University of Alaska’s
Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP)

UA Requests $614,000 in the FY11 Operating Budget to Support MAP agents in Nome, Dillingham, Petersburg, Kodiak, Cordova and Unalaska

MAP is Alaska’s statewide marine extension program, working in Alaska for 45 years. MAP has 16 extension faculty agents who live and work in 10 coastal communities providing information, technical assistance, and workforce development in seafood harvesting, processing, and marketing; shellfish aquaculture; tourism development; business management; marine safety; marine mammal and fisheries research; and public policy participation. MAP links science with community needs to solve resource questions.

Each agent brings a long-term, professional position into a coastal community. In many communities, MAP is the sole face of the University. For more information and to view letters from over 55 supporters and partners, go to www.marineadvisory.org and click on “Economic Sustainability: Budget Request.”

MAP’s Work Impacts Alaska’s Communities

- Enhancing Alaska’s Seafood Industry: Training and workforce development for Alaska’s billion-dollar seafood industry include: HACCP and business trainings for seafood processors, business and technology training for fishermen. Over the last five years, 3,000 have been trained from over 35 communities in Alaska.
- Strengthening Coastal Businesses: MAP is a key partner and coordinator in projects such as the Petersburg Cold Storage (2 million pounds, 1 full-time and 2 part-time jobs); Cordova Shipping Center ($100K project, supporting 50 direct marketers); Archaeologic/ecotour project in Quinhagak, Oceans Alaska in Ketchikan, Catcher-sellers to local markets in Bethel
- Leading Marine Safety Training – MAP trains hundreds of fishermen, recreational boaters and youth each year, works with boaters on meeting Coast Guard regulations, produces educational videos and publications and supports development of new technology that saves lives.
- Growing Alaska’s Future Leaders – The Alaska Young Fishermen’s Summit, the Alaska Seafood Processing Leadership Institute, National Ocean Science Bowl, Alaska Seas and Rivers all are MAP projects which support our next generation in seafood and marine science careers.
- Forging Partnerships between Communities and Science to Solve Real Problems - Collaborative research focuses on gear/marine mammal interactions and MAP coordinates community monitoring for invasive species and harmful blooms such as PSP. More than 1,500 adults and high school students a year interact with researchers through presentations organized by MAP.

What will this budget request accomplish?

- A long-term commitment by the University to a MAP agent in these communities and outlying regions, resulting in more value from and involvement in local resources by Alaskans.
- A unique statewide network of MAP agents with the ability to engage partners from state agencies, NGOs, federal agencies, and individuals together to respond creatively to emerging problems in our communities.
- Expanded business and policy leadership development initiatives that encourage our youth to take advantage of Alaska’s future opportunities.
- Trusted, long-term community-based University professionals in Nome, Dillingham, Unalaska, Cordova, Kodiak and Petersburg.