



Alaska Sea Grant Regional Highlights
Research, Education, and Extension for Coastal Alaska
www.alaskaseagrant.org

Bristol Bay, Aleutian Islands, and the Lower Kuskokwim

Agents and specialists of the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP) are based in 10 coastal communities across the state, where they conduct a broad program of research, education, and extension activities. In the Bristol Bay, Aleutian Islands, and Lower Kuskokwim regions, MAP agents in Bethel, Dillingham, and Unalaska focus on commercial fishing, seafood processing, sustainable economic diversification, marine and fisheries research, and education.

Recent activities of Alaska Sea Grant and the Marine Advisory Program

Enhancing Coastal Economic Opportunity

MAP initiated a catcher-seller program in Bethel that allows salmon fishermen without a processor license to harvest and market their catch. As a result, the fishermen fished longer and received more money for their catch.

MAP helped plan and conduct a bird-watching expedition to the Kuskokwim region, laying the groundwork for a future bird ecotour cottage industry. MAP authored a manual for ecotourism operators, published by the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development and distributed by Alaska Sea Grant.

A recent MAP survey found that many Alaska boaters are looking for ways to save fuel and increase operating efficiencies. MAP responded with online resources for boaters.

Training Alaska's Workforce

MAP's Alaska Seafood Processing Leadership Institute (ASPLI) provided professional development training to aspiring leaders in the seafood processing industry. Thirteen seafood processors from nine Alaska communities participated.

MAP-sponsored Alaska Young Fishermen's Summits brought 140 new fishermen and 50 established fishermen from 35 communities, together with experts in financing, marketing, safety, and policy for intensive lectures, panels, and networking. The next statewide summit is planned for December 2009.

MAP delivered the online course *The Business of Fish*, on financial management for seafood harvesters, via cable television and the Internet.

MAP taught business management workshops and hosted a session on financial management for fishing operations in King Cove, Dillingham, and King Salmon.

MAP improved seafood quality through workshops in communities throughout the state on HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) and quality handling of seafood.

MAP enhanced commercial and recreational fishing safety by conducting Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) drill instructor and water-wise course work in coastal communities.

Linking Research to Community Needs

Community workshops in Unalaska connect scientists with local residents, and help residents participate in research.

MAP worked with harbormasters, boaters, and fishermen to reduce the number of invasive rats in Alaska's ports. Alaska Sea Grant authored and published the only manual on controlling rats along coastal waterfronts.

A Sea Grant study of killer whale predation and visitation patterns near fur seal rookeries at St. Paul Island confirmed that passive acoustics are an effective tool to monitor killer whales.

Inspiring Science Education

MAP coached the Unalaska High School team that competed in the annual Alaska Region National Ocean Sciences Bowl competition, and taught invertebrate anatomy, organized a local environmental education and monitoring program, and participated in the Alaska Statewide High School Science Symposium.

MAP helped create the new Web-based Alaska Seas and Rivers curriculum. This K-8 curriculum provides high-quality teaching units on marine and aquatic science for use by teachers and homeschoolers, while addressing state science standards.

Encouraging Marine Stewardship

MAP launched a program to broaden understanding of our changing climate, and gather local perspective on how climate may impact their resources. MAP also enlisted coastal communities to collect long-term temperature recordings and oceanographic measurements.

Regional MAP Contacts

Reid Brewer

Agent
Unalaska
(907) 581-4589
brewer@ims.uaf.edu

Terry Reeve

Agent
Bethel
(907) 543-4560
terry.reeve@uaf.edu

Statewide MAP Contact

Paula Cullenberg

Alaska Sea Grant Interim Director
Anchorage
(907) 274-9692
anpjc@uaa.alaska.edu



The Alaska Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between NOAA and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Alaska Sea Grant supports research, education, and extension activities that enhance the ability of Alaskans to understand, conserve, and sustainably use Alaska's diverse marine and coastal resources.

The Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP) is the University of Alaska's statewide marine extension program, providing community training and workforce development opportunities in shellfish aquaculture; seafood harvesting, processing, and marketing; tourism development; business management; marine safety; and public policy participation.

