Enhancing Coastal Economic Opportunities

In Bethel, fishermen fished longer and earned more as a result of a MAP-initiated catcher-seller program that allows salmon fishermen to market their own catch. In Bristol Bay, training in direct marketing enhances value.

In Petersburg, a community-owned seafood cold storage facility has operated in the black for the last four years with MAP assistance.

On Prince of Wales Island, in Ketchikan and in Homer, the shellfish farming industry is stronger through MAP’s technical support for Naukati Shellfish Nursery, Oceans Alaska and the Kachemak Shellfish Growers Cooperative.

The Cordova Wild Foods Development Center, coordinated by MAP and community members, is working to enhance value from local resources.

Training Alaska’s Workforce, Building Community Capacity

200 young fishermen from 35 communities have had leadership training in Anchorage at MAP’s three Alaska Young Fishermen’s Summits.

Eco-tourism and archaeology have combined in Quinhagak to provide income and preserve artifacts with MAP and village coordination.

Catch value to fishing families is increased by MAP-sponsored port-to-port training in refrigeration, marketing and business. In 2009, over 500 people attended trainings in Anchorage, Quinhagak, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Sitka, Cordova, Dillingham, Bethel, Pelican, Petersburg.

Local seafood processors operate safely and meet DEC certification requirements as a result of MAP training in HACCP and Seafood Sanitation.

Research Related to Community Priorities

By studying interactions between whales and fishermen in Southeast Alaska and Kodiak, MAP works with fishermen to develop ways to deter contacts.

On Prince of Wales Island, MAP enhances economic opportunities through a littleneck clam culture feasibility study and research on geoduck culture.

In the Bering Straits region, MAP trains village residents to monitor water quality for toxins. In Ketchikan and Unalaska, community members monitor for invasive green crabs potentially moving north. In Unalaska, Ketchikan, Homer and Kodiak, MAP monitors for domoic acid and take water temperatures as indicators of Vibrio and other potential shellfish diseases.
Linking Science with Communities and K-12 students

High school students in Unalaska, Petersburg, Ketchikan and Cordova understand marine science issues through MAP agents who coach local teams in the Alaska Region National Ocean Sciences Bowl.

Local residents in Cordova, Unalaska, and Nome have an opportunity to connect with local research and researchers through MAP hosted community science lectures. More than 1,000 adults and high school students attend each year.

MAP’s Marine Science Education Specialist is a resource for Alaska’s teachers through coordination of the Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE Alaska) in partnership with rural schools and the Anchorage School District. MAP supports the Alaska Seas and Rivers curriculum, an Alaska-based, K-8 marine/ freshwater science curriculum which meets state science standards.

Prevention of rat infestation in coastal Alaska is more effective due to educational efforts delivered by MAP to harbormasters, boaters, and fishermen.

More Alaskan students are pursuing careers in fisheries and marine science due to MAP efforts to recruit students, teach classes and sponsor internships.

The Marine Advisory Program has a funding request in the University of Alaska’s FY11 Operating Budget Priority Program Requests. Our request is titled: “Economic Sustainability: Application of University Research, and Response to Community Needs in Coastal Alaska (MAP) and is for $614,000.

This amount will represent a commitment by the University to a MAP office in six communities/regions of the state that are currently funded solely by short-term grants. They include: Cordova, Nome, Dillingham, Unalaska and Petersburg. The sixth position is for a MAP agent in Kodiak, empty for 13 years due to lack of funds. These positions represent 50% of all of MAP’s coastal offices. Each is a one-person, solo office, so without these funds, the MAP office in that community may close.

The University of Alaska, through MAP salaries, provides the match required by NOAA Sea Grant allowing $1.6 million a year to come to UA for research, education and extension. The positions also leverage other grant funds - in 2009, MAP was able to leverage funds to more than double their state budget through outside funding.

For more information, contact: Paula Cullenberg, Marine Advisory Program Leader, 274-9692, paula.cullenberg@alaska.edu

Marine Advisory Program website: www.marineadvisory.org

“The program links us with research around the state, encourages youth toward workplace opportunities in the seafood and fishing industry, responds to needs of communities in cases of oil spills, marine mammal strandings and the effects of climate change on our marine environment.” Shirley Marquardt, Mayor, City of Unalaska

“MAP agents play a critical role putting the University’s resources to work solving problems that serve regional and statewide needs. This kind of cooperative industry and university response to marine resource management needs would just not be possible without MAP agents living in coastal communities.” Dan Hull, Anchorage fisherman, member North Pacific Fishery Management Council