

October 1, 2015

TO: ASMI Board of Director's & Committee Members

FROM: Claudia Hogue, Foodservice Director

RE: Foodservice Program Update

This report is a recap of the foodservice program activities for FY15 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015). In addition to the foodservice program, staff is responsible for co-managing the consumer public relations (Edelman) and advertising programs which are covered under separate reports.

FOODSERVICE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Generate increased foodservice awareness and usage via Alaska seafood brand-oriented marketing programs.
- Achieve differentiation between wild Alaska, farmed seafood (including specialty farms) and other seafood sources and proteins.
- Maintain the highest-value perception in targeted foodservice segments.

FOODSERVICE STRATEGIES:

- Build awareness among foodservice operators and their patrons for Alaska seafood's unique features: Alaska, Wild, Sustainable, Pure, and Flavor/Texture.
- Position Alaska seafood as a healthy and environmentally friendly alternative to other proteins.
- Expand usage and menu branding of wild Alaska seafood (including value-added products) with target operator accounts.
- Build on established leadership position for ASMI in the areas of seafood education, training and menu development.
- Maximize Alaska seafood's position and penetration with high-volume broadline and seafood specialty distributors.
- In collaboration with other ASMI marketing programs – develop leadership position for teaching kids to eat more seafood.
- Heighten Alaska seafood industry awareness and involvement in the foodservice program and continue to educate so that the industry can meet the needs of the marketplace.

OPERATOR PROMOTIONS:

National account promotions have been very effective in expanding the usage and menu branding of Alaska seafood with target operator accounts. Working with key decision makers within these accounts, ASMI develops customized promotional programs that may include the following components: merchandising materials, menu branding allowances, advertising, research, waitstaff incentives, training seminars, website and email, etc. In addition, ASMI also has a number of themed, species-specific promotional materials that are available to all foodservice operators year-round. These include posters, table tents, menu sheets, waitstaff tip cards, buttons, etc. ASMI also has materials designed especially for kids.

There continues to be a strong interest in promoting seafood from Alaska and most of these promotions are backed with significant financial support from the chains themselves. **The following national operator accounts partnered with ASMI this fiscal year to promote the Alaska brand and logo with customized point-of-sale materials, menus, consumer advertising and social media initiatives.**

- **AM/PM** – Alaska pollock
- **Bud's Chicken and Seafood** – Alaska cod
- **Captain D's** – Alaska salmon
- **Denny's Restaurants** – Alaska salmon
- **Disney** – All species
- **Dine Around Seattle** – All species
- **Fish City Grill/Half Shells** – Alaska salmon, halibut & snow crab
- **Guest Services** – Alaska pollock
- **HuHot** – Alaska salmon & pollock
- **Jack in the Box** – Alaska pollock
- **Joey's Restaurants (Canada)** – Alaska pollock
- **KFC Hawaii** – Alaska pollock
- **The Krystal Company** – Alaska pollock
- **Landry's Oceanaire** – Alaska king crab, salmon & halibut
- **Landry's McCormick & Schmick's** – Alaska salmon & halibut
- **Macy's Department Stores** – Alaska halibut, salmon, cod & crab
- **Market Broiler Restaurants** – Alaska cod, snow crab & halibut
- **N.Y. Yankees/Legends Hospitality** – All species
- **Ocean Prime** – Alaska king crab, halibut & salmon
- **Princess Cruise Lines** – All species
- **Red Lobster** – Alaska salmon & bairdi crab
- **Rockfish Seafood Grill** – Alaska salmon, pollock & sole

- **Rubio's** – Alaska pollock
- **Salad Creations** – Alaska salmon
- **Season's 52 (Darden)** – Alaska halibut & salmon
- **Shari's Restaurants** – Alaska cod & salmon
- **Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill** – Alaska salmon & cod
- **Showmar's Restaurants** – Alaska pollock & sole
- **Sodexo** – Alaska pollock (K-12)
- **Sonic Drive-In** – Alaska pollock
- **Stillwater Grill** – Alaska salmon, halibut & sole
- **The Fresh Fish Co.** – All species
- **White Castle** – Alaska pollock

Colleges & Universities:

