Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by co-chair Greg Fisk.

Other Members present were co-chair Assemblyman wanamaker, Assemblywoman Troll, Jeep Rice. Absent was member Jim Becker.

Invited guest was Dr. Doug DeMaster, Science Director, (NOAA) Alaska Fisheries Science Center. Also present from NOAA, Ms. Julie Speegle Public Affairs Officer, Alaska Region.

Dr. DeMaster recounted some history of the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute (TSMRI) which complemented what member Jeep Rice had written up previously for the Task Force. The original idea was for an expanded Juneau facility housing 225 AFSC personnel, with an estimated cost of $125 million. The TSMRI that was eventually constructed at Lena Point ended up with space for 85 offices at cost of $51 million. The Auke Bay Lab unit of the AFSC consists of 5 units - TSMRI, old ABL (currently leased to the USCG for 5 years), the Auke Creek Weir and building (outlet of Auke Lake), Little Port Walter, and the NOAA sub-port support building (which has unused office space for 10 persons).

The followed some discussion about NOAA research vessels boats. (Note: vessels are not under AFSC management, but are part of NOAA, Office of Marine and Aviation Operation (OMAO), but their operations are obviously integral to fisheries science efforts. Arctic capable replacement for de-activated R/V Miller Freeman is “on the books” but “at least 5 to 7 budget cycles out”. De-activated R/V John N. Cobb was to be replaced with a “regional class” boat in the 115 ft range. Plans are complete for a new boat but no current or projected funding. A plan to buy and rebuild boat (est. $6 million) got scuttled to budget cuts. There is a strong desire to have a replacement for the Cobb, and have it based in Alaska (Juneau) to support science missions, inc. winter survey work, that is key AFSC/TSMRI mission. Currently getting y with chartered vessels and occasional use of ADF&G vessel. Some discussion followed about the R/V Fairweather basing situation in Ketchikan, and about past inquiries re R/V Rainier basing in Juneau. NOAA has ambitious vessel ideas but these not highly prioritized by OMAO.

Dr. DeMaster noted that there were plans for a “Climate Change Center” with 8-10 persons stationed at TSMRI (Lena Point) but that the project did not make cut for stimulus funding, despite being a “shovel ready” project with completed design and all permitting complete. Basically the plans we to finish most of the facilities designed into the original TSMRI concept but which were not constructed when the funding scope was cut back.

Functional AFSC Units:
- Resource Assessment & Conservation Engineering (RACE) 120 people (mostly Seattle)
- Resource Ecology & Fisheries Management (REFM) about 50 people (all Seattle)
- Fisheries Monitoring & Analysis (FMA) – This is NOAA’s Alaska fisheries observer program. Approx 50 people Previously based in Anchorage, it has been moved to Seattle. (75% to 80% in Seattle).
- Auke Bay Laboratory (ABL) (about 70 in Juneau)
- National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML) (about 80 most in Seattle)

Discussion ensued about the prospects of moving personnel from Seattle to appropriate Alaska locations. Dr. DeMaster stated that moving people cost “$50 - $60,000 in relocation cost. Moving AFSC individuals difficult as many are closely tied to other institutions in Seattle area, Like UW, and many are in two-income professional households. Replacing with Alaska re-hires has potential but is a slow process. Jeep Rice noted that there had been little if any net progress in this fashion. Good grad students from come from UAF programs and show a higher success rate in establishing careers in Alaska than people hired from outside programs. The conundrum of whether to advocate a gradualist approach of replacing southern-based jobs with Alaskan re-hires vs. advocating moving large units of needs much further discussion and clarification.

DeMaster stated it is “sometimes necessary to create or move a “bolus” of people as a function unit. He cited possible “good fits” for TSMRI in research units dedicated to:

- Climate
- Arctic
- Habitat studies
- Ocean Acidification
- Mariculture
- Observers / Electronic Monitoring (80% of all west coast observers are in Alaska missions)

Of those only Observer Program is an existing fully functioning unit. The others require funding new positions.

The situation with the cost of Kodiak facility lease was mentioned. There is definitely space available there and mission that would be a good fit for that location. The lease between Kodiaks and the agency is up in 2018. Talks are ongoing between Kodiak and GSA.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.