

AHAB Monthly Call Summary June 2020

Attendees:

Rosie Masui (KBNERR), Evie Fachon (WHOI), Naomi Bargmann (Sitka Tribe), Andie Wall (KANA), Amanda Holden (KANA), Kathi Lefebvre (NOAA), Kari Lanphier (STA/SEATOR), Katie Gavenus (CACS), Aaron Poe (Alaska Conservation Foundation), Chandra Poe (Environmental Director - Qawalangin Tribe), Darcy Dugan (AOOS), Patryce McKinney (ADEC - EHL), Kris Holderied (NOAA - KBL), Dominic Hondolero (NOAA - KBL), Dean Stockwell (UAF), John Harley (UAS), Gay Sheffield (SeaGrant), Anne Garland (Applied Research in Environmental Sciences Nonprofit Inc.)

Agenda Items:

1. Round Robin Updates & Sampling Plans for Summer 2020

a. Evie Fachon (WHOI)

- i. Still waiting to find if they will be able to sample on a DBO cruise in August/September. We are starting to be able to have a little bit more access to the lab. We are getting ready to restart our *Alexandrium* genomics project looking at how populations between the Bering Sea and the Beaufort are connected.

b. Kathi Lefebvre (NOAA)

- i. Also waiting to see if we can get samples off of Jackie Meyers cruise. The rest of the NOAA cruises have been canceled as now, there are some rumblings that some may be back on the table in a limited capacity. Our lab is still closed but we are able to have a technician in to do some essential work. We are able to analyze some of the samples from 2019. We are now focusing on the fish samples that were collected. Those results should be available soonish (couple of months).

1. Dean Stockwell: Check with Rebecca Woodgate at UW - her cruise is still on and it takes her through the Strait up to almost Point Hope on a chartered boat.

c. Naomi Bargmann (Sitka Tribe)

- i. We are still running off of a skeleton crew at the lab, but folks are still getting out, sampling and sending in samples. So far we have sent out PSAs for Juneau and Kodiak and prior PSAs for Ketchikan and Skagway. So far it seems like this summer we've been seeing a little bit of an increase and then it drops back below the regulatory limit. Monitors are seeing all three concerning species in the phytoplankton samples. Skagway did have a mysterious green

bloom that was identified by partners at NOAA in Charleston. Typically those species bloom in freshwater but there had been a lot of runoff in Skagway. On May 18th we held our virtual workshop, with around 20 monitors participating. There was a lot of positive feedback from the session and the need to have a microscopy session was identified. We will be hosting this on June 23rd and 30th. With a focus on June 30th on freshwater HABs, lead by Jenn Maucher at NOAA in Charleston. If anyone wants to attend please reach out.

d. Katie Gavenus

- i. We will be doing programs with local youth this summer, but if anyone wants to collaborate let me know. Those programs are starting 6/15.

e. Aaron Poe

- i. A few months ago, as it started to look like field work and cruises were going to be canceled, the Park Service approached us about funding a platform where agencies/academia could do direct payments to communities to extend sample collection efforts. This will become available the end of this month. Basically folks from agencies/academia could bank money at the Alaska Conservation Foundation to then be shared with communities for sample collection. Park Service had thought this could be a good way to collect more shellfish samples throughout Alaska.

1. Gay Sheffield: Are you going to be dealing with species that need to be permitted? And is this only on Park Lands?

- a. Response: Tool was created with everyone in mind, not just Park Lands. Then for permitted species - we are not sure yet - that would be up to the agencies.

f. Chandra Poe (Qawalangin Tribe)

- i. We are still doing some weekly sample collection, following Bruce Wrights protocols, and will send them in for analysis after the season.

g. Darcy Dugan (AOOS)

- i. Still waiting for official news on the IOOS funding for the HABs coordinator position and we will let this group know once it's finalized.
- ii. If folks have information to be included on the website please share. We can add it to the site!

h. Patryce McKinney (ADEC - EHL)

- i. We have gotten our FDA NSSP approval for the HPLC PCOX but we have gotten this as of Friday. We are not transitioning from the mouse bioassay but it is now an option. The other update is that there was a lot of concerns about a regulation packet that would increase costs for sample analysis at ADEC - EHL. As of now there are no expected extra costs now, it is looking like this will not come up as an issue for the next few years.
 - 1. Kris Holderied: The HPLC, are you using this for oysters and mussels?
 - a. Response: Not routinely at this point, but it is an option. It also buys us the opportunity to use this if we have a disruption in the mouse supply.
- i. Kris Holderied (NOAA - KBL)
 - i. We have recently been able to get out to do some sampling for our oceanographic and plankton sampling. Brenda Konar and Katrin Iken have projects funded through EPSCoR and Gulf Watch Monitoring, and some of that is beach seining. We will be able to collect some of those samples for a food web project with Xiuning Du and Steve Kibler
- j. Dominic Hondolero (NOAA - KBL)
 - i. We have been doing bi-weekly sampling and now that we are into summer we are going to do weekly sampling through September at the lab. We will also be collecting samples for Rosie whenever she needs them.
- k. Rosie Masui (KBNERR)
 - i. We have been able to get out and do some limited field work. We have begun doing our weekly muscle sampling as of last week. The samples were blue mussels from Homer Harbor and Kasistna Bay and both came back below the regulatory limit. We will be sending razor clam samples in as well this upcoming summer. We have been going through some changes with our program in regards to funding. Some of the cuts happening to ADFG Sport Fish may impact our program and there is a chance that our program may be scaled back. The impact of this will not be felt until after this sampling season. We have been able to continue our phytoplankton sampling, with samples from PWS, with signs of all of the harmful species at least present in some of the samples. We also have just started partnering with the Aleut Community of St. Paul to begin collecting phytoplankton samples and sending to us for microscopy analysis.

- l. Andie Wall & Amanda Holden (KANA)
 - i. We did not get funded for year three through the BIA TRP, we have some time still to figure this out but we are looking for additional funding opportunities. We do have Amanda on board now, jumping in for the last two and half weeks. I will be gone for a couple of months in Bristol Bay. We have been seeing increased levels of Alexandrium in our samples around Kodiak Island. We have also noticed an increased amount of active harvesters over this last month. We are working to get our PSAs translated to help limit the impacts of the language barrier. We did deploy our second blue mussel cage - thank you for folks who helped contribute to the ideas for how to put those together.
 - m. Dean Stockwell (UAF)
 - i. Julie Matweyou, in Kodiak, had noticed a green bloom but was able to get a sample to me that I was able to identify. They were non-toxic species that were discoloring the water. I have material now that I can have that sequenced so that we can get those identifications confirmed. Another report of discolored water came from Gay Sheffield in Nome and it was from a pollen bloom. Thanks for sending these in to get them sequenced!
 - n. Gay Sheffield (SeaGrant)
 - i. Dean mentioned it - the Norton Sound region has had a lot of chatter about discolored water and there was concern about what it was. The water was a yellowish tan. We were able to find out that it was pollen, like he mentioned. We are having quite a pollen event and it is extensive.
 - o. Anne Garland (Applied Research in Environmental Sciences Nonprofit Inc.)
 - i. No new updates - monitors in Utqiagvik are continuing to sample this season.
2. Next Call: July 9th 9:30am