Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Careers Coalition  
Steering Committee Meeting  
October 1, 2008 Face-to-Face Meeting

Draft Meeting Notes:

Steering Committee Members attending:
Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
Debbie Hart, ADF&G Fish and Wildlife Careers for Alaskans Program
Glenn Seaman, Alaska Native Liaison, NOAA NCOS
Mike Miller, Sitka Tribe
Ida Hildebrand, Chugach Regional Resource Commission
Barbara Morgan, UAS Fisheries Technology Program
Sue Leatherbery, Lower Kuskokwim School District
Rose Fosdick, Kawerak Natural Resources
Kyle Belleque, Ed Project Director, BBEDC

Guests:
Martin Leonard, UAF Kuskokwim Campus
Mike Reardon, US Fish and Wildlife Service/ANSEP Biological Science
Todd Radenbaugh, UAF Bristol Bay Campus
Deborah McLean, Director, UAF Bristol Bay Campus
Steve Becker, UAF Interior-Aleutian Campus, Natural Resources Program
Ginny Eckert, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

Action Items:
❖ Top five issues that came out of the discussions and give suggestions for a focus for the coalition:
  #1 - Outreach to others with similar concerns
  #2 - Communication among myriad of groups
  #3 - Tracking Students – helping them to not hit road blocks
  #4 – Focused efforts on science/and needs for rural K-12 policies
  #5 - Advocate – voice for various related ideas, initiatives, programs, etc..
  (k-12 education, lack of salaries for state employees, MSA line item needs, university partnerships, agency partnership, stakeholder partnerships, etc…)

❖ One page AMSFCC Introduction document – list of partners, ability to join = Paula agreed to draft
❖ 3-5 page White paper – the story that tells the history, situation, why this coalition is advocating….= Glenn agreed to write the draft. He will interview and involve Kyle and Martin to hear the story in their compelling voice, Doug Schneider may be able to help fine tune the draft.
❖ Need to look for assistance in staffing the group – the need is for a coordinator/admin assistant, …= Glenn will draft a list of job duties, etc… Ide = will see if the CITC may have a candidate. Other groups to seek assistance: 1) NPRB – 100K in community outreach……Mike Miller will talk with them; Glen to talk with AYKSSI;
Ida (working with Patti) will check with the Oak Foundation; Paula and Debbie will check with the Moore Foundation and various fisheries groups (Mary MacDowell, etc…)

- Glenn will send out an update/inquiry on the 2009 Forum on the Environment
- Alaska Tribal Conference on Management – October 27-28-29 – If anyone is interested in presenting contact, Todd, he is the session moderator on Oct 27th.

I. Introductions –

- Paula began and gave a brief introduction on how this group got started – discussion included:
  - She began with introductions on the Marine Advisory Program
  - She spoke about partnership with Dolly Garza, focus on recruiting local community residents into related fields – specifically focusing on marine science and fisheries, additional workshops resulted, most recently last fall forming this coalition
  - Three pieces to the issues 1) Education and Educators, 2) Employers, and 3) Coastal residents and stakeholders
  - Huge Progress in other arenas – simultaneously – ANSEP branched into biology, connected Herb to marine sciences/fisheries agency heads – SFOS gained large grant from Rasmussen Foundation (10million $$) – other momentum gaining in the rural campuses, ADF&G began the FWCA Program – New language drafted in the MSA under Section 109…..
  - Sees the difficulty with this group in making progress, busy schedules for steering committee members and a number of issues to focus on. Strong need to focusing on specific goals and actions items – she looks forward to this group making progress.

- Debbie talked about the recruitment and retention issues happening within the state, and specifically within ADF&G. Taking more of her efforts, less time available to work on recruiting and efforts of the coalition. Looking for additional support in house to help with all of the efforts.
- Ida Hildebrandt spoke about her efforts with the Chugiak Regional Resource Commission (CRRC)
  - CRRC Serves 7 communities in Prince William Sound, the organization is very interested in participating on the coalition – commitment to providing improvements to education. Looking for a focus from this group, believe it can accomplish good things
  - Senator Stevens office has communicated back to Ida as a result of inquires regarding MSA Section 109.