- **Skidmore** – Alaska king crab
- **Stanford University** – All species
- **University of Massachusetts Amherst** – All species
- **University of North Dakota** – All species
- **Yale** – All species
- **University of Arizona** – All species
- **University of Montana** – All species

Overall Operator Results:

- 33 custom, national restaurant chain promotions in 11,228 units across the U.S. and Canada.
- 7 promotions with college and university foodservice.
- 97% of our promotional partners saw positive results and increased sales.
- On average, for every dollar ASMI spends toward a promotion the partnering chain spends \$11.79
- ASMI promotions helped almost all of the chains introduce new Alaska seafood menu items.
- All chains have expressed interest in promoting Alaska seafood again in 2016.

Disney Chef Training Seminars: ASMI partnered with Disney to conduct 2 days of chef training seminars about “Seafood: The Intersection of Wellness and Sustainability.” The lively demonstrations were attended by about 120 executive chefs from all the various dining venues (from take away kiosks to fine dining at Disney Hotels) at both Disneyland, Anaheim (8/26/14) and Disneyworld, Orlando (9/11/14). At Disney headquarters, ASMI made presentations about

what sustainable seafood means--highlighting Alaska fisheries practices, demonstrated “local” through a discussion about Alaska fishing families, and presented a summary of seafood items and promotions at leading restaurants across the US and chains’ approach to sustainable seafood.

Chef Ben Pollinger (Executive Chef at Oceana Restaurant, NYC and member of ASMI’s Chef Alliance) presented a guided tasting of the 5 species of salmon and demonstrated menu ideas for Alaska seafood at quick service, casual and fine dining. Chef Pollinger started with *Alaska Salmon Spread with Crostini* and *Salmon Cake BLT Sliders*, spoke about freezing, “underutilized parts”, smaller portion sizes and smaller bites of seafood paired with healthy ingredients like: *Seared Rockfish with Fresh Corn Risotto* And *Seared Black Cod with White Beans and Roasted Peppers*.

From our partner at Disney, Gary Jones: “The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from everyone I’ve spoken with. The pace of the sessions, the food, and the opportunity to interact with each of you from the morning through the reception have all received great reviews. This is a tough audience to please on a good day but you all hit the mark.”

K-12 Education & Promotions:

Sodexo K-12: ASMI continues to work in partnership with the Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers (GAPP) and Sodexo’s K-12 management division to increase fish on school menus. After completing a successful test in 2013 among elementary, middle and high schools in Gig Harbor, WA, ASMI moved forward to develop a training video and a printed manager’s guide for school foodservice professionals.

This fall, a national Alaska pollock school promotion will take place with Sodexo. In preparation, ASMI conducted two webinars for district managers about how Alaska pollock fits into school lunch menus. The webinar focused on Alaska pollock key points of difference – affordable, healthy, sustainable, kids like it, all American and marketing support for the promotion. Promotion components are posted on the Sodexo Intranet and include:

- A custom program manager’s guide with 12 easy to prepare recipes.
- Three videos: “About Alaska pollock fishery”, Alaska pollock preparation and handling”, and “How to mix and match recipes” for a delicious school lunch.
- Merchandising materials – poster, static cling, bookmarks, tattoos
- E-blast reminders to district managers for ordering once-frozen Alaska pollock products and merchandising materials

- Parent newsletter article focusing on eating healthy with Alaska pollock

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD): LAUSD serves over 650,000 meals a day through elementary, middle and high schools—one of our nation’s largest school districts. After meeting the Director and Vice Director of foodservice at the CIA Healthy Flavors, Healthy Kids Summit in May, ASMI representatives made a presentation at the LAUSD offices about “How to Get Kids to Eat More Fish and Seafood”. Next steps include developing several new Alaska pollock menu items and test marketing to ensure success. Both ASMI and GAPP hope to partner with LAUSD to help menu development, marketing and training for LA school foodservice professionals.

