



Action Initiative Information			
Cluster:	Ocean Products		
Initiative:	Refinement of USDA programs applicable to the seafood industry		
Goal:	Change the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulatory definitions to allow the seafood industry to be included in their programs, and to have access to funding and other assistance afforded other U.S. food producers.		
Champion:	Julie Decker	jdecker@afdf.org	305-0586
Team:	Julianne Curry Patricia Phillips	pvoa@gci.net pacific@hughes.net	928-380-3250 735-2240

Meeting Summaries		
Date:	Attendees:	Outcome:
12/20/12	CWG Monthly call-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Decker proposed to alter the title and direction of this initiative to be "Refinement of USDA programs applicable to the seafood industry" because USDA has not been receptive to completing an analysis of how it might creatively include the seafood industry in more of its programs. Stefanie Moreland agrees with Julie's approach because it is Stefanie's understanding that USDA is not willing to be that creative right now. Julie is also working to complete narratives and grant proposals for three of the USDA interest areas that apply to the ocean products. Jeff Weltzin with OceansAlaska said that he submitted an application to USDA to help increase mariculture production in rural Southeast Alaska. Consider having workshop about opportunities in USDA programs at Innovation Summit.
11/20/12	CWG Monthly call-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus of this initiative has now shifted to raising awareness regarding USDA programs that ocean products are eligible for In late August, Senator Begich introduced legislation to start a

Southeast Cluster Initiative
 Action Initiative Status Report
 Updated December 2012



		<p>national seafood marketing campaign and will introduce this bill again during the next session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWG to encourage USDA to present at the Innovation Summit
4/11/12	CWG Meeting #5 in Ketchikan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been some discussion about having the USDA research center look into this review. Nothing has been decided to date.
2/22/12	CWG Monthly call-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA suggested writing 1 to 2 page white papers outlining purpose, actions requested, and potential costs of the request. This initial step can start a discussion with the agency about how to fit into their programs and process.

Initiative Action Plan Update		
Activity 1:	Form stakeholder working group to conduct USDA regulatory review.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		
Activity 2:	Complete exhaustive delineation of USDA regulations and programs, identifying area where the seafood industry is currently excluded and potential regulatory fixes.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		
Activity 3:	Report to stakeholder working group on results of step 2, discuss potential regulatory fixes, and agree on package of fixes to present to the Secretary of USDA.	Activity Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Rural Development matrix regarding programs distributed to CWG via email 		11/12
Activity 4:	Complete internal USDA process required to change regulations.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		



Other Informational Items