

ALASKA
MAR  **CULTURE**  **RE**

CLUSTER



**SOUTHEAST
CONFERENCE**

***2026 EDD Wealth Creation Summit
Grounded Economies: How Natural Asset Stewardship Shapes
Regional Futures***

April 15th, 2026

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Alaska Regional Development Organizations
(ARDORs)**



Michael J. Dunleavy
Governor



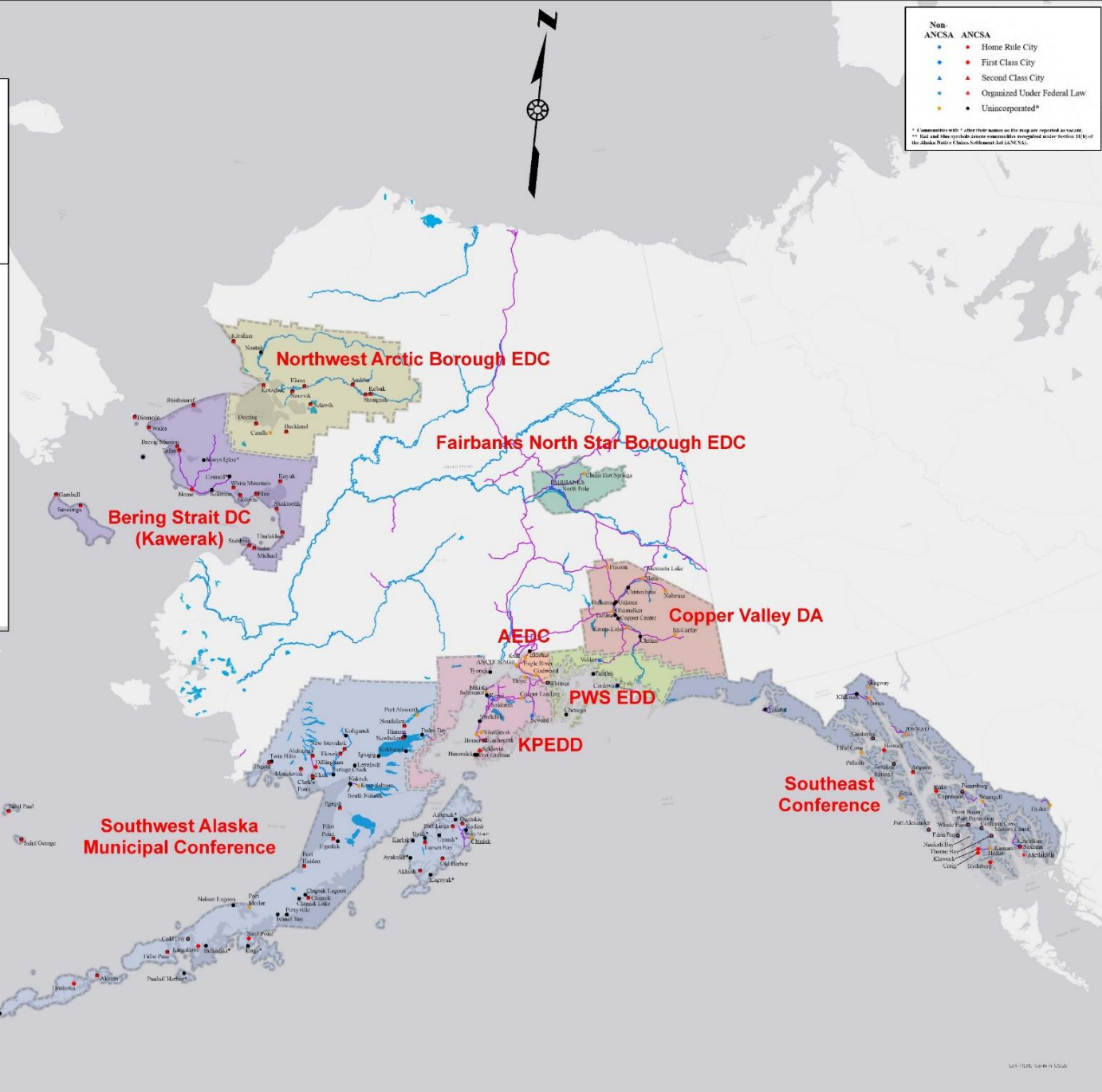
Julie Sande
Commissioner

- | | |
|--|--|
| Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (ADEC) | Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEED) |
| Bering Strait Development Council (Kawerak) | Northwest Arctic Borough Community & Economic Development Commission |
| Copper Valley Development Association | Prince William Sound Economic Development District (PWS EED) |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission | Southeast Conference |
| | Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference |

Non-ANCSA ANCSA

- Home Rule City
- First Class City
- Second Class City
- Organized Under Federal Law
- Unincorporated*

* Cities incorporated with other their names on the map are reported as such. ** All and other outside state boundaries recognized under Section 10(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).



