

To: Sitka Alaska Community Based Fisheries Management Workshop Participants

From: The Steering Committee (Sitka meeting)

RE: Summary Observations and Highlights of the Oct 12-13 Community Based Marine Resource Management & Development Workshop, Kennebunkport, Maine.

Date: March 9, 2005

This memo is intended to provide you background and context for the discussions that will take place during the March 17-18<sup>th</sup> Sitka gathering. This Sitka gathering is a follow on to a meeting that was held in October 2004 in Kennebunkport Maine to discuss community based marine resource management. At that meeting, approximately 35 practitioners and supporters of community based marine resource management from across the US, Canada, and Central America gathered in Maine for two days to discuss what steps can be taken to implement community based fisheries management (CBFM) in the United States.

The catalyst for this discuss was a presentation of a report commissioned by the Ford Foundation, *Opportunities and Obstacles to Community-Based Fisheries Management in the US* by authors Mike Weber and Suzanne Iudicello Martley. The report assessed current CBFM efforts of commercial fisheries abroad, looked at the current institutional and legal settings in the US and identified key strategic issues. This report was sent to you, which includes an executive summary. In addition, at the end of this memo you will find a summary of that report prepared by Diane Moody of Shorebank Enterprise Pacific (Seafood Initiative) who was at the Maine meeting and is on the Sitka Steering Committee.

Over the course of the workshop, the participants had lively discussions about several aspects of the presentation and applicability to US-based fisheries, which covered definition of community; importance of place; access and property rights; and opportunities for proactive vs. reactive management practices. Another key discussion issue focused on how CBFMs survive in the current global market climate. On the second day, the group had an opportunity to participate in breakout sessions to delve a little deeper in how the group might be able to elevate the CBFM discussion to a broader national scale and discuss strategies that meet CBFM objectives:

- Alternative CBFM Structures—Are there alternative models that can be implemented in the US which achieve the same objectives as CBFM?
- US Political Action Plan—What are some of the key political avenues to target to raise awareness and support for CBFM and its objectives?
- Community Development links to CBFM—What are the steps the fishing community should be taking to engage the larger community of which they are a part and with whom should they be working?
- Funding & Investment—Who and how should we approach funding support for building a national CBFM initiative?

During your time together in Sitka, we hope that the discussions will continue to explore how we can achieve CBFM goals and objectives at a local, regional, national and cross-border level. Communication and engagement strategies are paramount to this effort and must occur at all levels to inspire change, so we also encourage you to identify who needs to participate and what are the ways to engage them. It will also be to a great advantage to push through the

obstacles and focus on the opportunities and leverage points that lead us to long-term positive results.

*In addition, after the meeting, Weber and Ludicello wrote a memo adding their observations from the meeting. This memo is being sent to you attached separately.*

Thanks

Steering Committee  
Sitka CBFM meeting

**Summary of Ford Report: *Opportunities and Obstacles to Community-Based Fisheries Management in the US (Weber and Ludicello)*. Prepared by Diane Moody.**

The report was very extensive and included analysis of several active CBFM and their applicability to US fisheries activities. Highlights of this report and presentation follows:

1. ***CBFM Goal: The primary goal is to improve the livelihoods of people in fishing communities, and to make management more sustainable.***
2. ***CBFM Models include, but are not limited to Fisheries Conservation Associations, IFQ Management, Cooperatives, and Community Development Quotas.***
3. ***CBFM has the greatest likelihood of success if one or more of the following characteristics exist within the fishery/fishing community.***
  - Community is highly dependent upon fisheries.
  - Limited Entry Fisheries
  - Close Access to Infrastructure.
  - Sedentary Fishery
  - Nearshore Fishery
  - Relatively small vessels dependent upon local marine resources
  - Vessels are Owner Operated
  - Flexible gear-type that allows for fishing of multiple species in a certain geography.
  - Fleets that participate in more than one fishery, e.g. trollers.
  - Fisheries is a strong part of a local community's economy and history.
  - Fishermen act as enforcers of rules.
  - Ethnically Homogeneous
  - Fisheries is a major contributor to the local economy.
  - Strong ownership and rights to the fishery e.g leases, access rights, property rights.
  - Community members have primary responsible for managing the resources.
  - Open communications and process that moves the fishing community beyond a mentality of us vs them.
  - Community has committed community leaders and/or community based organizations to CBFM principles and possesses strong community organizing skills.
  - Community must have a compelling incentive to pursue CBFM.
  - Trust exists between fishermen and scientists.
  - Trust between fishermen and government regulatory bodies.
  - CBO liaison for government regulatory agencies.
  - Community support that is broader than the fishing segment of the community (broader involvement and support).

- Fishermen are committed for long-term benefit not short-term rights. in long term commitment to the duties of management.
- Fishermen have moved from a mentality of rights to one of management duties and responsibilities.
- Community is committed to adding more value to the resource before shipping catches to urban markets and beyond.
- The fishermen must stick with it beyond periods of crises.
- Fishermen and other community members are involved /engaged from the beginning in the development, planning and management of the fishery.

4. **CBFM is difficult to achieve in the US for the following reasons:**

- US Fishermen remain very independent in nature and are extremely unorganized at both a national and regional level.
- Policies support single species fisheries management.
- Many US Fisheries are not monitored well enough by governing bodies to control illegal activities of domestic and foreign vessels in a fishery.
- Governmental management is jurisdictionally complex, hard to navigate and often times not well coordinated between state and federal departments. Also Regulators and Commissions are mistrusted.
- Consolidation of access to resource and vertical integration of distribution channels.