Alaska Marine Science & Fisheries Career Coalition (AMSFCC)  
Annual Meeting  
2010 Alaska Forum on the Environment  
Friday, February 12, 2010 9:00am-12:00noon  
Dena’ina Convention Center, Tubughnenq’ 3  
Anchorage, Alaska  

I. Welcome  
II. Steering Committee – Paula invited those present to join the Steering Committee monthly calls. Anyone interested should contact Paula  
III. Review: In 2007, forty people were invited to Fairbanks. The coalition was started at the end of that meeting.  
IV. The group shared their successes, round-robin style:  
   i. Ida (Chugach Regional Resources Commission): DOE federal grant to make a science curriculum for K-12 (grant is for three years). This curriculum is specific to the tribes in the Prince William Sound area; however, it will act as a template for other regions (adjustments can be made according to that particular region’s challenges, species, etc.). The focus will be culturally sensitive science curricula using traditional knowledge.  
   ii. Bonita Nelson (NOAA Fisheries): there are internships at Auke Bay lab. NOAA funded two summer internships for ANSEP students last summer. It was successful and will continue this summer; there may be up to 4 ANSEP fisheries students interning there this summer.  
   iii. Barbara Morgan(UAS-Ketchikan): enrollment at the UAS fisheries technology program has increased (currently at 27 students). Also, there will be three students graduating in 2010 (the largest class yet). They are currently using a USDA grant as well.  
   iv. Katie Straub (UAF-SFOS): SFOS got a Rasmussen grant (01/2007) to get fisheries in Alaska to national recognition. SFOS has six new fish faculty and students in the program have increased from 15 to 55 (where 20% are Alaska Native and 25% are rural). SFOS has also engaged in distance delivery (video conferencing). Christie Vanlaningham is working on their internships – there have been a lot of improvements there to foster partnership and develop internships. Courtney Carothers, one of the new faculty members, has worked to increase traditional knowledge in the fisheries program.  
   v. Candice (Alaska Department of Fish & Game): the ADF&G internship program is being revamped as a part of the department’s strategic planning. SFOS has added inserts to ADF&G’s fish license mailings. ADF&G is also in the process of recruiting and hiring a new Program Coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Careers for Alaskans program. **Candice is the new Workforce Development Program Coordinator in Juneau for ADF&G**
vi. Glenn: ANSEP is now incorporating biology into its program and is reaching out to rural students in the Chugach region. There are 4-5 students in the pre-college portion of ANSEP now.

vii. Debbie McLean Nelson (UAF-Bristol Bay): Bristol Bay campus is in the process of building infrastructure as an effort to build the student base. ANSEP pre-college and other internships are on this campus. Debbie recently took a course (via video conferencing) focusing on the human dimensions portion of fisheries with Professor Courtney Carothers from SFOS. An increase in visual and audio interaction would be beneficial.

viii. Miriam (IGAP): funds received from EPA to work with high school students to introduce them to meetings, recycling efforts, etc. This initiative started in 2000. They compose and distribute newsletter. SFOS outreach would be beneficial.

ix. Adelheid Herrmann: studying NOAA and the Sea Grant colleges in the Pacific and North Pacific states. She has seen gap between the rural, urban, and national scenes.

x. Rose Fosdick (Kawerak, Inc.): There is a fish biologist teaching biology in Nome now. However, full-time opportunities are not there (especially for those with degrees). There needs to be funding in rural regions to create more relevant job opportunities.

xi. Shawn Dixon (IAC Aleutian Pribilof of UAF): Andy Sietz has tried distance delivery with Unalaska but there were bandwidth issues. People are interested, however, so Internet based distance delivery should be considered (efforts to include the 12 villages in the surrounding region).

xii. Keith van den Broek (Native Village of Eyak): local students are interested in environmental and natural resources. However, it is still difficult to fill fisheries technician jobs with locals – more interest needs to be generated with the locals! Many students return to work simply for the money – perhaps collaboration is needed with Barbara Morgan and UAS/Fisheries Technology program for internships (especially as this program will soon be offered at PWCC as well). They are currently speaking with ANSEP now.

xiii. Sheila: Environmental education with Prince William Discovery room and Copper River Project with watershed stewardship program. There are fish camps all along Copper River.

xiv. Todd Radenbaugh (UAF - Bristol Bay): After three years, the Environmental Studies certificate has been accredited. This certificate focuses on ecosystem issues and does not compete with the Fisheries Technology program. It will soon be offered as an Associates of Science degree program and will articulate into the biology bachelors degree. Salmon Camp offered through the Bristol Bay Economic Development Center has been successful and will soon incorporate renewable energy and ecosystem focused
science. They are currently hiring for a high school liaison for STEM. A focus on high school students needs to be made to bridge the high school to college transition (example: need more role models). There is a high turnover rate for teachers and principals in the high school. Perhaps MAP and SFOS can help (two faculty members were raised in Bristol Bay).

V. Stefanie shared the website (the power point she used is attached to this e-mail in PDF form). She discussed the Future Alaskans in Fisheries & Marine Sciences project, the job board idea (collaboration between ADF&G and SFOS), and the social networking sites currently employed by the coalition.

**Action Items for AMSFCC 2010:**

1. MS 109 letter -- AMSFCC will communicate with NOAA Fisheries and invite them to meet with the Coalition to discuss how to use the funding they have. Paula will draft a letter for the steering committee to review.
2. Distance learning -- suggest UAF SFOS and others use internet-based distance-learning program (example: Elluminate Live). The group discussed the issues of employing video conferencing in villages. The Coalition will communicate their concern that fisheries classes become more distance delivered other than just video conferencing.
3. Memorandum of agreement amongst AMSFCC partners -- consider this a means to solidify our partnership and better communicate what it means to be a partner in this coalition.
4. Regional Champions -- get scientists and their work more connected to the community/kids. Do we know any Alaska Native scientists that could serve as positive role models?
5. How to measure success? We want to track because we need to see where the problems are. Methods include website hits, enrollment at schools, polling on how students heard about internships, etc.
6. Track kids who attend campus in order to better connect them to college (and then employment). AMSFCC could compose a feedback card for the various camps to see how students found out about the camp and how they are connecting their experience to life post-camp.
7. Traditional knowledge should be enhanced by the Coalition -- thoughts?

The meeting closed at 12:00 noon. New steering committee members include Todd Radenbaugh, Keith Van Den Broek and Katie Murra Straub.