Saturday, June 13, 2006

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DEPARTMENT: Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP), School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

JOB TITLE: Marine Advisory Program Agent, Bering Straits Region

LOCATION: Nome, Alaska

GRADE: Assistant Professor, Term-funded, non-tenure track (funded 12 months with expectation of minimum of 2 years extension)

SALARY: Salary plus benefits DOE (reflects 34% geographical differential adjustment for location).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This position provides marine extension services to 16 rural communities located throughout the Bering Straits region. The position is part of a statewide system of Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (MAP) specialists and agents who provide informal education, information and technical assistance to the public relating to: coastal economic development (such as fish processing, tourism or marine business management), commercial and subsistence fisheries and marine resource education (children to adults).

The Bering Straits region includes the villages of Brevig Mission, Diomede, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, Koyuk, St. Michael, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales and White Mountain as well as the region’s hub city of Nome. The region extends from the northern tip of the Seward Peninsula to the southern shores of Norton Sound. It also includes St. Lawrence Island and Little Diomede Island, the latter being only about two miles from Russian soil and twenty-five miles from the Russian mainland.

The region’s population of approximately 10,000 is culturally and linguistically diverse and the majority of residents in the region are Alaska Natives. The population and commercial hub of the region is Nome, a city of 3,500, home to the Northwest Campus Center of the College of Community and Rural Development, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The economy of the region revolves around the mostly seasonal industries of commercial fishing, construction, tourism, and gold mining as well as government related employment. Commercial fishing includes the harvesting and processing of crab, salmon, and herring. Tourism is a growing part of the economy. This includes guided hunting and fishing, snowmobile touring and the enjoyment of the northern lights in the winter.

A significant part of the local economy and lifestyle is the subsistence harvest of wild foods. This includes hunting of land and marine mammals and fisheries. Issues relating to subsistence might include the high costs of fuel needed for harvest and safety concerns. Thus, the village economies in the Bering Straits region are represented by a mix of cash and subsistence.

Increasingly, residents are involved in natural resource management and scientific research. The Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Kawerak are among several regional entities that would be critical community partners for the MAP agent.

The Norton Sound MAP position is headquartered in Nome, the economic and population hub of the region. The MAP office serves as a source of general information for the public related to marine resources and works closely with other University educators located at the Northwest Campus of UAF.
RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Identify and prioritize the educational/informational needs of the subsistence, commercial and recreational marine and freshwater users in the region by building effective partnerships with locals groups involved in these areas.
- Design, coordinate, deliver and evaluate educational programs that relate to of the region's marine and freshwater resources. The programs will promote sustainable fisheries and strengthen the long-term health of the region’s coastal economy. Expected for the Norton Sound region is an emphasis on fisheries including work related to the development of new fisheries, technical training for fishermen and/or seafood processors, and investigation into new markets. Transferring knowledge on marine and freshwater safety issues, fuel efficiency programs, and boat operating systems are other examples of subjects that might be relevant to the region.
- Transfer technical information to regional residents in a culturally appropriate manner via teaching, project work, print, electronic media (video, radio, internet) and general consultation. Teach non-credit or credit courses at the Northwest Campus of the College of Rural and Community Development as needed. Collaborate with instructional efforts of other educational organizations and public service agencies.
- Represent the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program's mission clearly to the public. Participate as a team member in MAP, Alaska Sea Grant and School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (SFOS) program planning, and cooperate and collaborate with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus where the position will be housed. Travel within the region to rural sites.

QUALIFICATIONS: A Master's degree or higher in biology, fisheries, natural resources, or a related social science field is required.

Preferred is: Experience in fisheries, either in fisheries development, marketing, marine or salmon research, Experience in cross-cultural environments, Related training and experience in such areas as economic development, seafood processing, marine education, and adult education, Evidence of ability to work independently and be self-directed, as well as work collaboratively with diverse groups, evidence of ability to translate information to the public in culturally appropriate ways using a variety of media, computer fluency, distance education communication experience.

TO APPLY: Applicants are encouraged to apply prior to July 10, 2006 at the UAK Jobs website www.uakjobs.com. Please upload a statement of interest, curriculum vitae, names and contact information of three references, and examples of written work product - report/publication, etcetera. The three references must include the name, address, phone number and email address. If your references are attached to your resume, please state this in the option for attaching your references. Contact Angela Camos at 907-274-9699 if you have difficulty uploading documents.

CLOSING DATE: Open until filled.

DIRECT INQUIRIES: Paula Cullenberg, MAP, Anchorage Office (907) 274-9692 or Quentin Fong (907) 486-1516.

The University of Alaska is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and educational institution. In our efforts to diversify, we encourage applications from women and members of culturally diverse groups. Candidates must be eligible for employment under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Your application for employment with UA is subject to public disclosure under the Alaska Public Records Act. This position is part of a collective bargaining agreement.