- Ginny Eckert – is a new faculty member to UAF SFOS – in Juneau – new to position as of August, previously taught and contributed to the marine biology program at UAS
  - Ginny sees a vibrant group of students in Juneau, she is involved in reinvigorating the fisheries program, Ginny is beginning a marine fisheries
program out of Juneau both undergrad and grad, intent is that students would have the 2+ option

- New graduate program beginning with strong mentorship program – urban students required to mentor rural students both in Juneau and Fairbanks. Dedicated to enrolling diversity in the grad programs. Needs help in recruiting. Actively looking to partner with ANSEP.

- Glenn Seaman – contractor to NOAA, previously with ADF&G – sees and feels the internal workforce issues at the state level. As program coordinator he is here to help get more minorities in employment at NOAA. Strong regional focus, currently putting more emphasis on a statewide focus. His position is funded to do these efforts – agrees the group needs to recognize the time commitments/challenges exist, do a reality check, identify gaps, identify what we can accomplish/not accomplish. His time currently spilt 50% regional 50% statewide.

- Kyle Belleque – Dillingham BBDC, has been involved in the effort since the beginning. In BB things are moving ahead fairly well, seeing progress – reasonable pace. Due to a whole host of individual efforts – which seems to be working. In looking at this initiative – also struggling with workload, hears the need for assistance with recruitment, communication seems the most difficult part, fairly loose commitment, holding informational meetings, AFS, Forum on Environment, a positive efforts … To share what is happening around the state. * Communication, that alone is a good effort. The effort we want to promote is moving forward…MSA – ADN article Sept 30th – sees a missing focus is the high school efforts. *Inability of folks to get into the schools.

- Todd Radenbaugh – BB campus – shared the many things happening out in Bristol Bay

- Deborah McLean, Director for the Bristol Bay Campus

- Mike Miller – still new to the group – owns a tug boat company – council member with Sitka tribe – represents them on natural resource issues. Sits on the advisory panel for the NPRB, commission on marine mammal issues, and Trustee for Sea Alaska Heritage Foundation). Has worked in Sitka – to try to get kids excited about science. “It’s hard to get students in high school steered differently – recognize we have to go to the junior high level. Seems like good outreach efforts at early age classes and opportunities needed for all the age groups – Questions – who is this group? See that groups are turfee… Sees a need for central organization to help steer these larger statewide issues.

- Steve Becker – UAF Interior/Aleutian Campus Tribal Natural Resource Management Program. Natural resources track within this program. Looking for ways to partner, strives to meet needs of folks in rural Alaska – as well as potential employers
  - Provided example on difficulty of keeping folks in these positions within the rural areas. Needs obvious at the federal, state and NGO levels. Tribal groups are needing program managers, with a focus in the issues/areas

- Barbara Morgan – UAS – Fisheries Tech Program. Fishing background, commercial fisherman, MA in teaching – science teacher in small rural schools. Doing HS outreach and education/outreach for UAS.
- Martin Leonard – Kuskokwim campus, UAF – Goals to grow STEM education in the YK delta areas. Main reason in being here – they are growing students, need consistent places to send them…works directly with campus to ensure this.
- Mike Reardon – USFWS 35 years – Kotzebue and Bethel – has worked long at attracting Alaska Natives into the workforce – described first hand the struggles rural students have in going into urban settings – on loan to ANSEP – last 1 ½ years – strong focus on agencies, industry relationships in building pool of biologists.

