Alaska Sea Grant
Marine Advisory Program

- Alaska Sea Grant - partnership between NOAA and the University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Marine Advisory Program (MAP) is the extension arm of Alaska Sea Grant and the state’s marine extension program
- MAP agents are faculty in UAF’s School of Fisheries and Ocean Science
- MAP agents work in partnership with stakeholder groups to support coastal communities and keep our resources strong.
Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program – 15 coastal agents and specialists in 10 coastal communities
MAP works to enhance coastal economic opportunities

- Economic diversification is critical to communities so that they can weather change.
  - Increasing value from fishing and seafood
  - Technical assistance to Shellfish farms
  - Coordinaton of Cordova Kitchen, Petersburg cold storage
  - Organizational help with Quinhagak archeological dig/ecotourism
Training Alaska’s Workforce/Building Capacity

- Workforce and professional development
  - AYFS and ASPLI
- HACCP and seafood handling training
- Increased participation in the public process
MAP supports research related to community priorities

- Endangered short tail albatross dive for baited longlines
- USFWS threatens to shut down fishery
- Agency asks MAP to build bridge with fishermen
- MAP develops mini-grant technology program and works with fishermen to test gear
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopts gear adjustments, USFWS funds gear and MAP offices distribute it.
- Small vessels can continue to fish.
MAP links science to communities

• Research lecture series in Unalaska, Nome and Cordova - indicators of high interest and provide an opportunity for researchers

• Coastal monitoring using MAP’s statewide network links federal and state programs with coastal residents
Connecting youth with careers in fisheries and marine science

- Distance delivered university classes to rural high school students
- National Ocean Science Bowl coaching for rural teams
- Participation in career fairs
- Internships and mentoring opportunities
**Vibrio parahaemolyticus** infects Alaska shellfish for the first time due to warming waters

- Water temperature increases first occurrence of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*
- MAP aquaculture specialist works with farmers to show that sinking lantern nets will keep the oysters in cool water
- MAP develops farmer-operated water temperature sampling regime to monitor for lower temps
Why is the Marine Advisory Program important to Alaska?

• Change happens:
  • salmon prices, cost of energy, climate change – MAP can respond quickly

• Alaskans are geographically isolated from each other

• Alaskans are resource-dependent people
Why should the Alaska invest in extension education?

• Access to University opportunities is difficult in coastal and rural Alaska – MAP agents are often the only link in a community to the University to Alaska

• MAP can be a catalyst for informed decisions by Alaskans
Why is MAP a good investment for Alaska?

- Long term commitment by the University to coastal communities
- Base funding from University is used by to leverage the program
- MAP is extension program for Alaska Sea Grant, brings federal Sea Grant funds to the University each year
Why is MAP a good investment for the University?

- MAP builds a two-way bridge between our coastal communities and coastal issues and the University and State
Looking ahead

- Development of energy conservation program for seafood processors in partnership with Alaska Energy Authority

- Human/resource interaction research – Dungeness crab/sea otters; whales/fisheries

- COSEE Alaska funded by the National Science Foundation

- Supporting our rural youth’s pathways

- MAP effort in the Arctic?
Thank you