

Update on status of KSMSC

A new 501C3 nonprofit formed last summer under the name - Alaska Research Consortium with the goal of managing the operations at the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center in a public/private partnership with UAF. Board members of the ARC include Jay Stinson (former ASMI board chair and fisherman), Paul Lumsden, Kodiak Trident plant manager, Matt Moir, Kodiak North Pacific Seafood plant manager; Larry LeDoux, former commissioner of education and member of Borough Assembly; Pat Jacobsen, former chair of the UA Board of Regents; Duncan Fields, local attorney and fisherman and former member of the NPFMC; Jeff Stephen, fishing trade association rep, and chair of the Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee; Scott Smiley, former director of FITC and member of Borough Assembly. Paula Cullenberg serves as an ex-officio member of the board as the director of Alaska Sea Grant.

The ARC responded on deadline to a Request for Information (RFI) from UAF on July 1. They were the only respondent to the RFI and laid out one potential scenario where UAF would transfer ownership of KSMSC to the Borough and the ARC would operate it. Since July 1, UAF has responded with one short phone call in September with no follow-up. In January, Pat Jacobsen met with President Johnsen who pledged to move forward with a resolution in the near future. There has been frustration in Kodiak that UAF has been so slow to move forward on this; however UA has been facing significant challenges. The community and industry have really stepped up and volunteered a lot of time and energy to communicate the value of the seafood industry and the Center to the University and we are grateful of for their help.

On February 21, at the request of Rep. Stutes, the ARC will make a presentation about the Center and its proposal to the House Fisheries Committee. It would be great to have ASMI participate in this via a letter or comments at the presentation.

¹ *update provided by Paula Cullenberg Jan 27 2017*

² *attached: Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center University of Alaska Fairbanks Annual Report FY2016 (July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016)*