II. Tribal Management Program, UAF Interior-Aleutian Campus – Steve provided an overview:
- Update- Tribal Management Certificate – Associate of applied science, clarification
- Track in Natural Resources Management
- Partnering discussions with CRRC
- Looking at stepping back to the broader Natural Resource emphasis. Want to train to a generalists level – policy, planning, with some focus on the specialists
- Want to build partnerships with these big programs to help with the rural courses – 2+ 2 model. Focus on the place based education around local /Elder involvement
- Trying also to offer lots of field experiences and hands on training
- Personal product of the UAF Natural Science Management program. – The last 18 years has struggled in hiring Alaska Natives – see this as a direct result of the difficulty in math and sciences back ground. STEM grant – looking at delivering more science and math in the rural campuses. College of Rural Community Development – building skills – have to reach the kids earlier than high school
- Mike Reardon asked “What percentage are you seeing to go beyond the certificates”…Steve answered…“Program is still new …lots of these students are working for other employers and taking some of these classes one at a time. No concrete data yet.”
- Barbara Morgan asked about credit structure. Steve discussed the structure which includes workshops – 1 or 2 credit classes offered in a weeklong format. Most classes are 1-credit classes. Not much focus on distance delivery.

III. UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences - Ginny Eckert – Provided update on the expansion of the BS in fisheries at UAF, new BA, and graduate programs
- New faculty (of which Ginny is part) 1 marine mammalogist, 3 fisheries biologists, 1 social specialist. Still figuring out how all will fit together.
- Ginny previously taught at UAS – intro biology – saw so many students not survive. Failure rate of 25% - need to establish better support network to help students make it through. ANSEP is a good model, need to have that expanded. 2+2 model could see some positive impacts as well….First two years at UAS, Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau – then come to Fairbanks or Juneau to complete…. Need to contact the other regions, Dillingham, interior, in theory students could take these classes at any of these campuses. Limitations exist at the regional areas. Sees strong need for biology and chemistry core classes
within the regional classes. Biology/chemistry. – need to have intensives not available on line – these intensives are expensive, funding issue – NOAA/USDA funding has been available. Serious issue for the rural campuses. Pre-requisites….require the rural campuses to offer the lower level courses and incorporate into the certificate programs. How do we teach these lab courses that meet the equivalence? 2+2 – may be a miss name – more like a 3+4 program.

- Growing K-12 involvement…
- Nicola Hilgruber – assisting in statewide science camps. Sees more main campus instructors assisting rural campuses – great benefits in having them come out to the rural areas to teach rural residents in a local setting. (Martin also recognized that these efforts are received well in the rural areas)
- New Graduate program grant - 2 million dollar grant – IGERT – ecosystem based management – for MA and PhD students, focus is on managers, policy, planning - interdisciplinary program. Intent is to have these students mentor the undergraduate students, both rural and native students. Make communications happen both ways. Could also have the mentoring happening within rural settings, also Juneau and Fairbanks campus. More than just a phone call a month. Looking for partner internship components. See these groups of students eventually working for agencies.

IV. UAF Bristol Bay Campus – Todd Radenbaugh and Deborah McLean.
- BB Campus is trying to offer broad environmental studies certificate, generalist approach.
- Solutions come from outside, needs are more for an inside approach.
- Fisheries field, watershed monitors, brown shirts, NEPA specialists. Encourage following degree pursuits. Perceptions are that the certificate programs are too difficult – starting to see some change – starting to see folks inquiring more, etc… certificate still under the approval process, uses an educational model, distance technology – alumanate, live, etc
- Science labs require intensives, one credit courses, where students of teachers concentrate in one locale. Also requires a research project, coordinated distance based, field course – summer intensive, present papers, etc…
- Miles stones – EMPS – history of program, focus on fisheries, oil and gas and mining. Have been adding staff, applied and basic research. Two full time students, internship program (7 students this summer, USFWS, ADF&G)
- Promote regional science program – western Alaska interdisciplinary science conference rural campuses talking about rural campuses including agency partners, people can do fun science out of their houses….applied science examples.
- Trying to articulate it within the UA system….do not want to teach all by distance, funding issues are tying and contain face to face contact – currently on federal funding …need some state support, other option is to charge students. Working with the degree programs that most align students