Culinary Institute of America (CIA) Healthy Flavors, Healthy Kids Conference: The CIA Healthy Kids initiative focuses on culinary insights and training for K-12 school foodservice operations. At the May leadership summit, 200 school foodservice leaders from across the U.S. assembled in San Antonio, TX to discuss and debate best practices across a wide range of issues affecting the flavor and quality of foods and beverages offered in our nation’s schools. ASMI participated as sponsor and Alaska seafood products and materials were showcased throughout the conference. Pat Shanahan from the Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers (GAPP) also participated in this event along with ASMI.

DISTRIBUTOR PROMOTIONS:

Distributors are a critical link in the foodservice sales path because they sell to chain accounts, foodservice management companies and independent operators on a daily basis. The distributor exerts a high degree of influence over operators in their purchasing decisions. While independent and seafood specialty distributors play a vital role in supplying fresh products to certain segments of the industry, broadline distributors are an important force, especially in terms of frozen seafood products and their penetration of all foodservice segments. In addition, broadline distributors are also putting increased focus on fresh seafood sales.

Historically, ASMI broadline distributor promotions have been heavily involved with individual operating companies and divisions. Within the past few years, the landscape has shifted towards a corporate controlled environment also known as Category Management. Category Management now controls the entire process from purchasing, brand development, quality control and marketing (training and promotional activities at the division level). ASMI has a unique opportunity to partner with top broadline distributors at the corporate level to facilitate the growth of the Alaska seafood brand and build sales.

The following distributors partnered with ASMI during FY15 on all-species sales incentive and brand awareness promotions:

- **Cash – Wa Distributing**
- **Del Monte Meat Company – (2 separate promotions)**
- **Martin Brothers Distributing**
- **Foodservices of America Corporate – (3 separate promotions)**
- **Foodservices of America Western Washington**
- **Gordon Foodservice Corporate – U.S.**
- **Reinhart Foodservice Corporate**
- **Samuel & Son Seafood Company – year long promotions**
- **Sysco Corporate – U.S.**
- **Sysco Corporate – Canada (18 divisions)**
- **US Foods Corporate**

Sysco Corporate Sockeye Promotion: In December, the ASMI Board directed staff to develop Lenten promotions to help move sockeye salmon. In response, ASMI worked with Sysco Corporate to promote once-frozen Alaska sockeye salmon nationwide through all 71 Operating Companies (OpCos) during the Lenten season. The promotion began on February 1st and ran through April 4, 2015. This promotion was part of a larger all-species Alaska seafood initiative; however, special emphasis was placed on sockeye salmon as outlined below.

Promotional Components:

- Qualifying items included only *Portico Simply* single-frozen Alaska sockeye salmon fillets and portions. This ensures that only Alaska sockeye salmon is part of the promotion.
- Customer Coupon Incentive Program: Specially developed Alaska sockeye salmon coupons were distributed nationwide. Customers that purchased a minimum of 5 cases of Alaska sockeye salmon received a fifty dollar credit. This program offers the opportunity to gain new customers and convert existing ones.
- The promotional period was effective February 1, 2015 – April 4, 2015.
- Operating Company Incentive Program: Sales incentives were also provided to Sysco. The top OpCo in each region (8 regions total) received \$5,000. The winning OpCo was determined by growth in case sales and equalized for the differences in company size. Payout went directly to the OpCo president and dispersed to sales representatives. Additional Alaska seafood sales also qualified towards total case sales.

Communication Plan:

- Sysco also developed a number of communication vehicles directed at Sysco management, sales representatives and customers. These included email blasts, webcasts, separate flyers, PowerPoint templates and training materials. All materials and communications included the ASMI logo.

- A separate Alaska sockeye salmon flyer was developed which includes a statement about Alaska's RFM certification program.

Overall Distributor Results:

- 14 foodservice distributor promotions (including 6 corporate) reaching over 1 million foodservice customers across the U.S. and Canada.
- Over 4.4 million pounds of Alaska seafood items were sold during the promotional periods.
- Average cost per pound to promote: \$.11 cents.

TRADE SHOWS & CONFERENCES:

National Association of College & University Foodservice (NACUFS): ASMI participated as a platinum sponsor at the NACUFS conference in Baltimore from July 9-12. Over 1,500 food and beverage decision makers attend this conference from colleges and universities around the country. ASMI's distributed literature and sampled Alaska sockeye salmon prepared by ASMI Chef Alliance member Dan Enos from the Oceanaire Seafood Room in Boston.

