Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Careers Coalition
Steering Committee Meeting – November 6, 2009

Draft Meeting Notes:

Steering Committee Members attending:
  Paula Cullenberg, Acting Director, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
  Barbara Morgan, UAS Fisheries Technology Program
  Mike Miller, Sitka Tribe
  Ida Hildebrand, Tribal Natural Resource Program Director, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
  Glenn Seaman, Alaska Native Liaison, NOAA NCOS
  Stefanie Benca, VISTA Volunteer, AMSFCC Coordinator

Not attending:
  Debbie Hart, ADF&G Fish & Wildlife Careers for Alaskans Program
  Rose Fosdick, Vice President, Natural Resources Division, Kawerak Inc.
  Sue Leatherbery, Lower Kuskowim School District
  Beth Spangler, ANSEP Biological Sciences
  Ginny Eckert, Associate Professor, UAF School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences

General Updates:
1. Barbara reiterated Ginny’s e-mail regarding the progress of the articulation agreement. She reminded us that the articulation agreement allows credits from the UAS Associate degree to be transferred to the BA/BS degrees at UAF (SFOS). Though it was a longer process than initially expected, we are at the step of final approval from the UAF Provost. A couple of students (near graduation from UAS program) expressed interest in the articulation program (one particularly wants to go to Juneau). Overall, program interest is increasing.
2. Barbara also mentioned a class on technique that will follow this weekend’s Whale Fest. Students from the University of Hawaii and elsewhere will come and collaborate at the hatchery. Results will be shared at the next meeting.
3. Mike shared that the Hope Foundation reaffirmed their grant. They are working on a two-year project that mirrors BBRA’s five-year project, and it will start in January or February of next year. He also shared that he has a meeting with Kachemak fisheries and mentioned that the tribes are beginning to feel pressured to communicate with us. There is also an upcoming meeting at RuralCAP in Anchorage (11/09-11/10) – Mike will speak with Paula about getting AMSFCC into the records for education.
4. Ida updated us on CRRC’s search for the next Scientist in Residence. Fifty-eight applications were submitted and the interview process will start next week. They are still working on getting funding for the textbooks ($250K-500K).
5. Stefanie gave an update on her projects – she went to SFOS’ college fair in Anchorage and promoted fisheries/marine biology degrees and the Future Alaskans project. She will also go around to local high schools the week of November 16th to do the same. She also went to AFN and made contact with the
Director of Sea Lion in Hooper Bay (who may join the coalition) and a retired teacher at the Kuskokwim campus. Lastly, website links will be sent out for Steering Committee review in the next couple of weeks.

6. Paula mentioned a flier from Beth Spangler – Stefanie will attach it to the e-mail. The flier is about the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. Palma Ingles may have taken over Beth Spangler’s at USFWS. While Beth is on maternity leave, Paula suggests that the Steering Committee recruit Michelle (from ANSEP) to join in on our next meeting. Stefanie will get in touch with Palma as well.

7. Glenn on the Alaska Forum on the Environment 201: he reminded us that the booth is going to be publicized with the rest of AFE so it should be better than the previous year. February 12th is a day for meetings. As a member of the AFE planning committee, he shared that he needs to solidify plans within the next two weeks to report (we should hear more at the next meeting).

8. AMSFCC will have a session on February 12th (probably at the Marriott but Glenn will confirm). AMSFCC partners need to discuss what happened last year and decide how things should unfold this year. What is it going to be on? What does the target audience look like? What was said last year and what was the feedback? Those who went last year mentioned that there was a good turn out. However, there was a lack of follow up. The coalition needs to live up to the promises made. Debbie took notes and hopefully we can e-mail it out for review before the next meeting.

9. The overall consensus was that AMSFCC should have a booth and a session at 2010 AFE. Stefanie will work with Paula on the Exhibitor’s packet. For those of you interested, it is at http://www.akforum.org/. Because we had a booth last year, we get a 30% discount. Paula said she would try to get Sea Grant to cover the costs. We want to work with RuralCAP, MESAS, and others in terms of booth material and management.

10. Mike asked about the Recovery Act money in Alaska – where was money invested? Paula mentioned that Stefanie’s stipend (AmeriCorps VISTA) is funded through this money. It was also mentioned that 400 tribal leaders met with Cabinet and education came up frequently (tribal education fund) – there was a strong Alaska delegation. In regards to this fiscal year’s budget: Glenn mentioned that Pete Jones in Senator Begiach’s office is trying to get NOAA’s budget done in the next two weeks. However, Congress will not be passing a budget this year (so it may be a continuing resolution).

Next Meeting: December 3rd, 2009 at 1:30pm