Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Careers Coalition
Steering Committee Meeting – March 10, 2010

Draft Meeting Notes:
Steering Committee Members attending:
Paula Cullenberg, Acting Director, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
Rose Fosdick, Vice President, Natural Resources Division, Kawerak Inc.
Ginny Eckert, Associate Professor, UAF School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences
Ida Hildebrand, Tribal Natural Resource Program Director, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Hanna Ecklund, CRRC Researcher for DOE K-12 Science Curriculum
Todd Radenbaugh, UAF Bristol Bay
Katie Murra Straub, UAF School of Fisheries & Ocean Sciences Recruitment and Retention Coordinator
Stefanie Benca, VISTA Volunteer, AMSFCC Coordinator
Adelheid Herrmann

Not attending:
Debbie Hart, ADF&G Fish & Wildlife Careers for Alaskans Program
Candice Bressler, ADF&G Workforce Development Program Coordinator
Barbara Morgan, UAS Fisheries Technology Program
Sue Leatherbery, Lower Kuskowim School District
Beth Spangler, ANSEP Biological Sciences
Mike Miller, Sitka Tribe
Keith van den Broek, Native Village of Eyak
Glenn Seaman

General Updates
1. As discussed at the annual meeting (at the Alaska Forum on the Environment), AMSFCC sent a letter to Doug Mecum and Chris Oliver offering the coalition’s assistance to NOAA in allocating the $500,000 from MS109. Paula followed up with an e-mail and was told they would be “back in touch soon”. Updates to come.
2. The Coalition discussed possible MS109 recommendations. Keith and Glenn sent out their thoughts via e-mail. NOAA is looking for a champion and a constituency. Perhaps the coalition can be a champion – what would be each partner’s role in all of this? Possible recommendations were discussed:
   i. Funds are limited for those who want to get masters degrees. Graduate students get a salary, and it is difficult to get corporations to commit to supporting their tuition and salary. But will rural and Native students even apply to scholarships if they are offered? It may be an incentive to find students interested in these degrees.
   ii. ANSEP program in Southeast. Currently, the limiting factor is a coordinator. This may be a favorable choice due to NOAA’s desire to invest in projects that will have a quick turnaround time.
   iii. Ida and CRRC’s textbook project of incorporating Native knowledge. Or perhaps a college course can be developed (curriculum written and
delivered by a Native). Ginny mentioned this is available at the graduate level; however, it is missing at the undergraduate level.

iv. Please brainstorm more recommendations for the next meeting.

3. The Coalition wants to have a one-page letter/brochure to act as a form of press release to send out to villages and anyone else interested. Stefanie will draft this up in the coming weeks. Please send her suggestions on design and content. Thanks to Ida for offering to submit such a letter to the Tanana Chiefs Conference Council!

4. Ginny shared a challenge: MESAS (http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/mesas/) has a mentorship program where its graduate students reach out to undergraduate students. They have been having a difficult time gaining interest amongst undergraduates. Suggestions to overcome this obstacle:
   i. Offer an academic credit for participation
   ii. Define the mentorship more concretely – is it tutoring, touching base every week, etc. Do the students understand the concept of mentorship?
   iii. Utilize UAF’s Rural Student Services (they have a weekly potluck) or ANSEP and their weekly lunches.
   iv. Make sure the students are culturally matched.
   **Please send more suggestions to gleckert@alaska.edu**

5. Job board is complete (http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/jobs/)! Stefanie has worked with Christie VanLaningham, SFOS Experiential Learning Coordinator. Please spread the word about this job board! Modifications will come – for example, there will be clear instructions on how to get jobs posted. For now, please direct everyone to e-mail Stefanie (at stefanie.benca@gmail.com) or Christie (cavanlaningham@alaska.edu) if they are interested in posting a job. Please send other suggestions to better this service.

6. Stefanie will be working on interviewing regional champions (particularly rural Alaskans and Alaska Natives). So far, she has Dolly Garza, Tyler Dann, and Kay Larson Blair on her to-do list. Thanks to Ida for sending suggestions (Martin Leonard III, UAF-Kuskokwim campus; Kim Williams, UAF-IAC, La Ona DeWilde, Dustin Madden). Ginny mentioned a similar project done by the Juneau campus highlighting two Native Alaskan Fisheries MS graduates. She will build off this foundation and send out what she has in the coming weeks. Please continue sending her names and design/content suggestions.

7. Stefanie is creating an online survey to measure progress. One will be a survey for current coalition partners and another will be an on-going survey for students. We want to know what they consider to be their roadblocks, career goals, etc. Stefanie will send some questions this week. Please think of other questions and send them to her.

8. It would be good for the coalition to make a general information packet/brochure on the pathways to careers in fisheries. It will be designed for Alaskans but will not be exclusive. The selling factor may be highlighting jobs/careers in Alaska. More information to come.
   a. Adelheid shared this link as a resource: http://labor.alaska.gov/esd_alaska_jobs/careerstreams.htm.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH AT 9:30AM