



Alaska Mariculture Task Force (MTF) Meeting Minutes August 23, 2017 - DRAFT

Attendees

Mariculture Task Force members attending: Julie Decker, Paula Cullenberg, Sam Rabung, Micaela Fowler, Angel Drobnica. Eric Wyatt (joined at 9:31am)

Members of the Public: Jim Calvin and Kirsten Shelton-Walker (McDowell Group), Nigel Sharp (UAA), Joel Cladouhos (Alaska Ocean Cluster), Bill Hines (NOAA), Bobbi Hudson (Pacific Shellfish Institute), Luke Knowles (Blue Evolution), Tomi Marsh (Oceans Alaska), Amanda Compton (DEC), Cynthia Pring-Ham (Fish and Game), Michelle Morris (Fish and Game), David Robinson and Johanna Harris (DNR Division of Agriculture).

Materials distributed to task force members included: draft MTF minutes June 27, McDowell Group outline for phase 2, Phase 2: chapters 1-3, AMTF recommendations for mariculture development in Alaska, Projections for growth draft, Diagram of the comprehensive planning process, NOAA In-kind match form

9:06 Vice-Chair Julie Decker called meeting to order

- No quorum
- Julie Decker elected to continue meeting as informational until a quorum is reached
- Hold placed on approving the minutes but there were no changes identified by those in attendance
- Hold placed on approving the agenda

Public Introductions & Comment

9:09am public comment period opened

Joel Cladouhos from Alaska Ocean Cluster provided an update on the Marine Technology Society's annual Ocean Conference and there will be a panel on September 21 on building Alaska's blue economy in the ocean technology center. He also discussed Ocean Tuesday and the Ocean Technology Innovation Sprint with the goal to engage college students to learn more about ocean aquaculture

9:17am public comment period closed

Old Business: McDowell Group Discussion

Jim Calvin went through the McDowell Group PowerPoint presentation and described their work to date on Chapter 3 of Phase 2.

Economic Framework slide

- Where do you start when you have to think about the economic factors when you look up to 20 years into the future? They looked at other regions to identify a revenue goal per species to look at where Alaska wants to be in economic growth.

9:31am Eric Wyatt joined the task force meeting- quorum reached

- The McDowell group is open to suggestions from the MTF on their estimated numbers/goals

- Julie Decker asked what the prices for oyster hatchery seed were based on. Jim explained that they went to a couple different sources for the numbers but they are unsure if they are reflective of the actual numbers that can be produced
- Bobbi Hudson was curious about the projections on the data as they seem optimistic
- Jim responded that the challenge of the Mariculture Task Force is to identify goals that can be met
- Bobbi asked how did McDowell derive their year over year growth estimates
- Jim responded that they started at the far end with their 20 year goal to establish their estimated growth rates and then worked backwards to measure progress to the long term goals and to identify how realistic they are

Economic Framework slide

- Jim reminded the task force that they worked to tie Alaska's long term revenue goals against what other regions have been able to accomplish realizing that they have different climates and other factors that will influence the numbers but it is still a good place to begin
- Sam Rabung requested that the king crab data be removed as king crab will never be farmed as it is a common property resource; Paula Cullenberg agreed
- Jim will amend the title to say enhancement as to not cause confusion in the king crab industry
- Paula mentioned that it would be unwise to open a Pandora's box to suggest that someone is farming king crab even though someone could; the industry is very focused on enhancing the wild king crab population and not farming king crab

Economic impact slide

- Paula asked for other economic sectors in order to have a relative understanding to see what a hundred million dollar industry means just for scale
- Jim compared the tourism industry which has about 40,000 jobs for a billion dollar industry but he was unsure of the actual numbers
- Paula suggested that the benefits to the state should be itemized with regards to revenues generated that would flow to the state
- Jim believes that the goal is to create jobs not so much to generate general funds but said that they will look at the data to include
- Luke with Blue Evolution suggested that the Mariculture Task Force should consider looking at USDA data to help with their research
- Julie mentioned that taxes from the seafood industry and the mariculture industry are different and suggested that the McDowell group include this information in their analysis

How do we get there slide- Kirsten Sheldon-Walker took over the presentation

- McDowell group spent much time with the mariculture industry stakeholders and they identified a few large barriers but cautioned the task force as this is not a comprehensive list
- Sam highlighted the need for a central agency to guide the industry- sort of a one-stop-shop to serve in an overall coordinating role to guide those who want to be in the aquaculture industry
- One of the main problems identified is where does aquaculture farming fit? Is it an agriculture industry?
- Luke suggested that the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development would be a fit as the mariculture revolving loan fund is housed in that department
- Johanna Harris from the Division of Agriculture mentioned that they have nine mariculture farms in the Alaska Grown program so there is an opportunity for the Division of Agriculture to play a role
- Julie asked a question about how McDowell group determined the geoduck industry numbers
- McDowell looked at annual reports from Fish and Game to determine the numbers
- Jim mentioned that they have focused on what they know now and have extrapolated data from there with regards to industry numbers

Regulatory issues slide

- The main point that stakeholders identified from the McDowell research is that they would like the process to be affordable, predictable, and reasonable

Operating Cost Control slide

- Main point for stakeholders on this issue is that they are looking for stability
- They also wanted to highlight the fact that the stakeholders would like improved access to the mariculture revolving loan fund especially with regards to hatcheries.

