

Southeast Conference Seafood Maritime Committee Meeting

April 27, 2020

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Minutes

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4610474465>

Call to Order at 10:05

Participants included:

Opening Remarks: Markos Scheer going to be a challenging year with CV crisis with traveling and understand new normal for supply chains. Econ dev will be daunting. SEC will have unique position with the dialogue. This process allows a regional approach to what the industry needs – not what others want. Appreciate all who could join today.

Health Mandate 17 Protective Measures for Independent Commercial Fishing Vessels discussion: Julie Decker said that Mandates for fisheries has been daunting due to all the moving parts and community needs. UFA hosting webinar with Q&A with 4 state officials (there is an 11-page plan detailing requirements). Health mandates have expiration dates but may be extended and gives guidance for how industry may have to conduct business. Southeast Conference can assist with dialogue between industry and communities to ensure safe operations occur.

Any understanding of impacts on restaurant closures on seafood markets? There are/will be impacts but too early to tell. Food service market disruptions will not change quickly. Many markets may not be able to open at all during restriction. ASMI comments? Etc....?

KTN is looking forward to seafood industry engaging. Some concerns about early fisheries and possible spread of virus – especially on POW. Some outreach might be helpful to provide accurate information and lessen fears. Sitka assembly is creating their own requirements beyond the state mandates. Processors and industry trade groups are working hard to get information out to the public

Southeast Alaska 2025 economic planning. Group discussion on CEDS: Meilani Schijvens

Reputation (AK brand and story) – year-round operations, cultural identify

Waste stream opportunities, workforce training – Biofuels, plastics – cruise ship markets – more local, regional uses – not just export (farm to table) – EE and alt energy on vessels and processing plants

Small secondary processors – geared toward niche and local markets?

CV-19, genetically altered fish,

Education about fisheries and hatcheries = weakness, fluctuating returns (80% reductions some years)

Infrastructure project needs discussion - in anticipation of the stimulus bill: Robert Venables – CEDS process supports growth, strength of industry but also resiliency efforts – esp. if stimulus opportunities arrive – automation opportunities?

Site leases and other developments key to industry growth - Local, regional, and tribal support important to projects moving forward. Mariculture task force

Shipyard – beyond AMHS – priced out of the market – how to develop capacity t other ports? (Wrangell, Sitka)?

Hatcheries – changing dialogue, long-term studies – how to support aquaculture associations? Cook Inlet, PWS opposition (some SE – with large chum returns by NSRAA) – BOF call for proposals response. January 2021 meeting in Ketchikan. Thanked SEC for continued support....

Sitka – haul out shut down in 2021 – high priority to see private sector to operate & develop it. City hiring grant writer to pursue niche (McDowell report on opportunities) access ramp for barges

Infrastructure critical is hatcheries for shellfish – needs focused planning (statewide efforts – SE

Mini discussions: Markos Scheer

- Mariculture status and continuing support and outreach;
- Shipyard and vessel maintenance facilities;
- Support for hatcheries. With declining salmon stocks, the RAA component is more important than ever.
- Labor issues for maritime and seafood sector, both skilled and unskilled labor. What can SEC do to assist in the retention and deployment of available local labor pools to keep the industries affected by COVID staffed and producing.

Downturns in tourism industry/jobs – could be channeled to local fisheries. Sitka processors advertise constantly but not much interest (especially if current unemployment benefits provide higher wages).

Other New Business

Good of the Order and Future meeting scheduling

Adjourn