



**Alaska Sea Grant Regional Highlights**  
*Research, Education, and Extension for Coastal Alaska*  
[www.alaskaseagrant.org](http://www.alaskaseagrant.org)

## Kodiak Island and the Kenai Peninsula

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 Kodiak and Kenai Peninsula region, MAP focuses on commercial fishing, seafood processing, sustainable economic diversification such as tourism, marine mammal and fisheries research, and education.

### Recent activities of Alaska Sea Grant and the Marine Advisory Program

#### *Enhancing Coastal Economic Opportunity*

In partnership with St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Alaska Latino Women's Association, and others, MAP taught business fundamentals to 20 members of Kodiak's Latino community.

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

A MAP project to test the effectiveness of seabird deterrents, such as streamer lines on small boat longline vessels, has reduced incidental seabird catches and helped Prince William Sound fishermen avoid additional federal regulation.

MAP is assisting scientific studies in Seward and Kodiak aimed at understanding how to raise large numbers of wild red and blue king crab, with the goal of rebuilding populations in parts of the state to benefit commercial and subsistence fisheries.

#### *Training Alaska's Workforce*

Response protocols developed by MAP working with shellfish farmers and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation provide shellfish farmers with tools to protect their product from the harmful marine bacterium *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. The protocols recently were made part of the official state regulatory plan for shellfish farming operations in Prince William Sound.

The MAP-led Molluscan Broodstock Program in Kachemak Bay is developing larger growing oyster seed for the Alaska shellfish industry.

MAP is providing technical assistance to the Homer Spit oyster holding facility being planned by the Kachemak Shellfish Growers Cooperative.

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 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.

### **Conducting Critical Research**

In Kodiak, MAP leads the NOAA-funded Gulf of Alaska apex predator-prey study, which seeks to understand and characterize the marine ecosystem around Kodiak Island contributing to management decisions that impact commercial fishermen.

Alaska Sea Grant researchers developed a new fisheries stock assessment model that helps explain why pollock stocks declined. The model suggests arrowtooth flounder consume more young pollock than previously thought.

### **Inspiring Science Education**

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**

Statewide MAP workshops on voluntary standards for responsible marine wildlife viewing are helping Alaskans and others better enjoy the state's abundant wildlife.

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*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.*