



University of Alaska Fisheries, Seafood & Maritime Initiative (FSMI)

MARCH 2013 UPDATE



SWAMC Passes Resolution in Support of FSMI Collaboration

On February 23, 2013, a panel of Industry representatives discussed FSM workforce needs at the [Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference](#) annual economic summit in Anchorage. Facilitated by **Paula Cullenberg**, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program and FSMI Co-Chair, the panel drew great interest and engagement among the SWAMC membership comprised of municipal leaders, industry, regional community and economic development organizations. SWAMC membership passed an official [Resolution 13-07](#) in support of the collaborative efforts of industry and university in strengthening FSM workforce development and 'urge[s] the Governor and the Legislature to support the cooperative efforts of the Industry and University of Alaska to understand the current and future workforce needs of Alaska's Fisheries, Seafood and Maritime sectors.'

Occupational Needs Assessment underway by Industry Members

As part of an expanded industry-wide Occupational Needs Assessment, [surveys and interviews](#) were conducted in February to learn from FSM employers and the self-employed across Alaska what are the jobs and skillsets in their workplace that present the greatest hiring challenges and potential solutions to those challenges. With industry input, the surveys were tailored to the unique aspects of each sector or type of FSM-related work. From this data and existing sources of information, the Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) is currently identifying high priority occupational areas and strategies to strengthen the FSM workforce in key areas. At a workshop planned for April 18, the IAC will work towards determining the highest priority occupational and skillset needs across the sectors and recommending strategies toward a strong and sustainable workforce in the fisheries, seafood and maritime sectors in Alaska.

Initial Results from the Fisheries/ Harvesting Workforce Survey

Over 350 fishermen from across the state responded to the Fisheries/Harvesting Workforce survey; 80% were permit or quota holders and 20% were crewmembers. Over 80% of the respondents identified the following skills as 'core or required' to operate a successful fishing operation: **Marine Safety, Vessel Maintenance & Repair, Seafood Quality & Handling and Marine Navigation & Seamanship**. Over 70% noted that skills in **Finance** and **Fuel/Energy Efficiency** will be needed by fishermen in the future. Over 77% noted programs that support **Alaska resident** participation and the **next generation** of Alaska harvesters are 'important' or 'very important' strategies in building a sustainable workforce in Alaska's fishing sector. The survey responses will be reviewed over the next month by a committee made up of members of the commercial fishing and seafood harvesting sectors.



FSMI Industry Panel at SWAMC 2013 (L to R): John Sevier, APICDA; Vince O'Shea, PSPA Juneau; Wanetta Ayers, AKDOL; Oliver Holm, Kodiak Fisherman; Kris Norosz, Icicle Seafoods & FSMI Industry Co-Chair; Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program & FSMI Co-Chair (photo credit: Andy Varner).

University of Alaska

Fisheries, Seafood & Maritime Initiative (FSMI)

Toward a strong and sustainable fisheries, seafood and maritime workforce in Alaska

Our Mission:

-engaging fisheries, seafood and maritime sectors and community partners to assess, develop and deliver programs, training and research that prepare Alaskans to meet current and emerging workforce, economic and scientific needs.

The fishing, seafood and maritime sectors represent Alaska's largest private employer and plays a significant role in our state's economy. At a December 2011 summit convened by the Governor of Alaska, the Honorable Sean Parnell, the Chair of the Rasmuson Foundation, Ed Rasmuson, and the University of Alaska President Patrick Gamble committed to close engagement with the FSM industry sectors to meet the FSMI goals.

The FSMI Goals are:

- (1) **Sustain and enhance the economy and the communities of Alaska** by developing a responsive workforce that enables the fishing/seafood and maritime industries to stay vibrant and substantial contributors to the state;
- (2) **Support Alaska's workforce, particularly in coastal communities**, in discovering and preparing for the wide range of employment opportunities in the fishing, seafood and maritime industries, and
- (3) **Provide research to sustain resources** on which these communities and sectors depend.

In Response to industry feedback at the October 2012 Forum and their commitment to more fully engage in developing a comprehensive statewide Workforce Development Plan, President Gamble invited a select group of industry and state agency representatives inviting them to participate on the newly formed **Industry Advisory Committee (IAC)**.

Current Industry Advisory Committee Membership:

Kris Norosz, Icicle Seafoods Inc. (FSMI Industry Co-Chair)
 Aggie Blandford (Laura Delgado), WACDA
 Vince O'Shea, Pacific Seafood Processors Association
 Stephanie Madsen, At-Sea Processors Association
 Doug Ward (Jason Custer), AK Ship & Drydock
 Amy Wilson, AK Marine Highway System, DOTPF
 Kurt Hallier, Marine Advisor, Conoco Phillips
 Julie Decker, UFA; AK Fisheries Development Foundation
 Russell Dick (Anthony Lindoff), Haa Aani, LCC
 Oliver Holm, Commercial Fisherman, Kodiak
 Pearl Strub, BBEDC, AWIB Board, Processor
 Candice Bressler, ADF&G
 Wanetta Ayers, DOLWD-AWIB
 Helen Mehrkens, EED
 Glenn Haight, DCCED
 Rep. Bryce Edgmon (Tim Clark), State House
 Sen. Lyman Hoffman (Tim Grussendorf) State Senate

UA Working Group appointed by President Gamble:

*Paula Cullenberg, UAF Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, FSMI Co-Chair;
 *Fred Villa, UA Statewide Office of Workforce Programs, FSMI Co-Chair;
 *Bonnie Nygard, Workforce Development, UAA;
 *Gunnar Knapp, UAA Institute of Social and Economic Research;
 *Mike Castellini, Dean, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences;
 *Torie Baker, UAF, Acting Program Leader, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program;
 *Bernice Joseph, UAF Vice Chancellor Rural Community & Native Education;
 *Pete Pinney, UAF Assoc. Vice Chancellor, Rural Community & Native Education;
 *Rick Caulfield, UAS Provost;
 Terry Johnson, UAF Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program;
 Karen Schmitt, UAA Community and Technical College;
 Barbara Bolson, UAA Kodiak Campus;
 BJ Williams, UAA Prince William Sound Community College;
 Carol Swartz, UAA Kachemak Bay Campus;
 Deborah McLean, UAF Bristol Bay Campus;
 Mary Pete, UAF Kuskokwim Campus;
 Keith Criddle, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences;
 Mark Herrmann, UAF School of Management;
 Kate Sullivan, UAS Ketchikan;
 Duane Heyman, UA Statewide University of Alaska Corporate Programs
 *denotes Leadership Committee member

For more information, visit our website: www.alaska.edu/fsmi

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We want to hear from you! Contact: Michele Masley, FSMI Program Manager, Statewide Workforce Programs, Office of Academic Affairs, University of Alaska mmasley@alaska.edu (907) 843-1996.