

Notes from MTF R&D&E AC phone conference meeting  
June 8, 2017  
Call to order at ~9:04 am.

Present: Keith Criddle, Jeff Hetrick, Carter Newell, Cynthia Pring-Ham, Mike Stekoll, Eric Wyatt

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 27, 9-10 AM AKDT**

Meeting started with continued discussion of the Near Term Priorities document starting at IV. New species. No additions or changes.

V. environmental data.

The disease section was renamed to be “bivalves and public health issues”. Discussion of and edits to the rest of this section.

VI. Economic data. Edited and added new tasks. Added economic profiles, industry goals, existing fisheries infrastructure.

VII. Education. Added STEM education connected to mariculture and personal use (gardening) of oysters.

Discussion as to whether we want to prioritize each of the R&D items. We decided to try to tag each item with High, Medium or Low priority. So each of us should edit the document accordingly. For example, Mike should tag the items in the seaweed section and Bob tag the items in the crab enhancement, etc. But we will submit the Near Term Priorities document to the MTF for their next meeting June 27.

Discussion about a research oversight framework (see Ideas for a Mariculture Research Center under the long term priorities folder). Carter repeated what he had sent out as an email.

Generally, we need to know what R&D capabilities we have in the state and who can do the needed research. Gave the Cawthorne Institute in New Zealand as an example of promoting research to support development of mariculture. Carter thinks Mike’s example of a Mariculture Research Center (MRC) is good idea but such an institute needs close guidance from industry, perhaps an advisory committee with industry cooperation. Another example is Scotland’s Aquaculture Innovation Center (SAIC) – “Industry success through research partnerships”. Eric suggested some kind of cooperative association among industry, hatcheries and others. Mike commented that no matter what the structure, the success of any of these structures will likely depend on the person, such as a director, in charge. This person probably would need to have a PhD, be a good grant writer, have lots of energy and be able to coordinate and communicate with all the necessary players.

Carter suggested that we propose an “R&D summit meeting” to figure out what structure would work for Alaska. All stakeholders (industry, hatchery, university, federal, state, public) would be invited to meet to hammer out a viable entity that would ensure needed mariculture related

research would be carried out. Carter to write out ideas for this. The idea for such a summit was generally agreed upon by this AC. (Carter's ideas are in the "Ideas for a Mariculture Research Center" document that is in the "Priorities-Long Tem" folder.

**Homework:** It would be good if everyone could look over and make any comments in the Near Term document and also add comments or ideas to the "Ideas for a Mariculture Research Center" that is in the "Priorities-Long Tem" folder.

Mike will not be available for the next MTF meeting and asked Eric to provide information about what this AC is doing.

Adjourned at about 10:30 am.