Kirsten concluded the presentation and the task force moved into a discussion on how to provide their feedback to the McDowell Group

- Sam recommended that the MTF take all of the Advisory Committee recommendations and rank them in priority order
- He also recommended when possible to get specific recommendations. Not just to say that the state can help, identify how
- Paula liked the report and suggested that it would help to identify not only the public but also industry support for mariculture. She requested that the McDowell Group identify low or no cost solutions and highlight them
- Eric mentioned that he would like to see the geographic and economic impact data represented in the report
- Jim responded that they could add a map with the locations of the farms and the communities they serve to add context to the report
- Jim suggested that the MTF provide feedback and then distribute the report to their advisory committees then have the advisory committee chairs send the report to those in their advisory committee.
- Eric cautioned the task force members to view the data within the realm of possibility and to make sure that the goals are able to be realized
- Joel reiterated the point that the input on the McDowell Group report should have input gathered from as many stakeholders as possible
- Nigel mentioned that the report should also focus on an entrepreneurial side to identify any incentives to get people involved and excited about the industry

Eric asked McDowell group for a deadline that they would like feedback returned

Sam motioned that the advisory committee chairs should distribute the report to their advisory committee members and have the feedback from the members turned back in to the chairs by September 14 so that the advisory committee chairs can turn them in to the McDowell Group by September 15

Micaela Fowler seconded

No objection; motion passed

Chair Decker rolled back up the agenda to approve the minutes.

Sam Rabung motioned to approve the minutes; Paula Cullenberg seconded

No objection; motion passed

Old Business: Updates from Advisory Committee Chairs

- None

Updates on Legislation

- None

Grant Application Updates

- Paula informed the task force that SeaGrant applied for four grants and received the three small grants but not the fourth large integrated grant
- NOAA pre-proposals for the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant through NOAA are due October 10

- They have not heard back on the ARPA-E grant but should have some information by the next meeting

Communications

Past and Future Presentations

- September 8- presentation in Craig to address the large farm application and the impact that it would have on the community as well as mariculture's general impact on the state
- Southeast Conference- there is a spot on the agenda for a mariculture discussion; Julie has suggested that McDowell Group give a general description of phase II while they are there
- Eric Wyatt will be in attendance at ASGA and may speak but agenda is not final

Draft "AMTF Recommendations for Mariculture Development in Alaska"

No further work has been done on the document as the movement by the federal government looks to be slower than originally discussed

Updates to diagram of comprehensive planning process

- Include the due date for AC recommendations due to McDowell Group
- Remove dates for August 23 and remove the two bubbles to the September column
- Appoint drafting committee- move bubble to August column

New Business

Idea of expansion of the Alaska Division of Agriculture to include mariculture

- Representative Kreiss-Tompkins is researching this issue to see what it might look like
- Sam mentioned that the idea has merit and that discussions are being scheduled but that it could also be housed in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED)
- Julie Decker recommended that the task force table this discussion for now and but keep it on the agenda to discuss further
- Micaela Fowler noted that the Division of Agriculture has their own loan programs and suggested the thought to fold the mariculture revolving loan fund into their loan programs or if we should keep it in DCCED because their requirements for loans are different

Requests for funding from NOAA and USDA

- Julie Decker has identified that about \$50,000 is needed to complete the work of the task force. NOAA is looking into funding sources but have not yet returned Julie's call
- There is a grant program that exists in the USDA to give funds to states for aquaculture research. USDA is researching the grant and will get back to Julie

Process to approve/ comment/ prioritize the recommendations from the ACs

- Sam mentioned that they are finalized but that the MTF needs to prioritize them. He recommended that it be a homework assignment.
- Paula suggested that some of the recommendations are micro and some of them are macro and that they should be organized as such. She also advised that the task force review them to ensure that they actually support the recommendations put forth.
- Eric would like to have a face to face MTF meeting to review all of the recommendations
- Julie volunteered to draft a spreadsheet with all of the recommendations for the MTF to rank so that they could attend the next meeting with their rankings

6d and e tabled for later discussion due to time

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

Next Steps and Homework

- AC chairs send the McDowell report to their committees, get edits from committee members, and send those edits back to the McDowell group by September 15
- Julie Decker- draft spreadsheet of AC recommendations regarding the mariculture industry
- MTF members review JD spreadsheet and rank recommendations in order by next meeting

Next meeting dates:

Julie Decker will reach out to MTF members to identify dates that will work for everyone to attend both the next meeting as well as a proposed all day meeting in October

Closing comments

- Paula is happy with the MTF and McDowell's work to date
- Sam reminded the group that the MTF is making progress but are reaching the point where the progress needs to turn into something produced. He also recommended that those task force members who cannot attend appoint a delegate to do so as the task force deserves a broad knowledge pool to draw from.
- Micaela Fowler thanked the McDowell Group and Julie Decker for their work on the project
- Julie Decker echoed Sam's comments in that the most difficult time for the task force is ahead because the ideas presented now needs to turn into a draft
- Sam suggested that the all-day meeting being proposed for October be held in Anchorage so that more people might be able to attend in person.

12:17pm Meeting adjourned by Vie-Chair Julie Decker