

Linking Youth with Marine Science and Fisheries for Tomorrow's Workforce



Nome MAP agent Heidi Herter teaches field biology (for university credit) to high school students from Bering Strait villages.



Unalaska MAP agent Reid Brewer leads a beach walk during the Tide Pool Posse camp.



MAP agents participate in local career fairs around the state to encourage rural students to consider marine and fisheries careers.

Issue

Rural Alaskans and Alaska Natives are significantly underrepresented in fisheries and marine science careers across the state. Small and remote communities often have limited exposure to marine science education and opportunities at the K-12 level.

Response

- * MAP agents across the state link science education with rural students and recruit students to University of Alaska programs.
- * COSEE Alaska: Funded by the National Science Foundation, the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE Alaska) is a five-year program to link researchers with educators across Alaska. MAP's Marine Science Education Specialist coordinates COSEE Alaska.
- * Alaska Seas and Rivers Curriculum: Revised to meet State standards, the inquiry-based and interactive Seas and Rivers is the state's only Alaska-specific K-8 marine and freshwater science curriculum.
- * MAP works with school children throughout the state, coaching National Ocean Sciences Bowl high school teams, teaching in classrooms and field camps, and offering distance delivered classes to outlying villages.
- * MAP agents are often the face of the University of Alaska and participate in career fairs and other events to open doors to youth about educational and career opportunities.

Outcomes/Impacts

- * The number of rural and Alaska Native students studying fisheries at UAF is up considerably in the last four years. Currently 25% of fisheries undergrads are Alaska Native.
- * National Ocean Sciences Bowl participation by rural schools is growing, with almost 20 schools participating last year.
- * The Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Career Coalition brings stakeholders, educators and employers together to reduce roadblocks to career success.

Partners

National Science Foundation, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Careers Coalition, local school districts.