

*State of Alaska
Seafood Economic Strategies
Preview*

Presented at:

*Alaska's Fishing Communities:
Harvesting the Future*

Anchorage, Alaska

McDowell Group, Inc.

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McDowell Group

- 34 years of Alaska economic, business, and policy studies
- 150+ seafood industry studies around Alaska
- Salmon and Seafood Market Information Service for ASMI
- 6-member team, all with commercial seafood experience, plus:
 - Bob Waldrop - Redpoint Associates
 - Arne Magnusson - University of Iceland

Everyone knows what this is, right?



Purpose

The Alaska Constitution mandates managing resources: “...for the maximum benefit of its people.”

For seafood:

- Does the State do this well?
- How can it do better?

Scope of work

All state involvement in the commercial seafood resource

- Biology
- Economic development
- Participation

Not sport fishing or subsistence

Sources

- Prior Alaska planning and experience
- International experience
- Broad-based interviews

Basis for planning

- To be useful, strategies must transcend short-term interests and political administrations
- The State of Alaska is not in the seafood business, it's in the asset management business
- “Maximum benefit” is best measured at the community level

Issues and Strategies (very short version)

Three key issues

1. Lack of information
2. Lack of investment
3. Alaska has to think globally

1. Data gaps and inadequate capacity to analyze issues....

- Handicaps Alaska at the NPFMC
- Threatens Board of Fisheries process
- Limits participation by individuals and communities
- Keeps Alaska from responding effectively to global trends
- Today's solutions become tomorrow's problems

Create an “Office of Commercial Fisheries Strategic Analysis (CFSA)”

- Highly qualified, objective, independent
- Drawing on all state departments
- Serving many purposes
 - State representatives on the NPFMC
 - Board of Fisheries
 - Communities and industry participants
 - State managers

2. Lack of investment - Biology

- State management depends heavily on federal funding
- Loss of key staff to federal and private sectors
- Research budgets curtailed
- High level of industry concern

2. Lack of investment - Business

- Outmoded business and resource management models
- State funding for Alaska brand inadequate
- Need R&D in, for example, under-utilized resources and mariculture

3. Alaska must think globally

- Large, rapid changes in competition and consumption patterns
- Federal and international rationalization
- Aquaculture
- Climate change and ocean health
- Learn from other nations

Some investment strategies

- Invest revenue from non-renewable assets to develop renewable ones
- Make seafood a focus of Alaska education
- Maintain control of the resource
 - Biologically and by having access rights that are amendable by the state over time

Next steps

- Continue to solicit feedback and ideas
- Conduct more interviews
- Refine recommendations
- Draft action plans

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