

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Announcing a 2023 Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Workshop for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Region**

The first Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) will be delivered in the North Pacific fishery region this April 2023, with plans to offer annual workshops.

By and for those involved in and impacted by fisheries, MREP provides fishermen and others with an interest in federal fisheries with an opportunity to gain insight into how fisheries data are collected and how those data lead to regulations. MREP brings together those interested in federal fisheries managed by the Council, including commercial, charter, recreational and subsistence fishermen with scientists, managers, and other marine resource professionals from North Pacific fisheries to learn, share insights, and network in a neutral and professional setting. **If you're interested in shaping the fisheries you're involved in, apply for the workshop.** Learn more at [mrep.gmri.org](http://mrep.gmri.org).

Priority will be given to applications received by February 14.

**The workshop is free** to participants. In addition, we pay for your travel to/from the workshop, and your meals and accommodation during travel as well as at the workshop through our grant funding.

Seats are limited. A team of representatives from the region will review all applications in late February and you will be notified in March whether you have a seat. Our goal is to bring together a group representing a variety of perspectives across the region. If we do not have a seat for you this year, we will carry your application forward for next year's programming.

Applications to participate can be found at: <https://mrep.gmri.org/apply>



**MREP North Pacific  
Fisheries Science & Management Workshop**  
April 17-21, 2023  
Juneau, AK

Regional industry and community leaders involved in shaping this workshop are available to respond to inquiries about the workshop: <https://mrep.gmri.org/mrep-industryleaders/north-pacific>

- **Angel Drobnica**, Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, (907) 957-0496
- **John Gauvin**, Alaska Seafood Cooperative, [gauvin@seanet.com](mailto:gauvin@seanet.com) and/or (206) 660-0359
- **Julie Bonney**, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, (907) 486-3033 and/or [jbonney@alaskagroundfish.org](mailto:jbonney@alaskagroundfish.org)
- **Linda Behnken**, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, [alfa.staff@gmail.com](mailto:alfa.staff@gmail.com) and/or (907) 738-3615
- **Mary Beth Tooley**, O'Hara Corporation, [mbtooley@oharacorporation.com](mailto:mbtooley@oharacorporation.com)
- **Mellisa Maktuayaq Johnson**, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Tribal Consortium (AYK TC), [mellisa@ayktc.org](mailto:mellisa@ayktc.org), (907) 279-6519 Ext. 4
- **Paddy O'Donnell**, Golden West Fisheries, (907) 486-2683
- **Shannon Carroll**, Trident Seafood Corporation, [scarroll@tridentseafoods.com](mailto:scarroll@tridentseafoods.com)

MREP is managed by a neutral facilitator at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI). General questions about the program should be directed to Lauren O'Brien, MREP Senior Program Manager, GMRI, (207) 228-1684 or [lobrien@gmri.org](mailto:lobrien@gmri.org).

**A note on how applicants will be selected for the workshop:**

MREP is focused on the Fishery Management Council process, and therefore we will target fishermen and individuals who are impacted by Council managed fisheries. We have limited resources and therefore can offer attendance to a limited number of applicants. We aim to engage leaders and emerging leaders who will share the lessons with their communities after the workshop. We aim to create a balance among participants at the workshop, aiming for a balance of fisheries, communities/regions, cultural perspectives, vessel sizes, and experience levels – with a preference towards those who are new to the process. However, we cannot say exactly what the room will look like until we see who applied, because we can only select from among our applicants.

The program managers at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) will facilitate a collaborative applicant review call with the MREP North Pacific Planning Team - a subset of the [MREP North Pacific Exploratory Committee](#) - to determine which applicants will be accepted into the 2023 workshop. After that meeting, GMRI will contact applicants to let them know of their status. If not accepted, we will ask if the applicant wishes to be considered for MREP the following year (dates not yet set).

The goal of the program is to improve learning for those new to the Council process. However, because this is the first MREP in the North Pacific, we will invite some individuals experienced in the Council process so they can provide feedback to the MREP North Pacific leadership to ensure the program is comprehensive and not missing critical information for future participants.

We hope to achieve our ideal balanced audience, but acknowledge that we will likely need to adjust and reconsider our outreach strategy and applicant review process to improve next time around.