Inlet Regional Advisory Board Meeting, Kodiak

Sept. 8-9: [Alaska Net Hack Challenge](#), Anchorage

Sept. 10-12: National Academy of Sciences Ocean Studies Board, Fairbanks:

September 11: [Introducing Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience](#), Homer

September 13: [Introducing Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience](#), Anchorage

Oct. 29, 2018 (deadline): NOAA has a community-based marine debris removal RFP. Typical grant awards are between \$50K-\$150K open.