

Notes from MTF R&D&E AC phone conference meeting
February 10, 2017
Call to order at ~9:05 am.

Present: Keith Criddle, Ginny Eckert, Bob Foy, Jeff Hetrick, Cynthia Pring-Ham, Mike Stekoll, Eric Wyatt, Kate Sullivan
And: Julie Decker, Kirsten Shelton Walker (McDowell Group McG)

Next Meeting: March 10, 9-10 am AST.

Kirstin: McDowell Group. Kirstin Shelton Walker summarized what McG will be doing with the MTF. Helping with Phases 2 and 3 of the MTF final report. McG to develop a profile of the mariculture industry in AK. Do an investment strategy and ID resources to effect the strategies. Suggest a framework for evaluation of the strategies. Their effort will be a major part of the MTF comprehensive plan. For Phase 3 will try to give an overall assessment of the industry. They are looking at this by species initially. Different members of McG will be assigned species and so we may be interacting with others from McG. Ginny: can McG circulate their ongoing outline/descriptions to our AC for our info and input? –YES

Julie: The AC may have information on pots of money for funding various activities.

Mike: Looking at the ASGA Dec meeting summary of priorities, there are about half that seem to not apply to this AC. Most are concerned with oysters only.

Eric: Agrees – but currently oysters are the driving force for mariculture in AK. Maybe kelp will be next. Something about a general framework.

Mike: Let's look at Eric's ideas with respect to short, mid and long term goals for us. Need some clarification on the mid-range goals.

[His ideas are posted on the Google docs site as MTF R&D Eric 2FEB17.odt under "items added to research & needs.gdoc.

Summary:

Short term goals – recommend a limited number of projects or areas that seem to have the most immediate impact toward mariculture expansion.

Medium term goals - tech transfer, using assets - methods that work outside of AK and/or bringing in people that are knowledgeable, and the next possible species to develop.

Long term goal: recommend some structure or mechanism to address current and ongoing R&D needs.]

Eric: We are already doing this somewhat. Mostly has to do with transfer of technology and information from outside AK. With respect to current and potential species.

Cynthia: Likes Eric's plan

Eric: Using assets and resources from outside AK is also part of the mid-range plan.

Cynthia: would technical training, "weekend warrior" fit as part of the mid-range goals?

Mike: Calls roll to get everyone's input on this idea for an initial framework.

Jeff: We need to be sure to get the needs from the industry. They need to be a part of this.

Ginny: The plan has to include new species. So it may make sense to focus on certain species. Do we have a list of potential species?

Cynthia: We have a list of the species that people have applied for. No reason to reinvent the wheel. We need to know what has worked elsewhere. This list is on the Google Docs and she will also send to everyone on the AC.

Eric: We need to focus on the D part of R&D.

Jeff: His hatchery has worked on most of the invert species that may be commercially important – at least the hatchery aspect.

Ginny: What is the next step?

Bob: What we are doing seems OK. We need to ID holes in what we should know about current species and then develop criteria for the best approach to address the issues.

Ginny: We can go through a list of potential species and make comments on each and what we think.

Cynthia: The steps for most of the species will be very similar for developing each species: e.g. seed production, hatchery, grow out, water quality etc. So maybe we can set up a framework to organize the information.

Julie: There are differences between farming and enhancement. So we would need a different framework for enhancement.

Ginny: We will be producing and strategic plan for each species. (which fits in with what McG will be doing)

Jeff: We list all of the species and then check off “to do” boxes under each such as: has seed development been done? Is the hatchery procedure worked out?

Conclusion as understood by Mike: We will create a spreadsheet with the various species listed and make columns of the steps required to develop a species to successful mariculture. Then we use our existing documents on research and future needs to fill in this spreadsheet. Plus any other information we can acquire. A sub committee of Mike, Ginny, Cynthia and Jeff will produce a strawman for this.

Kate: Identify needs for SARDFFA enhancement. Ways to mark organisms, physical or genetic for assessing outplanting.

Julie: Cautions us not to limit the short term to just oysters.

Mike: Let us move on to the agenda item about scaling.

Keith: Has a start on this and sees an overlap with what McG will be doing. Was working on a break even analysis and regional impact models. There is a lot of room for this type of research, of which very little has been done in AK. Suggested putting up a web site to help gather information. He will work with McG on this issue.

Last items?

Discussion about the City of Juneau and UAS vying for ownership of the old NOAA Auke Bay facility. UAS wants to use it to expand and consolidate marine science programs and also create a mariculture research center there. City wants it for Docks and Harbors in case Statter Harbor expands.

Eric: Would like to see Environmental Monitoring issues on the agenda for next time.

Adjourned at 10:05 am

