

Alaska Sea Grant Program 2011 NSGO Review

Terry Smith



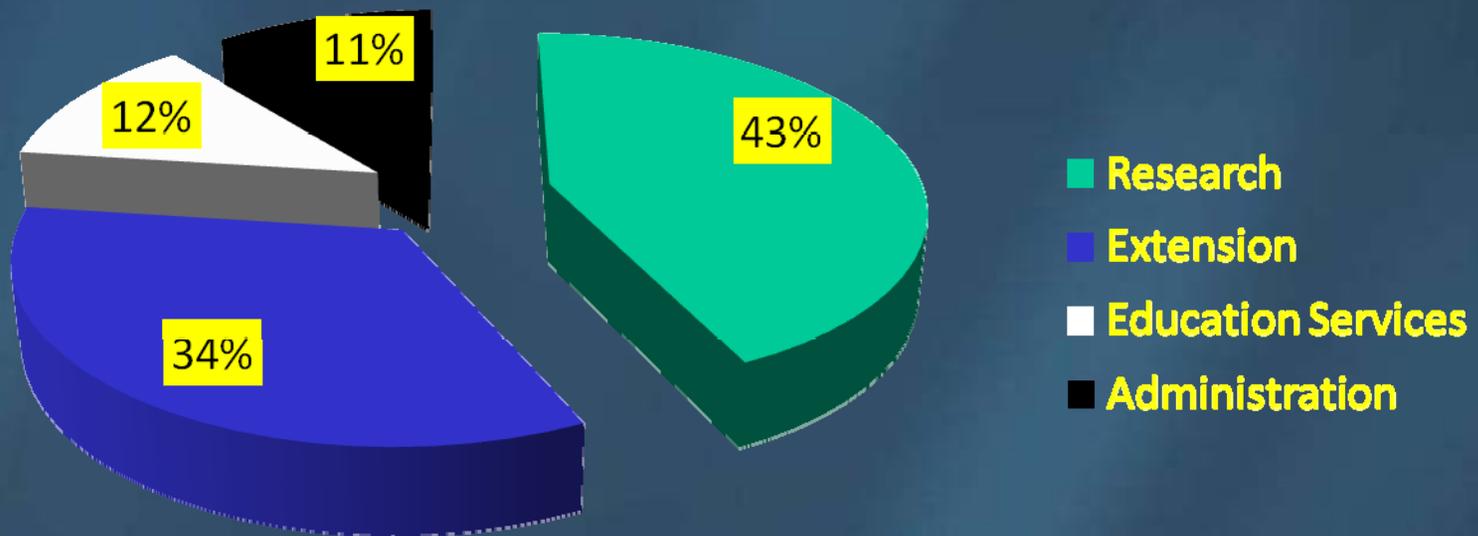
Program Management

- Management Team
 - David Christie, Director
 - Paula Cullenberg, Associate Director and Extension Leader
 - Kurt Byers, Education Services
 - Michelle Frandsen, Program Manager
- Total FTEs = 34

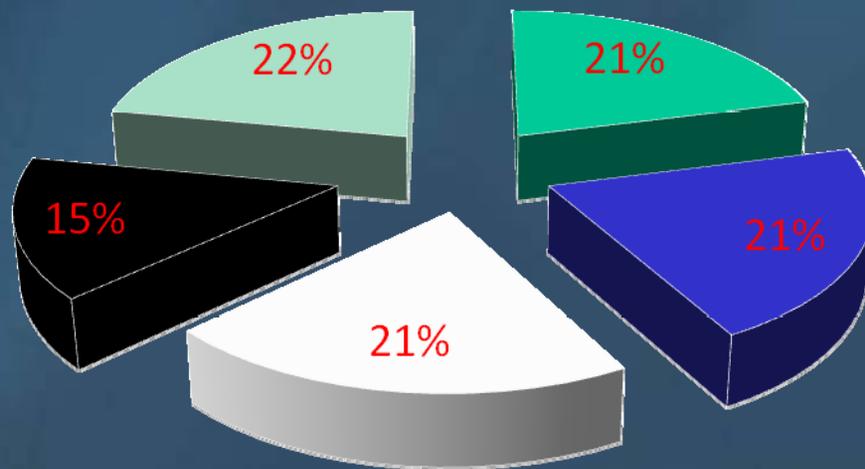
Functional Area	Individuals	FTEs supported by SG	Individuals supported by match/leverage
Mgt/Admin	7	1.15	2.86
Communications	8	1.5	4.39
Extension	20	1.75	10.37
Education	1		0.5
Research	29	4.4	2.15

