Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Careers Coalition
Steering Committee Meeting – October 8, 2009

Draft Meeting Notes:

Steering Committee Members attending:
Paula Cullenberg, Acting Director, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
Ginny Eckert, Associate Professor, UAF School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences
Barbara Morgan, UAS Fisheries Technology Program
Debbie Hart, ADF&G Fish & Wildlife Careers for Alaskans Program
Ida Hildebrand, Tribal Natural Resource Program Director, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Glenn Seaman, Alaska Native Liaison, NOAA NCOS
Stefanie Benca, VISTA Volunteer, Alaska Marine Science & Fisheries Career Coalition

Not attending:
Mike Miller, Sitka Tribe
Rose Fosdick, Vice President, Natural Resources Division, Kawerak Inc.
Sue Leatherbery, Lower Kuskowim School District
Beth Spangler, ANSEP Biological Sciences

General Updates:

1) Paula – annual MAP meeting in Bethel was 09/29-10/01. Met with Susan Baird from the Kuskokwim Campus to see UAF’s role in the Y/K region. She mentioned emerging scholars program, talent search in robotics/rocket science/etc, and ANSEP. Dean Wiesenburg has given money for more outreach. Also heard from Andrea Pokrzywinski – she uses distance learning for high school courses (62 students) like ecology. She can be a good resource and reached at andreauupnorth@gmail.com

2) Stefanie – currently updating “Future Alaskans in Fisheries & Marine Science” webpage (http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/future/) and employing a message board (http://z6.invisionfree.com/Future_of_Alaska/index.php) and blog (http://future-alaskans.blogspot.com/) to make it more interactive. Please review websites and send updates, suggestions, questions, and comments to stefanie.benca@gmail.com.

3) Stefanie also updated internal website for Coalition with Beverly Bradley (http://seagrant.uaf.edu/map/initiatives/marinescience/index.html) – steering committee notes, reports/presentations, etc. will be posted here. Invitations will be send via Google to Steering Committee to have access to add onto Google calendar. A newsletter will be sent by mail and e-mail to coalition members before 12/01 to remind them of 2010 Alaska Forum on the Environment and reignite enthusiasm of coalition. Will be attending SFOS college fair in Anchorage 10/12-10/13 to work with Katie Straub. Will make appointment to meet with Beth Spangler for ANSEP. Working with COSEE and Marilyn Sigman for AK Marine Science Symposium (01/18-01/22).

4) Glenn – working with Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) and their Discovery Labs. These will be held monthly in Homer. They are trying to extend it to tribe (Nanwalek) around 11/09-11/10. Stefanie may attend to see village and observe how
science is presented differently in urban versus rural settings. She may go as a volunteer for ADF&G so she can also learn more about the department (also NOAA), the available resources, and the different relationships.

5) Ginny suggested a “job board” is created – a central place to post current listings. The message board (http://z6.invisionfree.com/Future_of_Alaska/index.php) may be suitable. Stefanie will explore various options.

6) Barbara mentioned the Shellfish Summit that will be going on in Ketchikan 10/20-10/21. Oceans Alaska will be there to highlight the barriers to shellfish farming success. Cathy Lacom and John Pew will be coming down. Ray Ronald is on the invite list. UAS Fish Tech website has many updates – please send new links to stefanie.benca@gmail.com.

7) The group discussed the standstill of the articulation agreement between Ketchikan and UAF. Paula spoke with Trent Sutton – he thinks it is stuck in UAF Admissions and is currently not a high priority item. **Debbie will call the Director of Admissions (800-478-1823) as an attempt to push the agreement forward and then e-mail Trent. She will e-mail the committee afterwards.** If all fails, the group will try to connect with the Provost or the Vice Chancellor of Services. AMSFCC may write a letter of support. Please think of others that can effectively champion for this approval.

8) Ginny reported positive feedback on UAF SFOS college fair in Juneau with Katie Straub. There seems to be a lot of confusion between the connection between UAF and Juneau in regards to fisheries program. However, number of interested students increased which shows that outreach efforts are making an impact on the student level.

9) Ginny will be participating in the SACNAS meeting 10/15-10/18 in Texas with two SFOS students. This meeting will focus on getting undergraduates to continue onto graduate programs in the sciences. http://www.sacnas.org/confNew/confClient/default.asp

10) Ida reported that CRRC is still looking to fill the position of scientist in residence. They are still in need of funds for the textbooks ($250,000-500,000). She also suggested that someone attends AFN Youth Conference (10/22-10/24) in Anchorage to observe youth portion and possibly get contacts.

11) Glenn shared information on 2010 Forum on the Environment (02/8-10/12). He sent out a document summarizing potential sessions for his Education and Training Track. Details of each session were sent in an e-mail – Stefanie will re-send it. **Breakdown was essentially:** Tuesday – showcase of youth in Alaska who are involved in environmental efforts (possibly a student panel); Wednesday – “Our Culture, Our Lands, and Our Future” forums followed by education/training component; Thursday – showcase of education and employer opportunities (possibly a panel of HR folks). There is a new Youth Track led by Meg Burgett (Corporate Extension) – hope to increase youth presence at forum but need funds for travel/lodge. The planning committee hopes to have sessions finalized by the end of November when Glenn’s NOAA job ends.

12) **Coalition needs to think about and discuss its session at the 2010 Forum on the Environment – do we want a Friday session and booth?** The booth should be more popular this year since everything is essentially at the Denaina Center (increased visibility). Perhaps Barbara can come down to Anchorage on 02/12.

13) Glenn mentioned AK Native Youth forums in Anchorage -- “Warriors for a New Era: Challenging Alaska Youth to Repower Their World” is 10/19 at the Denaina Center. This may be a good place to see who attends, take notes on messages, observe responses.
14) Glenn mentioned update on MSA Section109 – confirmed with Peter Johns that Senator allotted $1M but not in House yet and federal budget not finalized. Money for the first time – possibly next year.

15) Debbie gave an update on the two new positions in Department of Education – Rural Education Advisor and Partnership. It would be good for the coalition to work with both. In regards to Rural position, Debbie has contact with the Communication Director, Eric Fry. The new Partnership position (created under Governor Parnell) has Alise Galvin has a point of contact. It would be good for them to work with AMSFCC. **Debbie will send out contact information on these. Paula will send Alise an invite to the next AMSFCC teleconference.**

16) **Debbie will e-mail Keith Cox (from Sitka Science Center) to join.** His e-mail: keith.cox@noaa.gov or marlin.cox@gmail.com She has already contacted Beth Spangler.

17) Paula mentioned that she thinks Sue Leatherbery (formerly with Lower Kuskokwim School District) has a new job as a teacher in a village. It would be good to keep in contact with Sue; Paula will track her down to maintain communication.

18) Next Meeting Dates: November 5th and December 3rd at 1:30pm