Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan

On May 23, 2014 the FSMI Industry Advisory Council’s approved Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan was made available to the public. On March 4th the IAC had approved an initial draft during its Spring Audio Meeting.

The full Plan can be found at:  

http://www.alaska.edu/fsmi/

The Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan sets forth three goals and five overall strategies to guide how industry, state agencies, education and training entities can work together to support and enhance the maritime workforce. The Plan represents the culmination of over two years of effort.

Goals  The goals of the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan are to help sustain and enhance the economy of Alaska and its communities by:

- Developing a responsive workforce that enables the maritime sector to remain a substantial contributor to the state,
- Guiding Alaska’s workforce to discover and prepare for the wide range of employment opportunities in the maritime sector, and
- Increasing the number of Alaskans working in skilled maritime occupations.

Strategies  

- Grow awareness of occupations and develop career pathways
- Improve workforce readiness
- Train Alaskans for maritime employment
- Support recruitment and retention
- Promote sustained Industry engagement

Implementation  

The plan was crafted using a collaborative effort with seafood harvesting; seafood processing; research, enhancement and management; and marine occupations and support industries representatives. All recognized the need to address their critical and growing workforce shortages together.

The industry groups joined with five state agencies (Labor and Workforce Development, Fish and Game, Transportation and Public Facilities, Education and Early Development and Commerce and Community and Economic Development) and the University of Alaska in developing the Plan as a tool to work together in supporting this important workforce.  

The Industry Advisory Council will continue to serve as an advisory group in the implementation of the Plan.

Support for the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan

The Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan has already garnered substantial support, including formal endorsements.

- Alaska Workforce Investment Board adopted Resolution 14-08, formally supporting the Alaska Maritime WFD Plan at its May 13, 2014 meeting.
- UA Board of Regents formally supported the Alaska Maritime WFD Plan at its June 5, 2014 meeting.
Fisheries, Seafood & Maritime Initiative (FSMI)
Supporting a strong, sustainable maritime workforce in Alaska

**Actions Identified in the Alaska Maritime WFD Plan**

- Increase public awareness of maritime occupations and opportunities in Alaska.
- Gather and align maritime workforce data and opportunities.
- Develop programs in Alaska to fill identified gaps or collaborate with programs outside Alaska.
- Coordinate program development and use existing resources, facilities, equipment and curricula and coordinate delivery among training programs and employers.

**Workforce Development Activities in the State**

- Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) is reviewing applications for its scholarships for a 4-year grant for BA or BS degrees, and for up to a 2-year grant for an associates or vocational training in a hatchery technology program or other vocational training related to the fishing industry.

The Ladd Macaulay Memorial Scholarships are open to all graduates of high schools in Juneau, Haines, Skagway, Hoonah, Chatham, and Kake School Districts, and graduating home school students residing in Juneau, Lynn Canal, or northern Chatham Straits area.

More information can be found at: dipac.net/DIPAC%20Scholarship%20Program%202014.pdf

---

**Industry Advisory Committee**

**Industry participants**
- *Kris Norosz*, Icicle Seafoods Inc., Co-Chair
- *Aggie Fouts*, Western Alaska Community Development Association
- *Julie Decker*, United Fishermen of Alaska/Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation
- *Russell Dick (Anthony Lindoff)*, Haa Aani, LCC
- *Kurt Hallier*, Marine Manager, Conoco Phillips
- *Oliver Holm*, Commercial Fisherman, Kodiak
- *Stephanie Madsen*, At-Sea Processors Association
- *Vince O’Shea*, Pacific Seafood Processors Association
- *Steve Reifenstuhl*, Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
- *Jim Scholz*, Samson Tug and Barge
- *Pearl Strub*, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation
- *Doug Ward*, Vigor Industries

**Agency participants**
- *Wanetta Ayers*, Alaska Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development
- *Sheila Cameron*, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
- *Helen Mehrkens*, Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development
- *Joe Jacobson*, Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
- *Amy Wilson*, Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities – Marine Highway

**University of Alaska participants**
- *Paula Cullenberg*, Alaska Sea Grant University of Alaska Fairbanks (FSMI UA Co-Chair)
- *Fred Villa*, UA Statewide – Workforce Development Programs (FSMI Industry Co-Chair and UA Co-Chair)

**Legislative participants**
- Rep. Bryce Edgmon (Tim Clark), State House
- Sen. Lyman Hoffman (Tim Grussendorf) State Senate

---

**University of Alaska Working Group**

- *Fred Villa*, Assoc. VP, UA Statewide Office of Workforce Programs, FSMI Co-Chair
- *Paula Cullenberg*, Program Leader, UAF Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, FSMI Co-Chair
- *Bonnie Nygard*, UAA Workforce Development
- *Gunnar Knapp*, UAA Institute of Social and Economic Research
- *Mike Castellini*, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
- *Torie Baker*, UAF Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
- *Pete Pinney*, UAF Rural Community & Native Education
- *Rick Caulfield*, UAS Provost
- *Terry Johnson*, UAF Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
- *Karen Schmitt*, UAA Community and Technical College
- *Alan Fugleberg*, 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 Cridge*, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
- *Mark Herrmann*, UAF School of Management
- *Jim Seeland*, UAS, Sitka Campus

*Leadership Committee member*