Presentation to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Brian Allee, Ph.D.
Director
Alaska Sea Grant
University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
Alaska Sea Grant Program Mission

- Alaska Sea Grant develops and supports research, education, and extension programs and partnerships to help sustain economic development, traditional uses, and conservation of Alaska’s marine estuarine and coastal watershed resources
One of the Strategic Plan goals is to enhance and improve the profitability and viability of Alaska’s commercial fishermen and fishing communities.
Grassroots Initiative

- Kodiak and Pribilof Island fishermen requested that Alaska Sea Grant convene an international workshop in March 2006
  - Worldwide state of the art assessment of the feasibility of crab culture technology
  - Consensus for Alaska to pursue king crab ocean ranching
  - Alaska Sea Grant published workshop proceedings
Grassroots Initiative

• Steering Committee
  Alaska Sea Grant, UAF SFOS, University of Massachusetts, NOAA Fisheries (Kodiak), Alaska Crab Coalition, Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery, Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association, GOACCC, Kodiak Island Borough, Pribilof Islands Collaborative, and United Fishermen’s Marketing Association
Scientific Partnerships

- Alaska Sea Grant, UAF SFOS, NOAA Fisheries (Kodiak), ADFG Gene Conservation Laboratory and University of Massachusetts, University of Maryland.
- Research collaborations
  - King crab culture technology transfer: NOAA Fisheries and University of Massachusetts
  - Genetic mass marking: University of Alaska Southeast and University of Maryland
  - ADFG Gene Conservation Laboratory
  - Faculty, graduate students, and research biologists: Alaska Sea Grant, UAF SFOS, and UAS
Scientific Advisory Group

- Ted Ames, Maine
- Ginny Eckert and David Tallmon, UAS
- Bob Foy and Al Stoner, NOAA Fisheries
- Denis Hedgecock, USC
- Tuck Hines, SERC
- Gordon Kruse, UAF
- Allan Place and Odi Zamora, U. Maryland
- Brad Stevens, U. Mass
- Doug Woodby, ADFG
International Scientists

• Michel Comeau, DFO Canada
• Anna Epelbaum, DFO Canada
• Nikolina Kovacheva, Russia
• Gustavo Lovrich, Argentina
• Gro van der Meeren, Norway
• Kurt Paschke, Chile
• Carolina Romero, Argentina
• Federico Tapella, Argentina
Critical Partnership

• Alaska has only one shellfish hatchery
  – Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery—Hatchery expertise, culture equipment and facilities, algal and artemia culture
Status and Future Approach

• **Current**
  - Red king crab broodstock and larval rearing
  - Blue king crab broodstock and larval rearing

• **Future 2008**
  - Phase 1: Larval culture
    - Diet, density, growth, survival, and mass culture technology
  - Phase 2: Nursery culture
    - Habitat, diet, growth, and survival
  - Phase 3: Post release simulation of wild outstocking
    - Short term experiments with predation and competition
    - Longer term experiments monitoring growth and survival
Budget

- Existing budget
  - Bootstrap contributions to date: $326,000
  - Obligated funds for FY08: $589,000

- Alaska Legislature funding for Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery
  - FY07: $75,000
  - FY08: $120,000

- Congressional request
  - FY08: $1,203,480
Questions?