



Alaska Sea Grant Regional Highlights

Research, Education, and Extension for Coastal Alaska

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Southeast

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 Southeast, MAP works with fishermen, tourism-related businesses, shellfish farmers, and the public in the areas of community economic development and capacity building, fisheries business training, shellfish aquaculture, and marine safety. Alaska Sea Grant's three MAP agents and specialists in the region are based in Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Juneau.

Recent activities of Alaska Sea Grant and the Marine Advisory Program

Enhancing Coastal Economic Opportunity

In Petersburg, MAP expanded seafood cold storage infrastructure by assisting the planning and first year of operation of a community-owned cold storage and freezing facility.

MAP workshops and a booklet helped retiring fishermen learn how to sell their fishing businesses while ensuring that access to fisheries resources remain in their home community, adapted from similar work in the farming industry.

MAP is helping Alaska's shellfish farming industry diversify its products through technical training and assistance to the Naukati Shellfish Nursery on Prince of Wales Island.

MAP is assisting in the development of the OceansAlaska Marine Science Center that will expand shellfish farming and aquaculture research in Southeast Alaska.

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

Training Alaska's Workforce

MAP agents prepared future fisheries biologists in classes taught as part of the University of Alaska Southeast fisheries technology certificate and associate degree programs.

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

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

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.

Conducting Applied Research

A MAP-led littleneck clam aquaculture feasibility project on Prince of Wales Island will result in a demonstration project during 2009. MAP also is conducting a research project on the potential for geoduck clam aquaculture on intertidal beaches.

MAP agents are working with NOAA, ADFG, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center to monitor the spread of marine invasive species into Alaska with emphasis on invasive tunicates and the European green crab.

MAP's partnership with the Petersburg Vessel Owners Association and the Petersburg Marine Mammal Center has helped fishermen learn how to disentangle and avoid whales. Alaska Sea Grant published the *Whale Entanglement Wheelhouse Guide*, and distributed it to limited entry permit holders in Southeast Alaska.

Inspiring Science Education

In Juneau, MAP inspired young minds at the Auk'w Noow Marine Science Camp, sponsored by the Juneau School District. The camp focused on instruction of 40 gifted Alaska Native high school students.

MAP gave marine science presentations to middle and high school students in Ketchikan and Craig, which included a live plankton display to highlight their importance to the marine ecosystem.

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.

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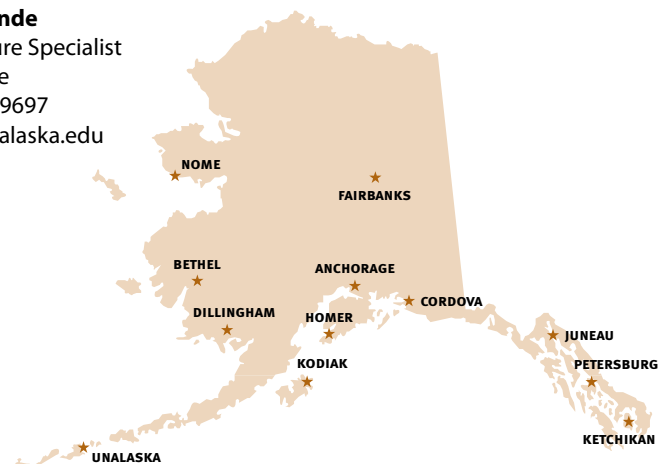
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The Alaska Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between NOAA and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Alaska Sea Grant supports research, education, and extension activities that enhance the ability of Alaskans to understand, conserve, and sustainably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