Sitka hosted the UA Board of Regents (BOR) meeting on April 11-12, 2013. It is home to the largest harbor system in Alaska and the fifth largest in the U.S. by value of seafood harvest. Local FSM industry and agencies came to the Sitka campus to testify in support of the FSMI mission of developing a strong and sustainable fisheries, seafood and maritime workforce in Alaska (click here for details and here for BOR agenda). UAS Provost Rick Caulfield and Steve Reifenstuhl, general manager of Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), gave an update of the Initiative to the Board. Steve spoke passionately in support of FSMI. “As the largest sector employer in the state, it seems obvious we need to do more; the Fisheries, Seafood, and Maritime Initiative is the engine to develop a more educated….versatile….and ready to employ workforce.”

At the meeting, Regent Dale Anderson also voiced strong support for this Initiative. “This has to be a priority. Fishing is Alaska; Alaska is fishing. And if we don’t get on this we will lose our young people coming into the fishery because we will lose the tradition being an Alaskan industry of importance, so let’s get on it.”

At a workshop held April 18, 2013 in Anchorage, Ian Dutton of Rasmuson Foundation stated “there has never been a more important time to focus on FSM workforce development in Alaska”. FSMI’s Industry Advisory Committee (IAC), other industry representatives and invited guests determined the highest priority occupational skillset needs and potential strategies toward a strong and sustainable Alaskan workforce in the fisheries, seafood and maritime sectors. The workshop was an opportunity for the IAC to share the intensive Occupational Needs Assessments conducted by the IAC subgroups in the past few months. Also determined at the workshop was how the FSM Workforce Development Plan will be developed, vetted, and endorsed by December 2013. Once the initial plan is finished, implementation by key stakeholders and development of a long term industry coalition similar to the health and oil/gas industries is expected. Kurt Hallier, marine manager for ConocoPhillips and IAC member, stated that his incentive in participating is “to help make the kids get it” as he feels blessed to have a maritime career.
Our Mission:

- engaging fisheries, seafood and maritime sectors and community partners to assess, develop and deliver programs, training and research that prepare Alaskans to meet current and emerging workforce, economic and scientific needs.

The fishing, seafood and maritime sectors represent Alaska’s largest private employer and plays a significant role in our state’s economy. At a December 2011 summit convened by the Governor of Alaska, the Honorable Sean Parnell, the Chair of the Rasmuson Foundation, Ed Rasmuson, and the University of Alaska President Patrick Gamble committed to close engagement with the FSM industry sectors to meet the FSMI goals.

The FSMI Goals are:

(1) Sustain and enhance the economy and the communities of Alaska by developing a responsive workforce that enables the fishing/seafood and maritime industries to stay vibrant and substantial contributors to the state;

(2) Support Alaska’s workforce, particularly in coastal communities, in discovering and preparing for the wide range of employment opportunities in the fishing, seafood and maritime industries, and

(3) Provide research to sustain resources on which these communities and sectors depend.

In Response to industry feedback at the October 2012 Forum and their commitment to more fully engage in developing a comprehensive statewide Workforce Development Plan, President Gamble invited a select group of industry and state agency representatives inviting them to participate on the newly formed Industry Advisory Committee (IAC).

Current Industry Advisory Committee Membership:

- Kris Norosz, Icicle Seafoods Inc. (FSMI Industry Co-Chair)
- Aggie Blandford (Laura Delgado), WACDA
- Vince O’Shea, Pacific Seafood Processors Association
- Stephanie Madsen, At-Sea Processors Association
- Doug Ward (Jason Custer), AK Ship & Drydock
- Amy Wilson, AK Marine Highway System, DOTPF
- Kurt Hallier, Marine Manager, Conoco Phillips
- Julie Decker, UFA; AK Fisheries Development Foundation
- Russell Dick (Anthony Lindoff), Haa Aani, LCC
- Oliver Holm, Commercial Fisherman, Kodiak
- Pearl Strub, BBEDC, AWIB Board, Processor
- Candice Bressler, ADF&G
- Wanetta Ayers, DOLWD-AWIB
- Helen Mehrkens, EED
- Glenn Haight, DCCED
- Rep. Bryce Edgmon (Tim Clark), State House
- Sen. Lyman Hoffman (Tim Grussendorf) State Senate

UA Working Group appointed by President Gamble:

- *Paula Cullenberg*, Program Leader, UAF Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, FSMI Co-Chair
- *Fred Villa*, Assoc. VP, UA Statewide Office of Workforce Programs, 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
- *Bernice Joseph*, UAF Rural Community & Native Education
- *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
- Barbara Bolson, UAA Kodiak Campus
- BJ Williams, UAA Prince William Sound Community College
- Carol Swartz, UAA Kachemak Bay Campus
- Mary Pete, UAF Kuskokwim Campus
- Keith Cridge, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
- Mark Herrmann, UAF School of Management
- Kate Sullivan, UAS Ketchikan
- Duane Heyman, UA Statewide Corporate Programs
- Jim Seeland, UAS Ketchikan

*denotes Leadership Committee member

For more information, visit our website: www.alaska.edu/fsmi
Receive FSMI News Alerts: Please provide your name and organization at: https://lists.alaska.edu/mailman/listinfo/ua-fsmi

We want to hear from you! Contact: Michele Masley, FSMI Program Manager, Statewide Workforce Programs, Office of Academic Affairs, University of Alaska, mmasley@alaska.edu (907) 843-1996.