V. USFWS Partners Program - Beth Spangler
- Biologists, educators, employers and interns – RFP Notice to go out in November, due in January 2009, DVD/slideshow presentation
VI. ANSEP – Biological Sciences – Mike Reardon/UAF Kuskokwim Campus – Martin Leonard

- ANSEP – history of program (Anchorage, Fairbanks and KUC)
- Pre-college program 70% effort and funds (chem., physics, Algebra II requirements)
- Summer bridge program – safety training, field internship component, 4-week math course – Algebra II, pre calc...
- 85% of the summer bridge student complete a bachelor's degree average is – 71/2 years
- College programs (recruitment and retention) weekly meetings, recitation meetings, membership in a community of students, graduation rate for this group it is 70%
- Graduate program – SLOAN foundation – 32,000$ (7) 38,000 PhD (1) (one masters in biology, the rest are engineering students)
- New focus on health careers, bio med, bio tech, etc…
- Current 17 ANSEP students in biology
- Funding has been easy to find – 2 million agencies, FS, USFS, ADF&G, 1CDQ, Oil companies
- 20% funding from state for ANSEP the rest is thru grants
- 400 students through the pre-college program with contact within the system now – nearing HS graduation
- Long vision – 7-9 years out theses funding agencies should see results
- Recruitment efforts – focus on STEM, let them decide what they want to do
- The focus is science and math – not a specific discipline
- Pre-college program is beginning to focus on younger students – 12,11,10 and 9th
- Mentoring program within the ANSEP program
- Clearly the biggest problem ----not getting an adequate education within the K-12 years, important link between the agencies and the colleges
- New HS recruitment ideas…Brought 40 HS to campus at UAA, received their computers on campus, Intensive physics course on campus over the summer – head start for students
- 50 villages, Mt. Edgecombe, Bethel, Galena, Nome, Kodiak…
- Frustrating issues – many of the small rural areas can not provide the physics, chemistry and math……..need different models to meet some of these challenges. Example – chem. Entrance class – one semester/need one year to complete for rural students
- What can this group do – Recommend – reduce the effort for specific disciplines from SFOS within the high schools, support the ANSEP program, focus outreach and recruitment at the ANSEP programs on campus to out reach the marine science and fisheries options for college enrollment/transfer/Connecting SFOS staff with ANSEP meetings, staff, etc…
- Need a computer software program focused on fisheries and marine science
- Need for ANSEP in southeast – coordinated with PITAS
- Lack of funding priorities in K-12 education
• Paula – advocate…..for where gaps are/ Kyle – disagreement on camps, he sees they do work, scholarships work too – BB region seems to be turning, CDQ groups are engaged in this region, need more coordination – communication is lacking, Sees this group as a loose group who maintains a line of communication, network statewide programs and efforts to address focus of challenges

VII. Career and Technical Education/Science Testing – Helen Mehrkens, Dept of Education
• Department web site – standards based assessments – contains the testing results from the new science test – communication issues in releasing the results/roll-ed out
• New commissioner is interested in funding specific contacts for specialty subjects
• State law allows for the regional based curriculum – which creates this problem we have been hearing abut – not all districts allow for consistent course
• Summit is sponsored by DOE/UA –
• Lower grades are not teaching science – as a result of conflict with time in teaching core NCLB and local funding sources
• Career and Technology /Tech prep – post-secondary/HS duel credit.
• Could definitely benefit form a scholarship based incentive program
• Carl Perkins – no state money for career and technical education, lumped in with special education, Carl Perkins has been trying to fill this role – funding reauthorized two years ago – new focus on streamlining credits, guidance and career development – lots of concern with global competitiveness
• Will the performance scores change the funding availability – this will help; to get this information out and may invigorate a feeling that this is unacceptable.
• STEM is getting a lot of attention at the national level
• Career connections need to be improved
• What should we focus on ….briefing document (White Paper) talking about concerns in science application – highlight gaps, writing it in a compelling voice – go to the legislature with it. 5-page…summary of concerns, issues K-12 education, no science in elementary classes, inconsistent chem., biology, Math courses on a statewide level, communication within the UA , academic rigor.