Sip for the Sea – A Tasting of Sustainable Wine and Food to Benefit the NY Aquarium:

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) hosted *Sip for the Sea* benefit at the Central Park Zoo on Thursday, September 18, 2014. Guests sampled pairings of sustainable wines with sustainable seafood from some of New York and Brooklyn's top restaurants. ASMI donated product to the following restaurants:

- **Esca**
- **Almond**
- **Sheraton Times Square**
- **Stanton Social**
- **The Wayfarer**
- **Tavern on the Green**
- **Clement at The Peninsula**
- **Tolani**
- **Gordon Ramsey**

Les Dames d 'Escoffier National Conference (LDEI): ASMI sponsored and attended the LDEI national conference in Boston, from October 29-31. LDEI is the premier organization of influential professional women who are committed to the advancement of education and philanthropy in food, beverage and hospitality. With 26 chapters around the country, LDEI represents the most influential women in the food industry.

At the conference, staff networked and sampled various Alaska seafood species in a variety of menu applications. ASMI staff also participated as a keynote speaker on the panel “*Sourcing Sustainable Seafood*” which was very well received.

National Restaurant Association/Marketing Executives Group (MEG): ASMI is a sponsor of both the fall and spring MEG meetings which target marketing directors from the top national and regional chains in the U.S. MEG has become a regular event for ASMI and a number of promotions have resulted from association with this group over the years.

International Corporate Chefs Association (ICCA): The ICCA is the only chefs association designed exclusively for corporate chefs from the nation’s largest chains and multi-unit operations. As one of the founding sponsors, ASMI has the opportunity to network, educate and develop relationships with key corporate executive chefs throughout the year at a number of ICCA events.

Global Culinary Innovators Association (GCIA): This new organization focuses on individuals involved with R&D, marketing and purchasing at smaller chains. As a founding sponsor, ASMI can build long-term relationships with top research and development chefs at foodservice chains 200-400 in sales rank through a variety of educational and networking events throughout the U.S.

Culinary Institute of America (CIA)/Worlds of Healthy Flavors Conference: With continued emphasis on health, ASMI sponsored the World of Healthy Flavors Conference in January which brings together leading experts from Harvard University in nutrition research. The goal of this retreat is to assist corporate chefs and senior managers from top national accounts in expanding options for healthy meal choices. As a key sponsor, ASMI is in a unique position to help educate chefs on how they can incorporate Alaska seafood onto the menus of America’s top chains. Alaska seafood was featured in multiple demos and menu planning activities for attendees to work with.

Seafood Expo North America (SENA): ASMI participated again this year in Seafood Expo North America. This year, ASMI introduced a new booth which focused on the variety and delicious flavors of Alaska seafood. Large format food photography was the backdrop for showcasing mouth-watering plate shots from ASMI’s recipe collections. This is a shared project with the retail, technical and international programs.

College & University Special Events: ASMI continues to partner with individual schools to promote sustainable Alaska seafood. Special events are a great way to create “teachable moments” for students and staff and create excitement on campus. Over the past few months

a number of promotions have taken place on campuses around the country. For many students, college is their first opportunity to develop life-long eating habits and these types of events are a great way to create new Alaska seafood consumers.

Culinary Institute of America (CIA) – Menus of Change Conference: The Menus of Change leadership initiative is a partnership of the CIA and Harvard School of Public Health that is working to create a long-term, practical vision for the integration of nutrition, environmental stewardship, the culinary arts and innovation within the business of American foodservice. ASMI is one of the founding sponsors and also has a seat on the Sustainable Business Leadership Council. In June, the third annual summit took place at the CIA campus in Hyde Park and was attended by 350 foodservice executives including company CEO's, executive chefs, VP's of corporate & social responsibility, scientific leaders and the media. In addition to showcasing Alaska seafood throughout the conference, ASMI had the opportunity to network with key decision makers to tell our sustainability story.

