



Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Host: Ginny Eckert, Alaska Sea Grant

Notes by Sheyna Wisdom, Alaska Ocean Observing System

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 (AOOS). Contact dawn.montano@alaska.edu to receive email reminders and agendas for upcoming calls, and summary notes following each call.

Alaska Congressional Delegation Updates

Akacia Halliday-Isaac, Senator Sullivan's Office (Sea Grant Knauss Fellow)

- New Fellow: applied through Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium
- Working on adding seafood provisions to the Farm Bill. Carina is coordinating a House and Senate letter to add these provisions.
- Introduced a National Pacific Research Board Enhancement Act. This will help with funding for North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) and also add a Tribal seat to the Board.
- Working on [Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act \(HABHRCA\) reauthorization](#).
- FY25 appropriation requests: <https://sen.gov/P9KO>

Senator Murkowski's Office

none present

- New Sea Grant Knauss Fellow: Kit Cunningham from Alaska, grew up in Juneau. Finished up masters from University of Alaska Fairbanks. Will be online next time.
- FY25 appropriations request (**due Friday 3/22**): <https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/appropriations-and-cds-request-page>

Jillian Everly (Sea Grant Knauss Fellow), Representative Peltola's Office

- New Fellow: applied through Washington Sea Grant.
- Finished FY24 Commerce, Justice, Science Bill. Working on FY25 now.
- Seafood Caucus to come together to create bipartisan legislation relating to international fish trade, IUU, and NPFMC making it more equitable. Planning an event during Ocean Week (early June).
- FY25 Appropriations request (**due 3/29**): <https://peltola.house.gov/appropriations/fy25-programmatic-requests.htm>

Lila Ardor Bellucci (Sea Grant Knauss Fellow) NOAA Office of international Affairs

- New Fellow: applied through Oregon Sea Grant.
- Will be up for Arctic Encounter Symposium and several weeks around that event. Will reach out to AOOS, Alaska Sea Grant, and NPRB about a joint meeting.

Q: Both AOOS and Alaska Sea Grant saw decreases in FY25 Presidential Budget. Do you have advice for us? Do we send partnership letters in support of our program? Do we send those now or later?

A: Mary-Eileen: Now is a good time to send partnership letters. Jillian Everly: Always happy to take on Letters of Support. Keeping in communication is the best advice.

Alaska Legislative Updates

None present.

Invited Speakers

None present.

Announcements

Lynn Palensky, NPRB

- Thanks for Senator Sullivan working on NPRB Enhancement Act.
- We have open seats on our Board! These seats are nominated by the Governor's Office. Three seats open are: 1) environmental, 2) oil and gas, 3) and fishing interests. If you have ideas for nomination, please visit the [Boards and Commissions](#) web page.

Sheyna Wisdom, AOOS

- Thanks to Congressional delegation for meetings and help last week. We will reach out to partners to send letters to you to help save our program.

Ginny Eckert, Alaska Sea Grant

- April 1–2 Alaska Sea Grant with Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation and the Alaska Mariculture Research and Training Center hosting Seaweed Genetics Workshop to bring together experts, get state of knowledge for seaweed mariculture in Alaska.
- April 16–18: [Wakefield Fisheries Symposium](#) in Sitka. Theme is looking at shifting distributions.
- April 23–26: [Kodiak Area Marine Science Symposium](#) to be held in Kodiak:
- May 8–11: Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hosting an Indigenous Aquaculture Collaborative Gathering.
- May 23: [Alaska Seaweed Handling and Processing Workshop: Kelp Stabilization Demonstration](#)
- More Alaska Sea Grant events <https://alaskaseagrant.org/events/>

Please reach out to [Ginny Eckert](#) or [Sheyna Wisdom](#) if you would like to hear about a particular topic during future forums.

The next Alaska Marine Policy Forum call will be May 15, 2024 at 1pm Alaska time. To register for this Forum or all of 2024 Forums visit:

<https://alaskaseagrant.org/events/alaska-marine-policy-forum/>