VIII. Martin Leonard – continued presentation
• TRIO Talent Search (no tracking grant requirement/but very interesting for UAF to know this)
• Emerging Scholars Program
• Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative
• Elder in residence…EIR
• ANSEP models
• Improved faculty
• Only rural campus with a dorm
• Nunivak Island IP infrastructure
• Increasing STEM credits being delivered
• Dual credit classes offered, math, science, ANSEP bridging program, Doubling student enrollment, Testing center on campus – Assessment and placement of incoming college students/ Incentives – ANSEP pre-college/Nunivak Island Summer Science Field/Nunivak is rigorous! Just like college
• ANSEP College bridge – partner
• Focusing on more jobs for local STEM students – local partnerships
• Marketing and recruitments – advisors and mentors are really needed – need dedicated advisor/new AS degree
• Its all about jobs!
• Brain drain – opportunities at home
• Message - Scientists are ok – and KuC Campus is a good starting point
• Research Facility is strategic goal for the campus
• Big Picture Needs/Cooperative Recruitment/College Entry Assessment and Placement/Dedicated attached scholarships/Consistence Access UA/ANSEP Campuses/Inter-agency/Corporate Cooperation

IX. UAS Fisheries Technology Program - Barbara Morgan
• Outreach to rural schools (best response from 3rd grade student)
• 100% distance delivered
• USDA grant native serving institutions grant, Barbara’s salary and tuition support
• 17 students enrolled in this program, 6 new students
• Industry reps knowing on doors – wanting fish culturists now! Hatcheries big employer, actively asking for dedicated ed program
• Two classes with lab components – where students come in to Ketchikan for a period of time (grant pays for this expense)
• AS/AAS/certificate – so far all grads – articulation agreement with SFOS,

X. Parking Lot items
• Outreach to others with similar concerns
• Supporting efforts to pay State employees better to help improve agency Recruitment
• Promote communication and collaboration opportunities (like this one!)
• K-12/High school student focus
• Core science curriculum at regional campuses
• Help to tracking students
• Improve interconnected-ness amongst groups

XI. Top Issues brought up in meeting to offer ideas for coalition focus:
• # 1 Outreach to others with similar concerns
• #2Communication among myriad of groups
• #3Tracking Students – helping them to not hit road blocks
• #4Focusing on science/and need for rural K-12 policy – white paper for legislature
• #5Advocate – voice for various components – lack of salaries for state employees, MSA line item needs
• Potential communication white papers….
• Sue’s letter – would like to go to the Education Forum
XII. Action Items

- One page AMSFCC Introduction document – list of partners, ability to join = Paula
- White paper – Write the story….Glen, Kyle and Martin = Doug Schneider to help fine tune the draft
- Brainstorm staffing the group – coordinator, admin assistant, …Glen to compile list of job duties, etc…CITC on the job training………Ida to check to see if there is an administrative assistant –
- NPRB – 100K in community outreach……Mike Miller to talk with them/Glen to talk with AYKSSI ………may have some assistance/Oak Foundation………………Alaska fisheries interest………………identified Alaska coastal resources area of concern and interest……….capacity building IDA to follow up with Patti /Moore Foundation/Mary MacDowell
- Forum on the environment – February 2009 – focus on successes/some thoughts on the challenges – Glenn will send out an update/inquiry/ Successes of communities capacity building/ Over view of key programs that are available in the fisheries, natural resources areas (SFOS, ANSEP, Coastal Campuses)
- Alaska Tribal Conference on Management – 27-28-29 – Todd has a session on Oct 27th. 2hrs

XIII. Next Steering Committee meeting: November 10th

Guest Contacts:

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