



Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary of Wednesday, March 20, 2013 call
Hosts: Molly McCammon, mccammon@aoos.org
Paula Cullenberg, paula.cullenberg@alaska.edu
Summary notes by Ellen Tyler

Alaska Marine Policy Forum is a bimonthly teleconference for Alaskans to network and share information about marine policy, budgets, and legislation at state, national, and international levels, sponsored by Alaska Sea Grant and the Alaska Ocean Observing System.

Bob King, Office of U.S. Senator Begich: bob_king@begich.senate.gov

Bob had to talk-and-run today to get Senator Begich over to the Revelle Lecture on Arctic Ice at the Smithsonian where the Senator was asked to introduce UAF Professor John Walsh who was delivering the lecture. Drs. Walsh and Brendan Kelly (White House Office of Science Technology and Policy) briefed hill staff on Arctic issues on Tuesday and had good turn-out and interest. Though Bob was not available to take questions on the call he encouraged callers to be in touch via e-mail (above) with any further questions or comments.

Today the Senate passed a Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government through the rest of this fiscal year. Tomorrow this bill will go to the House and the Senate will take up a (non-binding) budget resolution for FY14. NOTE: CR passed House and will be signed by President, providing funding for federal government for FY 13.

The Senator has (re) introduced several Bills including:

[S.518](#): H2O Visa for Seafood Processing Act – (H2O Visa) – which is a placeholder bill to bring attention to unique seafood processing concerns within the national context of immigration reform.

[S.520](#): Safety And Fraud Enforcement for Seafood Act – (SAFE Act) – which directly responds to several recent reports of significant mislabeling and traceability issues rampant in the seafood supply chain. Ed Markey is carrying a companion Bill in the House, HR1012.

[S.272](#): Arctic Research, Monitoring, and Observing Act of 2013 –(Arctic Science Bill) – which address growing research needs in the Arctic and enables the U.S. Arctic Research Commission (USARC) to make research grants, through an existing endowment

Although these bills, securing federal funding to fishery disasters, and addressing other marine hazards like Frankenfish and marine debris remain top priorities, everything is taking a back seat to budget issues right now.

The Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard recently held a hearing on inter-jurisdictional fisheries management. This hearing focused primarily on East Coast issues – flounder management- though there was a good discussion of fishery research needs nationally.

In addition to the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) is also up for reauthorization, and hearings are kicking off in the House. Begich’s approach will be to take a hard look at many contentious issues, hold a number of hearings across the country, and try to find some traction points to move forward. Bob flagged a (sold out) “Managing our Nation’s Fisheries” conference happening in May in Washington DC.

Senator Begich will hold a field hearing on Arctic Shipping Safety and Lessons Learned from the 2012 Shell drilling season on March 27th at the UAA/APU Consortium Library (3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage) from 10 am-12pm in room 307. Tommy Beaudreau from BOEM, Shell Alaska vice president Pete Slaiby, representatives from PEW and others will be speaking at this public meeting.

Rob Earl, office of Rep. Bob Herron, Bethel

Rob shared that the first meeting of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission will be this coming Saturday from 12-6 pm at Centennial Hall in Juneau and webcast live at <http://akl.tv>. The agenda for that meeting is attached at the end of the Marine Policy Forum notes. An Op-Ed piece will appear in the Alaska Dispatch on Friday, March 22. The Commission tentatively plans to hold 8 meetings this year throughout the State including a meeting in Barrow in May or early June and one in Unalaska later this summer. Since there are 26 members, the plan is to organize commissioners into 6 working groups in hopes of being more agile. Currently they are drafting a list of all the important federal programs and processes important to Alaska in the Arctic.

In Juneau, the House Fisheries Committee favorably passed Rep. Bob Herron’s Chinook salmon research and restoration endowment (HB 49) and the bill has been referred to the Finance Committee. Rep. Herron introduced a Port and Development Authority bill (HB 165) and a resolution (HR7) urging Sec of State Kerry to attend the next Arctic Council Meeting.

Doug Burn, Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Doug shared that at a workshop on regional management issues and applied science needs at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in January, participants voiced interest in providing feedback on landscape-scale stressors and the cooperative’s strategic plan. There is now a survey available at <https://absilcc.org>. Participants will need to create a free user account to contribute.

Molly McCammon, Alaska Ocean Observing System

Molly shared that the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS -- a Federal Cabinet-level, inter-departmental committee chaired by the Secretary of Transportation) just released a draft report, entitled "Arctic Marine Transportation System: Overview and Priorities for Action." It is available at: <http://www.cmts.gov>

- Accepting comments (e-mail: ArcticMTS@cmts.gov) till April 22nd
- There will be a phone call presentation and opportunity to voice feedback on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 11-12:30 AK time (Please RSVP ArcticMTS@cmts.gov to receive call-in information)

The United States Arctic Research Commission (USARC) just released a report to the President and Congress outlining recommended scientific research goals and objectives for the Arctic. It is available at:

http://www.arctic.gov/publications/2013-14_usarc_goals.pdf

- The commission's next meeting is in Bethel March 21-22.