Center for the Advancement of Foodservice Educators (CAFÉ): In June, the ASMI staff traveled to New York to attend the 11th annual CAFÉ (Center for Advancement of Foodservice Education) Leadership Conference, hosted by the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute. This event is attended by culinary educators from across the country whose target student audience is in the technical school, secondary school and college and university foodservice programs. During the Welcome Reception and Awards Ceremony, Certified Master Chef Sonnenschmidt and his staff served Sockeye Salmon Strudel with Dill Sauce, Coconut Cod with Jalapeno's and Halibut Puttanesca. During the Info Fair, ASMI staff distributed recipe books, educational materials and more to all those in attendance.

Foodservice at Retail Exchange (FARE) Conference: The ASMI Foodservice program was invited by Sysco Corporation to participate on a panel titled "From the Fisherman to the Fork" on June 23, 2015 at the FARE conference in Nashville. Sysco is the major sponsor of FARE and Eric Buckner, Senior Director of Seafood was the panel moderator. Panel participants included Tricia Sanguinetti (ASMI), Captain Sig Hansen, Jennifer McGuire (NFI), and Jamie Marshall (Trident). On behalf of ASMI, Tricia addressed Alaska seafood sustainability, how to leverage consumer data at foodservice, how ASMI partners with operators and our new SWAP Meat for Alaska seafood initiative.

FARE is a three-day conference that gathers over 1,000 foodservice executives, menu planners, chefs and many more from every channel of grab-and-go foodservice, from quick-service restaurants to fast-casual concept, c-stores, travel concessions, hospital cafes, college food shops and more.

UMass-Amherst Chef Culinary Conference: UMass' annual Chef Culinary Conference is highly regarded as the premiere gathering of high-volume foodservice operators and chefs, to learn more about world cuisines and flavor trends in an engaging environment. Each year hundreds of chefs gather on the UMass-Amherst campus for a 6 day conference full of cooking demonstrations, trends presentations and culinary competitions. Presenters this year included: Mark Bittman, Barton Seaver, Suvir Suran, Jet Tila, Joanne Weir and Virginia Willis.

TRADE EDUCATION:

Alaska Seafood Bar Bites and Cocktail Pairings: ASMI foodservice partnered with celebrity chef and mixologist Kathy Casey to create 10 new appetizer/bar bite recipes with paired cocktails. The food and wine pairing concept has evolved to include craft beers and cocktails and food pairings primarily because mixology has grown over the past five years and many restaurants are using signature cocktails and happy hours to increase profits. Cocktails are no longer just for before the meal or an after dinner drink.

The recipes include:

- “California Roll” Deviled Eggs with a Cucumber Saki Martini
- Alaska Salmon Sliders with Rosemary Lemon Aioli and Pickled Onions with a Tuscan Meyer Lemon Collins
- Citrusy Alaska Spot Prawns with and a IPA Grapefruit Twist
- Alaska Cod Brandade with Warm Citrus Olives and a Clematine 007 (variation on a Vesper – James Bond Martini)
- Thai Fish Cakes with Sriracha Chili Dipping Sauce and a Fragrant Thai Mojito
- Corn and Surimi Fritters with Verde Avocado Salsa with a Chili Cilantro Margarita
- Alaska Cod Tostada Bites with Pineapple Bacon Jam with Pineapple Cha Cha Sangria
- Banh Mi Alaska Black Cod Sliders with an Elderflower French 75
- Pickled Alaska Salmon with Red Onions and Beets in a Jar with a Scandi Martini
- Alaska Salmon Charcuterie with a Bourbon Peach Old Fashioned

Swap Meat Recipe Contest: ASMI foodservice launched a *Swap Meat* Recipe Contest in support of healthier menus across the country. The contest called for professional foodservice chefs to replace beef, pork, lamb and poultry with wild, healthy and sustainable Alaska seafood. Chefs had the opportunity to create and submit their best *Swap Meat* recipes for the chance to win up to \$2,500.

Through the *Swap Meat* Recipe Contest, chefs can bring classic, meat-based favorites to life with a sustainable twist – Alaska seafood as the protein. For example, chicken picatta becomes Alaska cod picatta, beef sliders become Alaska salmon sliders, chicken kabobs become pistachio-crusted Alaska halibut kabobs and chicken tortilla soup becomes Alaska Snow Crab tortilla soup.