ABOUT SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

- Southeast Conference was incorporated in 1958, primarily to advocate for the creation of the Alaska Marine Highway System. Community leaders from Metlakatla to Yakutat held their first meeting in Petersburg.
- After that success, we stayed together to continue to advocate for Community and Economic Development issues that are critical to Southeast Alaska and the State.
- The region's lands are predominantly federally owned (94%), with less than 1% owned by the private sector.
- Members from nearly every community, chamber of commerce, and economic development organization in the region.
- Conduct economic planning through CEDS process and implement CEDS, providing technical assistance and project development support. Manages statewide biomass program.
- Southeast Conference is the federally designated Regional Economic Development District, RC&D Council and the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization.



0.05% ← PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

0.25% • MUNICIPAL LAND HOLDINGS

2.5% ● STATE OF ALASKA LANDS INCLUDE THOSE MANAGED AS PART OF THE MENTAL HEALTH TRUST

3.4% ● ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS ARE THE REGION'S NEXT LARGEST LANDOWNER

VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE REGIONAL LAND BASE IS FEDERAL. THE FEDERALLY-MANAGED TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST MAKES UP NEARLY 4/5TH OF ALL SOUTHEAST ALASKA LANDS.

78%
TONGASS

94%
FEDERAL
LANDS

16%

OTHER FEDERAL HOLDINGS MAKE UP NEARLY ALL THE REST (MOSTLY GLACIER BAY)

