



Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, October 17, 2018
Host: Darcy Dugan, Alaska Ocean Observing System
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 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

- The *Save Our Seas (SOS) Act*, legislation introduced by Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Cory Booker (D-NJ) to address the global marine debris crisis, became law on October 11, 2018.
- The Senator's staff is already working on SOS 2.0 with Senator Whitehouse.
- The Senator is leading a field hearing at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage on October 20 at 10:30am to review the current science behind Alaska's salmon fisheries and to identify gaps. Witness testimony and opening statements will be available on www.commerce.senate.gov.

Pro and Con on Ballot Initiative #1, followed by Q&A

Pro: Stand for Salmon

Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, Director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal (YRIT) Fish Commission with Tanana Chiefs Conference.

- The YRIT Fish Commission represents 30 Tribes or 42 communities.
- The initiative has received unanimous support from all 42 communities.
- Stephanie is former Alaska State Department of Fish & Game staff now working for a private non-profit on the Yukon river fisheries.
- The initiative is an attempt to establish:
 - Clear and enforceable science-based standards
 - A two-track permitting system for major and minor permits
 - A public process for permitting
 - Protection for all anadromous fish habitat
- Response to opposition:
 - Will not stop development
 - Salmon do need protection as development activities in Alaska are still new and have not yet reached their peak.

Con: Stand for Alaska

Bob Loeffler, Jade North

- Worked for the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources for 20 years.
- There are examples of recent projects, one at Chignik Lagoon, that would not have happened if this initiative were in place.
- This initiative would significantly damage industry in Alaska.
- Off-site mitigation would not be allowed.

- Permitting time would be substantially increased.

The two presentations were followed by several clarifying questions & answers.

Next Alaska Marine Policy call: December 19, 2018, 1 pm Alaska time.