

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR Marine Advisory Program

STRENGTHS:

- Engagement and outreach to Alaskan coastal communities.
- Faculty and staff serve as a connection to the University of Alaska for residents in remote, rural and urban coastal communities.
- Provides workforce development training targeting fisheries & seafood industries statewide. From 2015-2020, 145 programs included 2739 participants. Programs ranged from food safety programs for seafood processing, crew training for commercial fisheries in rural western Alaska, training prospective mariculture farmers, providing marine safety training and direct marketing training to commercial fishermen.
- Provides formal and informal education activities statewide to increase marine and environmental literacy.
- Responsive to emerging needs (ex: pandemic response), ecological transformation, industrial responses to emerging issues/situations.
- Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program is part of the National Sea Grant network, comprising 34 Sea Grant programs in US states and territories.
- Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program has strong support and regular communication with Alaska's Congressional delegation and state legislators; co-host the Alaska Marine Policy Forum bi-monthly call, which serves as an important dialogue between Congressional delegation, state legislators and Alaskan stakeholders.
- Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program has a strong, active Advisory Committee, representing diverse stakeholders from coastal communities across Alaska.

WEAKNESSES:

- Evaluation and reporting requirements are extensive, time consuming and include accountability to both the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the National Sea Grant program.
- State funding for the Marine Advisory Program decreased by 54% from FY16 to FY20. This has led to staff and faculty attrition that may not be strategic.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Connections with past participants that provide opportunities to connect with those audiences in the future.
- Partnerships with tribal government are in response to their specific needs and concerns.
- expertise in using remote technologies for lifelong learning is an asset and can be shared among colleagues at UAF.
- Programs that support efforts for economic diversification of Alaska:
 - Workforce development and training programs

- Workshops with partners and stakeholders can support efforts to vision the post-COVID world.
- support for non-cash based economies, such as coastal industries - e.g. federal marine mammal and seabird (including eggling) subsistence fisheries, carving, crafting, skin sewing, reindeer herding, etc.
- Connect UAF research and researchers with coastal communities to serve identified needs in these communities.
- Continued collaboration with CFOS and academic programs

THREATS:

- Further declines in state budgets result in more difficulty and sometimes an inability to replace departing faculty and staff and to make strategic plans for the future.
- Greying of the staff/faculty makes it difficult to reach younger stakeholders.
- Declining availability of grant funding and increased competition for grant funds.
- Mission overlap with other agencies and organizations.
- COVID-19 related restrictions make connection with stakeholders and collaborators more difficult.
- Rapid changes in the marine environment and in political arenas are a challenge to communicate to state, national and global audiences.

CENTRALITY TO MISSION:

Fulfills all of UAF's five core themes: Educate, Research, Prepare, Connect, and Engage. UAF is a Sea Grant institution.

INDICATORS OF QUALITY:

The workforce development, informal education, outreach and engagement activities undertaken by the Marine Advisory Program, as well as the geographic distribution of faculty in coastal communities throughout the Alaska are a major asset for UAF.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

Five-year total of \$30.5 million (2015-2020) in economic impacts to the state of Alaska in the fisheries, mariculture, and seafood processing industries, broken down as follows.

- 2019-2020 \$8,245,135
- 2018-2019 \$4,528,928
- 2017-2018 \$4,111,904
- 2016-2017 \$5,982,754
- 2015-2016 \$7,677,600

Director: It is notable that state unrestricted general funding to the Marine Advisory Program declined 54% over this period, while state funding to the University of Alaska declined 14%.

Marine Advisory Program

RECOMMENDATION:	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE FOR FOLLOW-UP:
Continuation: 7 votes		
Abstain: 1 vote		