- Large Program

Alaska Budget - Functional Area



Alaska Budget - Focus Area



- Safe Sustainable Seafood
- Sustainable Coastal Development
- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
- Hazard Resiliency
- Marine Literacy



Significant Program Changes (since January 2010)

- Dave Christie appointed permanent director
- Paula Cullenberg moves from acting director to Associate Director and Marine Advisory Program (extension) leader
- Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery operations (king crab)
- State funding for extension increased (match funds)



Contribution to National Performance Measures and Metrics

- Sea Grant funds and match - \$2,498,689
- Leveraged Funds managed – \$1,275,944
- Leveraged Funds influenced– \$375,853
- Knauss fellows – 3
- Attendees at meetings, workshops and conferences – 2,165
- Public or professional presentations – 110
- Attendees at public or professional presentations – 2,880

Program Impacts

Reduced interactions between commercial fishing gear and humpback whales

In 2009 AK salmon fishermen harvested 726 million pounds worth more than \$370 million. Since some harvest occurs in the presence of humpback whales tactics and techniques to avoid whale entanglements is a priority. Extension agents Kate Wynne and Sunny Rice convened workshops with 14 salmon fishermen in Kodiak and 21 fishermen in Petersburg. They explained NPRB research and outreach on marine mammals and NOAA explained how to release entangled whales. No whales were reported entangled in the 2009 season in those two areas.

Program Impacts

West African fishery observer program established

At the request of NMFS, NOAA and DOC AK Sea Grant agent Kate Wynne conducted marine mammal identification classes, and developed collection forms, protocols and instructions for documenting marine mammal sightings and commercial bycatch in West Africa.

In 2008 30 new Ghanaian fishery observer staff were trained and in 2009 30 Senegalese observers were trained and put in place. Requests for assistance have been made by Cameroon, Gabon, Ivory Coast and Columbia (South America); Cameroon and Sierra Leone plan to start a program and the Congo anticipates training participation this year.

Program Impacts

Chilling brings higher prices for Bristol Bay salmon

The Bristol Bay salmon fishery is the world's largest wild salmon fishery with 26 million salmon caught by 1,450 vessels and an average annual fishery value of \$121 million. Fishers have traditionally delivered fish non-chilled and most production has been canned. Sea Grant agents and specialists have run an education, publication, consulting operation to increase chilled production. In 2009 chilled fish from the drift gillnet fleet increased from 32 million to 60 million pounds. Overall, chilled salmon production was doubled and an additional \$6 million earned by fishermen.

Program Impacts

Partnership helps rural and Native students pursue fisheries science degrees and get employment

The Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Career Coalition, led by Paula Cullenberg, is an informal network of employers, educators and stakeholders. The Coalition facilitated a University of Alaska distance delivery class in the UA Southeast Fisheries Technology Associate Degree program. As a result three students got jobs in state/federal/non-profit fisheries science related work.

2009 Research Accomplishments

Invasive tunicate on oyster culture farms discovered

Gary Freitag, a Ketchikan-based agent, worked with locals, the Metlakatla Indian community and the Smithsonian on coastal surveys for invasive species. Botrylloides, an invasive marine tunicate, had been documented in southeast Alaskan waters but, in 2009, the tunicate was found in Metlakatla oyster operations. The community of 1,400 on Annette Island is now monitoring and removing tunicates found in their grow-out cages.

2009 Research Accomplishments

Community-based PSP monitoring programs

Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) is often present in Alaska coastal waters. A state-wide monitoring system has not been practical or possible. Agent Ray RaLonde worked with the Aleutian Pribolof Island Association to launch community-led monitoring programs. The four participating communities, Akutan, Unalaska, Sand Point and King Cove, have been able to monitor and, in King Cove, suspend subsistence harvest until PSP levels declined. The extension program is now working with the state towards a state-approved local monitoring program.