



## Alaska Mariculture Task Force (MTF) Meeting Minutes March 14, 2017

### Attendees

Mariculture Task Force members attending: Julie Decker, Angel Drobnica, Sam Rabung, Jeff Hetrick, Paula Cullenberg, Mike Stekoll, Heather McCarty, Chris Whitehead, Chris Hladick  
Members of the Public: Tamsen Peeples-Blue Evolution, Kirsten Shelton-Walker and Stephanie Warpinski- McDowell Group, Charlotte Regula-Whitefield- Knauss Fellow at Senator Murkowski's office, Eva Bornstein- Juneau Economic Development Council, Amanda Compton, Mark Scheer- Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation,  
Barbara Blake- Office of Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott  
Cynthia Pring-ham- Department of Fish and Game  
Linda Mattson - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Materials distributed to task force members included: Agenda for March 14 meeting, minutes from February 17 meeting, AFDF Documentation form, advisory committee minutes, HB 76, draft letters of support for draft bills, HB 128, McDowell Group Phase 2 Report Outline, MTF Planning diagram, New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy Five-Year Action Plan handout

### 1:07am Chairman Chris Hladick called the meeting to order

Agenda was reviewed

Sam Rabung motioned to approve the agenda/ Jeff Hetrick seconded

Heather McCarty requested to add agenda items under 6d to include discussion of the plan itself and not just the planning process. Agenda was approved as amended by consensus.

February 17 meeting minutes were reviewed

Julie Decker motioned to approve the minutes from the February 17th meeting/ Heather McCarty seconded.

Sam Rabung requested that the spellings of both his and Charlotte Regula-Whitefield be adjusted to reflect the correct spellings. Charlotte is a SeaGrant Knauss Fellow working in Senator Murkowski's office.

### Public Introductions & Comment

1:11- Commissioner Hladick opened public comment

No public comment

1:11- Commissioner Hladick closed public comment

### **Old Business: Updates from Advisory Committee Chairs**

Mike Stekoll AC met 3/10 spoke at length regarding the short term goals of the AC

- The short term goal that they have initially identified is to look for research priorities for oysters, geoducks, and seaweed. They have members researching those three items to start.
- Heather McCarty asked if Mike would consider additional items to look at. She will send her questions to Mike

Sam Rabung- AC met 3/13 and have their next meeting scheduled for 3/24. They will discuss opportunities and fixes for regulatory issues at their 3/24 meeting and expect to have a draft to the whole task force by 4/17

Angel Drobnica- Met 3/9

- Discussed opportunities for funding the mariculture industry
- Discussed existing barriers including business development and scale as well as labor costs
- Discussed the idea of creating an interactive map targeted at potential investors as a possible recommendation

Paula Cullenberg- haven't had an official meeting since 2/17 but had an informal meeting with Julie Decker, Barbara Blake, and Myrna Gardner.

Discussed the possibility of hosting a month long training on mariculture

Heather McCarty- Met 3/13 will have notes to distribute shortly

- Discussed marketing and the need for it
- Discussed with McDowell how their outline identifies markets but does not flesh them out
- Discussed different impediments to marketing the mariculture industry including transportation, sickness such as Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning, and others
- Discussed the idea of making videos to use for public education

### **Form to document MTF member time for in-kind match to NOAA Grant**

Form was passed around to the task force members to indicate their time worked

### **Updates on Legislation**

- HB 76 update
  - Julie Decker and Heather McCarty updated the task force on HB 76 will be heard 3/16 but that the committee will not be taking public testimony
  - The need to have more sponsors was discussed
  - Angel Drobnica suggested an update to the lines on page 2 lines 10-15 with regards to the starting point for creating a loan for the hatcheries versus the farms. Heather McCarty clarified that January 1, 2018 would be the start date for the division and that it would be divided permanently to avoid the shifting of percentages.
  - Sam Rabung suggested to clarify the changes in the regulation process instead of updating the item through the Legislative Legal Division
- HB 128 was scheduled to be heard either 3/21 or 3/23
- Julie Decker will keep the task force updated as the bills move through the legislative process
- Senator Stevens has offered to sponsor Senate versions of the House bills. He has submitted SB 89 as a companion bill to HB 128 but as of 3/14, there were no Senate hearing scheduled