Recipes were evaluated based on flavor, creativity/originality and visual appeal, as well as applicability on restaurant menus. First, second and third-place winners received \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500 respectively.

Chef Adam Hegsted of ***The Wandering Table*** in Spokane, WA won first place for his creation; Alaska Salmon Osso Bucco. Alaska Weathervane Scallops with Blackberry Agave Sauce from Chef Michael Watz of ***Washburne Culinary Institute*** in Chicago came in second, and a recipe for Alaska King Salmon Filet “Oscar” from Chef Keoni Chang of ***Foodland Super Market, Ltd.*** in Hawaii came in third.

All winners were featured on ASMI’s websites, in public relations efforts and on ASMI’s social media channels.

CIA/ProChef: The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) offers a media educational venue through their on-line site, *ProChef.com* and ASMI has partnered with them to create an ASMI micro-site. This custom program includes streaming videos, interactive web pages, photography and informative text highlighting Alaska seafood. Recently, a social media component has also been added to increase traffic to the site and encourage dialogue about Alaska seafood. The goal is to better educate the foodservice community about Alaska seafood and its use in today’s menu applications suitable for a range of foodservice operations and segments. The Culinary Institute of America is one of the largest and most prestigious culinary schools in the U.S.

ADVERTISING:

The foodservice program continues to advertise in a variety of foodservice trade publications. Consumer research confirms that taste is the leading driver of increased seafood consumption at restaurants. ASMI developed a new campaign that positions Alaska seafood as the place for great tasting, craveable seafood with beautiful food photography. There are three versions of the ad with interchangeable plate shoots for salmon, whitefish and crab. In addition, staff placed ads to promote ASMI’s *Swap Meat* recipe contest which has gained tremendous momentum. Ads have been running in the following print and online foodservice trade publications this fiscal year:

- ***Nation's Restaurant News***
- ***Food Arts***
- ***Plate Magazine***
- ***QSR (Quick Service Restaurants)***
- ***Food Management***
- ***Flavor & The Menu***
- ***On Campus Hospitality***
- ***CIA- Pro Chef Smartbrief***

Target Audiences: Quick Service Restaurants (QSR), Fast-Casual Restaurants, Casual Dining, College & University

Overall Results:

- Print Impressions: 1,239,705
- Digital Impressions: 1,096,702
- Average click-thru rates ranged between: .23 to .29%
- Ad creative scored extremely well in readership surveys:
 - Plate magazine: Ranked #1 for "Believability".
 - Flavor & The Menu: Ranked #1 for "Highest Attention-Getting".

FOODSERVICE (TRADE) PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Foodservice public relations is targeted to the foodservice trade which includes chefs, distributors, marketing and purchasing executives, culinary schools and anyone associated with the foodservice industry. These activities include editorials, product releases and news articles in foodservice publications, as well as special events that promote Alaska seafood to operators and influential food editors. Since September, ASMI has been working with the Revelry Agency to provide foodservice PR coverage.

International Foodservice Editors Conference (IFEC): In October, ASMI participated in the annual IFEC conference in Dallas, TX. IFEC provides a face-to-face forum for ASMI to pitch story ideas to foodservice editors and communication professionals. Over 250 individuals are involved in this organization and offer ASMI a great opportunity to network and educate participants about Alaska seafood.

ASMI hosted the *Betty Luncheon*, which each year honors a member of IFEC for their contributions to the organization. Alaska King Crab was served with a number of dipping

sauces. With butcher paper on the tables, crab crackers, branded Alaska seafood buckets for shells and bibs for our guests; it was a true crab feast.

International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP): ASMI Foodservice was a Bronze level sponsor at this year's international convention held in Washington, DC. IACP is a worldwide forum for the development and exchange of information, knowledge and inspiration within the professional food and beverage community. This year ASMI served Alaska pollock a la Plancha at the 80th Birthday party for celebrity chef Jacques Pepin. During the networking luncheon Alaska snow crab claws and oysters were served.

Overall Results:

- 48 secured placements
- 3,553,271 Impressions from September 2014 – June 2015

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!