DOI released their expedited 60-day review of Shell's 2012 Alaska Arctic drilling operations in 2012. A PDF is available:

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/Shell-report-3-8-13-Final.pdf>

Molly and Ellen Tyler were in DC earlier this month for a meeting of the regional component Integrated Ocean Observing System. The meeting focused on priorities for regional observing systems, including responses to the increased number of extreme weather events.

Molly and Paula discussed Sea Grant's upcoming Wakefield Symposium, which will run March 26-29 in Anchorage. The theme this year is: Responses of Arctic Marine Ecosystems to Climate Change and some highlights include:

- Monday evening a workshop on communicating climate science will T up the conference from 7-9 at 1007 W. 3rd Avenue, Suite 100
- Wednesday evening Fran Ulmer will chair an interagency panel on *An Integrated Arctic Management Framework*
 - A similarly themed report will be released soon.

The Symposium will not be webcast, but it is open to the public and there will be summary proceedings published.

Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant, paula.cullenberg@alaska.edu

Paula shared two upcoming funding opportunities. The National Sea Grant office will be awarding up to \$100K (matching funds required) on climate change adaptation within geographically distinct communities. Information on that opportunity is available on grants.gov and interested parties should contact Paula (above) with any questions.

The other opportunity that Paula mentioned is a collective effort between NOAA's Regional Office and AK Sea Grant. This team funded the recent Bering Strait Maritime Symposium, which took place in Nome earlier this year, and NOAA will be thinking

about another similar type of collaboration over next month or so. Again, if you have ideas, please contact Paula.

Molly noted the passing this week of former Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Esther Wunnicke. Esther was one of the first women lawyers in Alaska, and was also the regional director for Minerals Management Service in the late 70s, early 80s. A memorial is being planned for some time in mid-April.

Other Events:

North Pacific Fishery Management Council meets April 1-9 in Anchorage. See

<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc/>.

An international Arctic Observing Summit is planned for Vancouver, British Columbia for April 30-May 2. More information can be found at

<http://www.arcticobservingsummit.org/>.

**The next Marine Policy Forum call will be at 1:00 PM on May 15th
As always, be in touch with Molly or Paula with any questions, comments or suggestions for speakers or topics.**

DRAFT

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

Ballroom 1, Centennial Hall, 101 Egan Drive

March 23, 2013

11:30 AM Lunch is served

12:00 PM Opening Address – Co-Chairs Senator Lesil McGuire and Representative Bob Herron

12:15 PM DNR Commissioner Dan Sullivan (Pre-recorded Video Intro)

12:20 PM Introductions (Round-Table)

- Title, Organization, Areas of interest

1:00 PM Scope of the Commission – Facilitated by Co-Chairs McGuire and Herron

- Schedule - review and approve
- Deliverables - policy doc and implementation plan
- Duties/expectations - homework, hosting, working groups
- Accelerated draft due end of June 2013
- AAPC Ratification of:
 - Resolution Urging Secretary of State Kerry to Attend Next Arctic Council Meeting
 - SJR 10 Urging Alaska Appointment of Alaskan Delegate to the Arctic Council
 - Letter from AAPC to State Department Endorsing Both Resolutions

2:30 PM Break

2:45 PM Presentations (15 min each)

- Lieutenant Governor Treadwell – Global and Historical Arctic Policy Perspective
- Stefanie Moreland , Governor’s Special Assistant – State of Alaska’s Policy
- Fran Ulmer, USARC Chair – Arctic Research
- Pat Pourchot – Special Asst. to DOI Secretary Federal Policy
- Admiral Thomas Ostebo – Coast Guard Operations in the Arctic
- Dr. Lawson Brigham, Distinguished Professor, UAF – Current Arctic Marine Policy Issues
- Mayor Reggie Joule – Northern Waters Task Force Report

4:40 PM Break

4:50 PM Alice Rogoff – “Arctic Circle”

- “Arctic Circle” – a new circumpolar networking group and annual conference
- The Private Sector’s Role in Arctic Investment

5:00 PM Closing discussion - facilitated by Nils Andreassen

- What is Alaska’s role in the Arctic?
- What would success look like?
- What are important considerations for Commissioners?

6:00 PM Adjourn

7:00 PM Private Dinner (Rockwell, 109 S Franklin St, Back Room on First Floor)

8:00 PM Public Reception with Live Music (same location)