## **New Business**

### **Upcoming Presentations**

- Julie Decker is presenting at Southeast Conference and will report back at the next meeting if there is anything to report

### **McDowell Group Discussion**

McDowell group presented a draft outline to identify the best case scenario for the economic future of the mariculture industry

- Discussion was had on how the work the McDowell Group will do will fit into the Comprehensive Economic Plan
- Questions were asked by task force members and answered by Ms. Kirsten Shelton-Walker of the McDowell Group
- A tentative due date was identified for the McDowell Group to have completed chapters 2 and 3 of their economic analysis report by June
- Heather McCarty wanted to be sure that the McDowell Group included that the distinction between the farm model and the enhancement model in the final report as well as reasons as to why the State of Alaska should be interested in enhancement
- Sam Rabung mentioned that all mariculture definitions can be found under the umbrella of enhancement because you use similar techniques for all of them. He also explained the differences between restoration, rehabilitation, and enhancement
  - Restoration- working with an extirpated stock to bring it back to natural levels of productivity
  - Rehabilitation- working with a depressed stock to bring it back to natural levels of productivity
  - Enhancement- produce an increment above what natural productivity can produce specifically for harvest
- Julie Decker motioned to direct McDowell Group to move forward with a draft plan understanding that there will be changes/ Sam Rabung seconded

### **Discuss New Zealand Aquaculture Strategy**

- Angel highlighted that the whole first page articulates the governments commitment to the mariculture industry and why they support it and the importance of highlighting the benefits to Alaska's public regarding this industry
- Paula Cullenberg requested if a budget document had been prepared to go along with the plan. Julie Decker will reach out to Carter Newell to see if he has any information or if he has a contact that can call into a future Mariculture Task Force meeting.
- Angel suggested to have a short document that will encompass the strategic plan that we can hand out that provides a quick summary of the plan. She also mentioned that this report should look accessible to the general public and not like a huge book.

### **Updated Outline of Comprehensive Planning Process**

- Discussion among task force members regarding ways on which they are proceeding with their plan
  - Sam Rabung explained that the goal was to promote the industry
  - Heather McCarty asked the task force to identify the group goal and ways to achieve it. She also requested clarification on what the plan would encompass

- Sam Rabung stressed the importance of providing a tool to the mariculture industry not a guarantee that the plan would be a success
- Julie Decker recommended that part of the recommendations that should come out of the task force would be a supplemental group whose responsibility it would be to look for ways to implement the plan
- Paula Cullenberg was curious to know what the long term commitment of the industry would be when the task force submitted their recommendations to Governor Walker
- Sam Rabung mentioned that a good goal for the industry would be to get organized in some sort of association that can speak for the industry
- Heather McCarty asked about the actual drafting of the outline once the task force receives the AC recommendations; she would like to see where the task force is headed and who is going to be the framer of the framework
- Jeff Hetrick was curious to know about the history of the mariculture industry and requested that the McDowell Group include a brief history of the industry in their report
- Sam Rabung suggested that at the 4/28 meeting to appoint a drafting committee to work with the plan and the recommendations from the advisory committees
- Commissioner Hladick instructed the AC's to take into consideration what the outline might look like and bring those ideas forward at the 4/28 meeting. Also bring as many recommendations as you can whether they are practical or not.

### **Closing comments**

Jeff Hetrick thanked the advisory committees for their work

Sam Rabung expressed his eagerness in looking forward to work continued

Paula Cullenberg mentioned that if anyone has any recommendations in responding to their aquaculture RFP as well as an encouragement to everyone to write to their Congressional Delegation and tell them to not zero Sea Grant out of the federal budget

Angel Drobnica was excited that the advisory committees are engaged and is looking forward to getting a work product on the table

Julie Decker encouraged the task force to look into the Fish 2.0 workshop and to pass it on to others who might be interested. She mentioned that Charlotte Regula-Whitefield is looking for feedback on what congressional support they can provide from Washington DC

Heather McCarty stressed the importance of submitting letters of support to the bills that impact the mariculture industry

### **Next meeting dates:**

**April 26, 2017 from 9am to 1pm**

**TENT: May 25, 2017 from 8am to 12pm**

**PLANNING PURPOSES: June 28, 2017 from 8am to 12pm**

**2:36pm Meeting adjourned by Chairman Hladick**