**Day 2: OA Workshop breakout session descriptions**

 **9:45-11:45am, Marriott Hotel**

**1) Engaging the Fishing Community on Ocean Acidification**

Discussion leaders: Ruth Christiansen (Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers) and Michael Kohan (Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute)

Call in number: 1-866-832-7806, PIN 1738415

The issue of ocean acidification and its effects upon living marine resources and dependent-industries is gaining increased publicity and attention. Ocean acidification’s impacts (direct and indirect) on fisheries interactions is where the rubber meets the road for fishermen and is a key topic where more information, conversation, and perspective is needed, especially from commercial fishermen. For example, experimental studies on the effects of increased carbon dioxide on the survival, condition, and growth of king and Tanner crab species in the Bering Sea are being conducted by leading scientists in Alaska to assess both direct and indirect effects of ocean acidification on shell building in commercial crab species in Alaska. Connecting science and the fishing industry on the current and future status of ocean acidification is integral in establishing an interdisciplinary approach for understanding how ocean acidification can potentially affect fishing communities and industries. To date, fishing community engagement on the subject of ocean acidification has been minimal. The breakout session entitled “Engaging the fishing community on Ocean Acidification” is intended as a forum to help initiate the vital conversation on OA with the fishing community. Some of the key questions to be addressed during this session include:

* What do commercial fishermen feel is their role in addressing OA and why has participation by the industry been so limited to date?
* What are the barriers to receiving information on OA and what are the preferred avenues to receiving such information?
* What are some of the specific ways fishermen feel they can get personally involved, whether it be in OA monitoring, in the distribution of information, or in the mitigation of impacts?

**2) Engaging Tribal Participation in OA monitoring**

Facilitators: Chris Whitehead and Esther Kennedy (Sitka Tribe)

Call-in number: 866-832-7806, PIN 9274329 (participant)

Sitka Tribe has taken a unique and successful approach to organizing a tribal ocean monitoring network for Southeast Alaska. Established in 2013 “SEATOR” (Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research) actively samples and analyzes shellfish for toxins from harmful algal blooms (HABS) and are in the process of expanding this network to include ocean acidification monitoring and analysis. This breakout session will:

* Identify the common concerns related to accessing subsistence resources for Tribes across the state
* Discuss the process by which the SEATOR network was started, including making connections through environmental program staff, developing tribal resolutions, using EPA GAP funds, and creating work plans and budgets
* Identify other possible regions of the state where such a network could be extended or created.

**3). Ocean Acidification and Shellfish**

Facilitators: Jeff Hetrick (Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery) and Amanda Kelley (University of Alaska’s Ocean Acidification Research Center)

Call-in number: 1-877-248-7649 PIN 1655320267 (participant)

Shellfish have been among the first species to experience impacts to survival due to ocean acidification in the Pacific Northwest. This session will start off with the history of these impacts on the west coast and the industry response, and then move to initiatives to testing the effects of OA on shellfish species in Alaska. Experiments with butter clams are already underway, and Jeff and Amanda are planning future research with little neck clams, cockles and other shellfish raised at APSH. Discussion will include answering questions from shellfish growers, and getting input to identify future research needs for shellfish growers in this state.

**4) Developing Alaska-specific strategies for communicating OA to decision makers**

Facilitators: Molly McCammon (AOOS) and Meg Chadsey (Washington Sea Grant)

Call-in number: 1-855-257-8693, PIN 1846457

Using the tools from Meg Chadsey’s 8am session on communicating about OA and working with stakeholders, this breakout will discuss strategies for elevating the issue of ocean acidification to decision makers in Alaska. What message are we trying to communicate? What are the best avenues to do so? Which key individuals or institutions should be involved? This breakout will help form recommendations as well as a ‘policy working group’ to help guide the efforts of the Alaska OA Network.