



Cluster Information	
Goal:	To create private-public partnerships as a catalyst for job creation and business growth in Southeast Alaska.
Co-chairs:	Julie Decker, Development Director, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation John Sund, Mariculture Advocate

Previous Meetings		
Date:	Attendees:	Purpose:
5/6/13	Debbie Hart, John Sund, Julie Decker, Patricia Phillips, Gordy Williams, Aaron Ferguson	Monthly teleconference
3/26/13	Allen Butner, Debbie Hart, Greg Killinger, John Sund, Julie Decker, Kathy Hansen, Keith Perkins, Linda Shaw, Patricia Phillips, Tom Fletcher, Aaron Ferguson	Monthly teleconference
2/12/13	Anthony Lindoff, Bart Watson, Cynthia Pring-Ham, Daniel Green, Debbie Hart, Don Martin, Greg Fisk, Geron Bruce, Jeff Weltzin, John Sund, Julie Decker, Karen Hardigg, Kyle Moselle, Liz Cabrera, Mali Abrahamson, Patricia Phillips, Phil Doherty, Russell Dick, Aaron Ferguson	CWG Meeting at Innovation Summit
1/29/13	Anthony Lindoff, Bart Watson, Cynthia Pring-Ham, John Sund, Julie Decker, Phil Doherty, Brian Holst, Marie Franklin, Aaron Ferguson	Monthly teleconference
12/20/12	Cynthia Pring-Ham, Debbie Hart, Jeff Weltzin, Jim Seeland, John Sund, Julie Decker, Patricia Phillips, Phil Doherty, Stefanie Moreland, Brian Holst, Marie Franklin, Aaron Ferguson	Monthly teleconference
11/20/12	Cynthia Pring-Ham, Debbie Hart, Jeff Weltzin, Jim Seeland, John Sund, Jon Martin, Julie Decker, Karen Hardigg, Kathy Hansen, Keith Criddle, Keith Perkins, Kris Norosz, Patricia Phillips, Tom Fletcher, Brian Holst, Zach Wilkinson, Aaron	Monthly teleconference



	Ferguson	
11/8/12	Cynthia Pring-Ham, John Sund, Rodger Painter, Ray RaLonde, Tom Henderson, Tom Fletcher, Aaron Ferguson, other attendees of the Shellfish Technology Workshop and Alaska Shellfish Growers Association meeting	Initiative 10: Support the Regional Mariculture Industry

Initiative Activity Update:

Initiative 1: Develop a Sea Otter Management Program in Southeast Alaska
 Champion: Phil Doherty

- Public comments are due to US Fish and Wildlife Service by May 17, 2013, regarding a draft document clarifying the interpretation of the terms “significantly altered from their natural form,” “coastal dwelling,” and “mass produced” as they apply to Alaska Native handicrafts and clothing made from sea otter parts under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. [View the document here](#). To provide comments:
 - Via electronic mail: fw7_sea_otter_clarification@fws.gov
 - Via mail:
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Marine Mammals Management Office
 1011 East Tudor Road, MS-341
 Anchorage, Alaska 99503
- Public information is also due to US Fish and Wildlife Service by June 25, 2013, regarding their “5-Year Status Review of the Southwest Alaska Distinct Population Segment of the Northern Sea Otter”. [View the document here](#). To provide information:
 - Via e-mail: FW7_Sea_Otter_5yr@fws.gov
 - Via mail:
 Deborah Pierce Williams
 Chief, Marine Mammals Management
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Attention: Northern Sea Otter 5-year Review
 1011 E. Tudor Road,
 Anchorage, AK 99503
- The Cluster submitted a letter of support for Senator Stedman’s sea otter bounty bill (SB 60/HB145). The bill is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee to see if it can become more compliant with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).
- Co-chair Decker spoke with Stefanie Moreland (with Governor Parnell’s office) to discuss the Cluster’s desire to see the development of a sea otter management plan in SE AK; Ms. Moreland said the State would likely have to manage sea otters according to MMPA but would like to sit down w/ folks from industry (e.g. blue ribbon panel)
- Patricia Phillips pointed out that the Sea Otter Commission is underfunded

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 Ocean Products CWG Status Report
 May 2013



<p>Initiative 2: Establish a Marine Industry Technology and Workforce Improvement Consortium Champion: Jason Custer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No activity reported
<p>Initiative 3: Ensure Southeast’s Fishing Future through Targeted Education and Training Champion: Vacant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No activity reported
<p>Initiative 4: Include the Seafood Industry in USDA Programs Champion: Julie Decker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No activity reported
<p>Initiative 5: Enhance Salmon Production Champion: Steve Reifentstahl</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debbie said that the Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership is putting on a workshop in the Fall about habitat restoration but could have a speaker about the value of salmon production (wild and enhanced). Cluster members should let Debbie know if they have any ideas for speakers.
<p>Initiative 6: Support the Regional Mariculture Industry Champion: John Sund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cluster submitted a letter of support for the bill that Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins is working on to amend the State Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund to make it so nonprofit hatcheries/nurseries access this fund; the bill did not pass this session but the Cluster will monitor it and push for it to be passed next session The Board of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation recently went through a strategic planning process and identified mariculture as a new focus area. Julie put together a grant proposal to USDA Rural Development for Mariculture Development for the state. The Alaska Mariculture Initiative would support the industry and would also support restoration projects.

<p>Discussion Notes</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates from SE AK Cluster Initiative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R&D Cluster has 7 initiatives that it is working to define:

- Develop integrated funding proposals around key themes in Southeast Alaska
- Link industry research needs to local researchers to bring funding resources to Southeast
- Connect Research to Communities
- Market unique geographic, natural and infrastructure features of our region
- Promote STEM education in our region
- Become Alaska SCoR (State Committee on Research) area of excellence
- Support existing research

The last R&D Cluster meeting took place on 5/9.

- Visitor Products Cluster:
 - The Cluster held the last meeting before the break for the summer season recently
 - There are two main items on this Cluster's agenda:
 - Tongass Land Management Plan 5-Year Update; comments are due by June 30:
 - **About the 5 Year Review:**
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5402695>
 - **FAQ's regarding the 5 Year Review:**
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5402776>
 - **LUD Map:**
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5415146.pdf
 - **How to comment:**
<http://tnf-5yearreview.com/>
 - Federal Lands Enhancement Act; allows fees to come back to regions that collect the fees
- The 2013 Juneau Maritime Festival will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2013, in Juneau Ocean Products
 - Cluster members are welcome to participate as sponsors and/or volunteers and to host activities or informational tables; please see the following link for more information: www.juneamaritimefestival.org
- Advancing work of Cluster through spring / summer
 - During this break for the summer fishing season, Cluster members are encouraged to recruit people from the Ocean Products industry to join the Cluster (Aaron will work on developing some recruitment material that Cluster members can distribute to their networks)
 - Aaron will also reach out to Linda Shaw to work with her and Allen Butner about their idea for an abalone workshop
 - Aaron will also work with Debbie Hart on a salmon workshop in the Fall.



Next Steps

- The date of the next Ocean Products Cluster Working Group is TBD but will probably be scheduled for a date in September.

Resources