

MADE IN ALASKA

# MARICULTURE

Alaska Mariculture Task Force  
Alaska Native Mariculture Development Workgroup Meeting Notes

Monday, February 15, 2021 @ 2:00-3:30pm AST

**DUE TO COVID-19: ONLINE MEETING ONLY**

1. Opening remarks and welcome by Chairman Ed Douville  
*Chair Douville calls meeting to order at 2:04pm AST.*
2. Welcome by MTF Chair Heather McCarty
  - McCarty – thank you all for being here. This is wonderful to see all the interest and participation. Honored to be here. Ed Douville, President and manager of Shaan Seet Corp, (Craig, Alaska) is both a member to the Alaska Mariculture Task Force (MTF) and Chair of this workgroup.
3. Member introductions  
Ed Douville, Riley Smith, Julie Decker, Heather McCarty, Natasha Hayden, Barbara Blake, Eric Wyatt, Jim Andersen, Liz Medicine Crow, Mary Edenshaw, Matthew Andersen, Sam Rabung, Tomi Marsh, Anthony Lindoff, Jim Andersen.
4. MTF background and Working Group formation (Heather McCarty)  
*McCarty outlines history of the MTF, including the inception of the Alaska Mariculture Initiative in 2014, the MTF in 2016 and priority focus areas. The MTF makes use of ad hoc workgroups to address issues and propose solutions.*
  - McCarty – outreach to Alaska Native communities and rural communities is an important priority for the MTF. Of our various workgroups, the MTF has not fully addressed this. It is important to both garner support for and address concerns of the developing mariculture industry in Alaska, and to assure that mariculture development provides real benefits to coastal communities, including Alaska Native communities. The MTF would like to ensure maximum benefits for all along with support for communities. Hearing concerns is extremely important, and we hope to do that today through this Workgroup.
5. Discuss Mission and Objectives of the Workgroup
  - Alaska Native concerns:
    - L. Medicine Crow – excited to work with the MTF, this is important. It was noted that the MTF knew that Alaska Native representation was crucial. Why is it only now being addressed as the MTF is sunseting?

- McCarty – good question. The number of MTF members was limited to 11 members, including Native representation. The MTF in the first two years developed a strategic development plan, which included both benefitting Alaska Native communities and addressing concerns. We are now working on the implementation plan for development, and recognized we needed more involvement and input from Alaska Native communities and entities as we do that work. We are now implementing priorities, one of which is to assure Alaska Native and coastal community involvement.
  - Decker/Rabung – during the first iteration of the MTF and creation of the Alaska Mariculture Development Plan (Plan), we worked closely with several Alaska Native reps. Barbara Blake was our liaison to the Governor’s Office. A rep from the Sitka Tribe was on the MTF, as well as several CDQ group reps and Willow Hetrick’s father, for CRRC’s hatchery. Alaska Native participation is also one of the guiding principles in the Plan. Although much has been accomplished, there is a lot of work still to be done. This really is the start of implementation of the Plan. The Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA), which is designed to supersede the MTF, will continue implementation with help from many stakeholders. Meeting concerns of Alaska Native communities and other stakeholders is important for mariculture to succeed.
  - Douville – in regard to timing – as the MTF went on, we realized that this needed to be addressed. Just happened to be addressed towards the end of the MTF tenure. It is important for both the MTF to hold this dialogue and for Alaska Natives to be present and open.
  - Hayden – different Alaska Native entities have very distinct and unique relationships. Important to mitigate barriers for collaboration of Alaska Native representatives.
- Address tribal/corporations concerns about mariculture development plans
  - Education about mariculture development programs amongst tribal members and ANC shareholders
    - Douville – education is critical to build unity and understanding across different Alaska Native entities. Government to government – corporation to corporation dialogue. Different entities have differing views and are sometimes at odds.
    - Hetrick – education about mariculture development programs amongst tribal members is extremely important. COVID-19 has impacted efficiency to get stuff done.
- Address food security issues
  - L. Medicine Crow – food sovereignty is extremely important. Often consultation goes to public stakeholders. Tribes are often not included – tribal governance is complicated, including government to government relations (i.e. tribe to federal or state government). In regard to Southeast Alaska, how do you maximize the three sovereigns that exist? Need to promote Native community and ownership.

- Hetrick – food storage, kelp harvest and storage a priority. Kelp farms within tribes increases food security. Tribes in PWS are coming together on this initiative.
- Address Inclusion of tribal entities into mariculture development plan. (How we do that/what it would look like?)
  - Lindoff – local demand for oyster products is high. Floating gear creates great habitats, including benefits for trollers. This is not widely communicated to communities, including Alaska Native communities.
  - Hetrick – ADEC only tests commercial products. Alutiiq Pride hopes to provide PSP testing to wild subsistence shellfish.
  - Hetrick – understanding the supply chain, markets, etc. very important in Southcentral Alaska. There are numerous large buildings built for mariculture support purposes, i.e. processing facilities, but still remain vacant.
  - Douville – getting individuals privately involved via mariculture farms is very important. There are a lot of barriers for small or medium private companies or individuals to enter mariculture industry (i.e. application process, start-up funding). May increase Alaska Native representation if tribes and communities applied.
  - Blake – there is a fear of larger companies coming into the industry. Fear that current Governor is going to be unresponsive to Alaska Native voices, especially in regard to approving new large farms.
  - Hetrick – there are new kelp farms coming in at an increasing rate, concerns that large companies are starting to permit large areas of ocean front. An initiative to block off coastal area for Alaska Native mariculture operations, even if never used, would be reserved for Alaska Natives.
  - Douville – big permits are going through. Want to make sure that the tribes and elders can eat.
  - Rabung – one of the largest pending permits is with the Native Village of Eyak. Aquatic farming is the lowest priority of existing uses. Subsistence use or any conflicting use would inhibit a farm being permitted.

## 6. Other member discussions, objectives and tasks

McCarty expressed thanks for the group's discussions, encouraged the members to attend the MTF meeting this week, and anticipated that the MTF would have specific questions or tasks for the workgroup to address, as the MTF discusses Alaska Native involvement in mariculture development.