AMSFCC Steering Committee notes – 11/18/11

Here is a recap from our recent meeting. It was a very interesting and creative discussion!

Meeting attendees: Paula Cullenberg, Asia Beder, Lisa Busch, Barbara Morgan, Mike Thalhauser, Sheila Cameron, Ginny Eckert, Robin Dublin, Marilyn Sigman.

Meeting Topics/Tasks:
1. We welcomed Mike Thalhauser to our Steering Committee. Mike is head of the Fisheries program at the Kuskokwim Native Association. His email is mthalhauser@knafish.org

2. Sheila Cameron led a discussion of the Coalition’s goal survey. If you haven’t taken the survey please follow this link https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AMSFCC-goals. You can also see the survey results here https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=7ItQo11NS3uxrrW4CS7VqhssRzHF5aUDW9O7S04CRE_3d

We had a long and creative discussion during our review of the survey. Ginny Eckert noted that student preparation and student retention once they start studying fisheries is an issue. We discussed the goal to provide equal math and science across Alaska. This launched us into a discussion of some major needs by students in pursuing fisheries and marine science. Sheila summarized these below:

Gaps discussed:

Support for students in college that ARE on track
• Help find funding for a support person
• Complement work done by ANSEP – not duplicate

Summer opportunities
• Integrate (Marilyn has a list of opportunities)
• Help students become aware of these
• Take something on the road to reach more kids (science camps etc)

Mentorship from Jr/Sr through Freshman year
• Through internship contacts
• Or professors

How do we BRIDGE from HS?
• 2-3 week math class (Fish Math) coupled with existing camps?
• Use developmental math from UA?
• Use graduate students and ship them around the state? Or bring students together?
• Camps would be interested in adding a math module if one was available

Summer internships
• Need host organizations/supervisors
• Need to help find funding
• Using existing internship programs with all agencies,
  o Bring students together for training or something at the beginning of the season
  o Then Debrief after the season – experiences etc which would help “sell” other opportunities to the students

MATH is a big challenge
• Students are not prepared for the math they need to take in college
• Intensive summer programs?
• How do you sell this to students?

Cooperative Extension Service – Salmon in the Classroom (Marilyn Sigman)
• Use the week-long conference as a way to reach teachers and give them information to pass on to students
o Information about internships
o Partner with USFS for local staffing (in National Forest areas)
o Discussion of a “Hi, I’m a fisheries biologist and I got into it because…” short videos to distribute for teachers etc to use in exciting the students

Please email Sheila with your top 3 strategies to accomplish our goals

3. Salmon in the classroom presentation by Marilyn Sigman (COSEE Alaska)
   • The Cooperative Extension Service and Alaska Sea Grant have been supporting this training for rural teachers on how to use salmon in class salmon incubation and salmon curriculum.
     o Reaches about 70 rural communities now
     o Includes Teacher workshop (4 days)
     o Costs about $30,000 plus cost of equipment
     o Looking for new funding
     o Possible Forest Service Partnership
   * Should AMSFCC partner with CES and look to help fund some of this teacher training?

4. Updates from Steering Committee
   • Lisa –
     o Sitka Whale Fest just finished up
     o About 10 scientists join in the Scientists in the Classroom opportunity
   • Barbara –
     o Just finished the Alaska Shellfish Growers Association meeting and associated Festival in Ketchikan
   • Ginny –
     o SACNAS Meeting (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) in San Jose in October – she attended.
       ▪ Alaska Chapter? None right now
       ▪ 2012 Annual meeting in Seattle
   • Sheila –
     o Working on recruitment for summer internships with ADF&G
     o Internships still being developed
   • Mike –
     o This was Mike’s first steering committee meeting. We are happy to have him joining our group
   • Robin –
     o National Marine Educators Conference, Anchorage, June 24-28th
     o NAME Alaska is offering scholarships for Alaska educators to come to conference
     o Registration is $325
   • Paula –
     o MAP will be holding the Alaska Young Fishermen’s Summit in Juneau in February 13-15
   • Asia –
     o Attended the Alaska Chapter American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Girdwood this week
       ▪ Gave presentation about the Coalition and what we have to offer
     o Please help keep our blog and job board going!
- Send short blurbs about opportunities going on in your community to Asia so she can add them to the coalitions blog, pictures are awesome too!
- Also send any internships/jobs to her so they can be added to our job board

We will have our next meeting in January. A doodle poll will be sent out to determine the date.