



## Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Host: Molly McCammon, 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](mailto: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.*

### **Anne Robertson, Sen. Murkowski's office**

- Anne is the new legislative assistant covering fisheries, oceans, and other environmental issues (taking Ephraim Froehlich's position).
- Their office has been tracking impacts to Alaska from the federal shutdown.
- Senators Murkowski and Sullivan have co-sponsored a bill to ensure that active duty Coast Guard members are being paid.
- They are working to start reintroducing ocean relevant legislation including the coastal communities ocean acidification bill and labeling for genetically engineered salmon.
- Anne is available for any questions and can be reached at [ann\\_robertson@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:ann_robertson@murkowski.senate.gov).

### **Erik Elam & Tom Mansour, Sen. Sullivan's office**

- Erik is the legislative director and Tom is a Coast Guard fellow serving in the office through June or July.
- Their office is working on minimizing and mitigating impacts from the shutdown including ensuring that fisheries are open on time and people are getting inspections etc.
- The senator's office is working on the Coast Guard pay bill.
- Committee chairmanships have shifted leaving Senator Sullivan as the chairman of the new Subcommittee on Security with jurisdiction over the Coast Guard, Maritime Administration, Transportation Safety Administration, Merchant Marine, and some other security aspects.
- Their office's main focus is on the Coast Guard and Maritime issues.
- The Senator's office is working on reintroducing lots of bills including Sea Grant's Young Fishermen legislation and marine debris.
- Tom adds that they are also working on the Save Our Seas Act 2.0 marine debris legislation.

### **Catherine Kemp, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage Anchorage Climate Action Plan**

- The MOA has partnered with Universities of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks and Alaska Pacific University for this effort.
- Alaska is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the continental US leading to many consequences likely to cost the state \$340 to \$700 million dollars per year over the next 35 years. This was the impetus to begin working on a plan.
- The plan is designed to be a strategic roadmap for preparing for the impacts from climate change and reducing the city's contribution to the problem.
- The current plan is the latest iteration of a couple of plans begun with UAA.

- The Anchorage Assembly passed a resolution supporting the development of this plan.
- The MOA has been working with a set of working groups to develop proposed recommendations.
- The MOA will release a draft of the plan for public comment in the next several weeks.
- More information on the plan can be found on their website at [muni.org/climateactionplan](http://muni.org/climateactionplan).
- Contact Catherine at [catherine.kemp@anchorageak.gov](mailto:catherine.kemp@anchorageak.gov) with questions and to sign up on their list serve.

### **Announcements**

- The Alaska Marine Science Symposium will be the last week of January and will include two science communications workshops, one presented by the American Geophysical Union's Sharing Sciences group on Sunday January 27 at a cost of \$125 and the Communicating Ocean Sciences Workshop featuring Hakai Editor in Chief Jude Isabella on Monday, January 29 at no cost. For more information or to sign up please visit [AMSS.org](http://AMSS.org).
- Sea Grant has several fellowships open including the Knauss Fellowship in D.C., the Alaska Sea Grant State Fellowship program placing students in agencies and organizations within the state of Alaska, and the NOAA Population Dynamics Fellowship. Please visit their website at [alaskaseagrant.org](http://alaskaseagrant.org) for more information.

**Next Alaska Marine Policy Forum call: March 20, 2019, 1 pm Alaska time.**