Southeast Alaska Land Ownership

Circle size = Number of Acres

PUBLICATIONS



available to download at
WWW.SECONFERENCE.ORG/PUBLICATIONS

1
YEAR

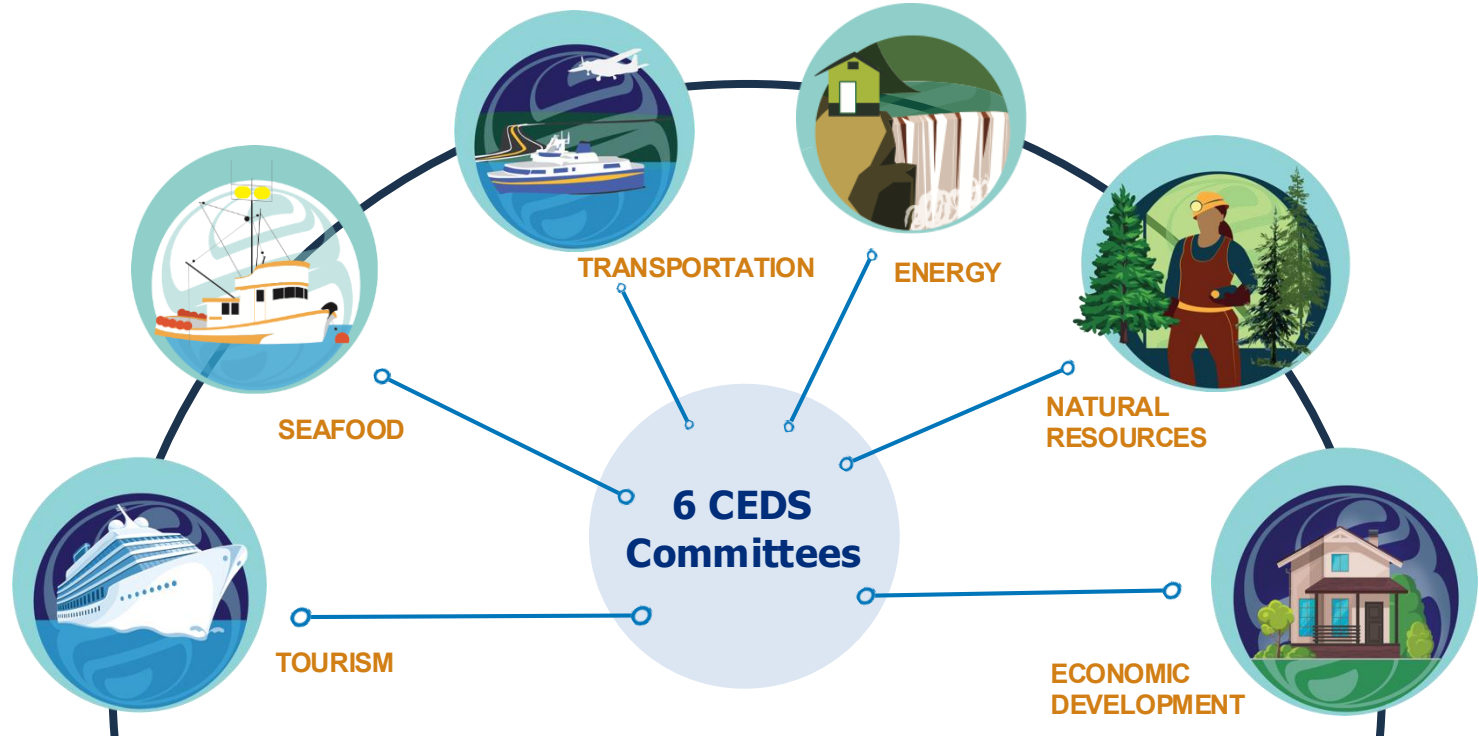
6
COMMITTEES

30+
MEETINGS

400+
STAKEHOLDERS

46
ECONOMIC
INITIATIVES

7
PRIORITY
OBJECTIVES



USE OF COMMITTEES

	Transportation	Energy	Nat Resources	Seafood	Tourism	Other CEDS
Winter 2024	●	●	●	●	●	●
Spring 2024	●	●	●	●	●	●
Summer 2024	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fall 2024	●	●	●	●	●	●
Winter 2025	●	●	●	●	●	●

SOUTHEAST 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

In February 2025, Southeast Conference released the draft Southeast Alaska 2030 Economic Plan, a five-year strategic plan for the region. The membership worked together to develop an overall vision statement, 46 objectives, and 7 priority objectives, along with regional and industry specific SWOT analyses. More than 400 people representing small businesses, tribes, Native organizations, municipalities, and nonprofits were involved in various elements of the planning process. The Plan's prioritized objectives are listed below.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ★ 1. **Housing objective: Support the sustainable development of housing**
- ★ 2. **Childcare objective: Increase childcare capacity in Southeast Alaska**
- 3. **Infrastructure maintenance**
- 4. **Education objective: Partner with University of Alaska Southeast and K-12 school districts to build career pathways**
- 5. **Workforce attraction and retention objective**
- 6. **Coast Guard Objective: Support Coast Guard vessel homeporting opportunities**
- 7. **Natural disaster planning objective: Support disaster preparation and relief efforts**
- 8. **Solid waste objective: Support regional solid waste management solutions**
- 9. **Healthcare workforce objective**
- 10. **Telecommunications objective: Improve communications access in Southeast Alaska**
- 11. **Manufacturing objective: Promote regionally-manufactured local products**
- 12. **Food security objective: Increase supply and distribution of local foods**



SEAFOOD

- ★ 1. **Further develop markets for Alaska seafood**
- ★ 2. **Seafood modernization initiative**
- 3. **Work to further promote a year-round seafood economy in the region**
- 4. **Full resource utilization and ocean product development**
- 5. **Mariculture development**
- 6. **Bring back seafood jobs to Southeast's smallest communities**
- 7. **Support access to capital for harvesters and processors**
- 8. **Maintain a stable regulatory regime**



NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1. **Prepare for potential Chinook salmon listings**
- 2. **Work with USFS to direct federal contracts toward locally-owned businesses**
- 3. **Support an innovative, integrated timber industry**
- 4. **Attract capital investments, maintain global competitiveness**
- 5. **Provide an economically viable supply of timber from the Tongass to regional operators**
- 6. **Increase access to minerals and energy sources for mining on state and federal lands**
- 7. **Advocate for the regulators**
- 8. **Revise the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan**

★ = Priority Objectives

VISITOR INDUSTRY

- ★ 1. **Support local tourism ownership and entrepreneurship**
- 2. **Workforce housing for visitor's sector**
- 3. **Cultural tourism development**
- 4. **Collective regional strategy for accommodating tourism industry growth in Southeast**



ENERGY SECTOR

- ★ 1. **Reduce energy costs and increase deployment of renewables**
- 2. **Promote beneficial electrification**
- 3. **Support consumer education on heat pumps**
- 4. **Policy and regulatory development to meet community energy needs and priorities**
- 5. **Continue to support PCE for rural communities**
- 6. **Biomass in energy**



TRANSPORTATION

- ★ 1. **Support the stability, sustainability and longevity of the Marine Highway System of Alaska**
- 2. **Develop a long-term, strategic, multi-modal, regional transportation plan**
- 3. **Improve and expand opportunities to move freight to and from markets**
- 4. **Ports and harbors infrastructure improvements**
- 5. **Transportation Workforce Development**
- 6. **Ensure the stability and safety of passenger transportation services**
- 7. **Improve marine and road connection to Lower 48**
- 8. **Disaster Resilient Transportation Infrastructure**





ALASKA MARiculture CLUSTER



\$49 Million
EDA Funds



Project Period
Oct 1, 2022 -
Sept 30, 2026

529 -> 60 -> 21

AWARDEES
Build Back Better Regional Challenge



AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN



7 Components
with more than 25 projects

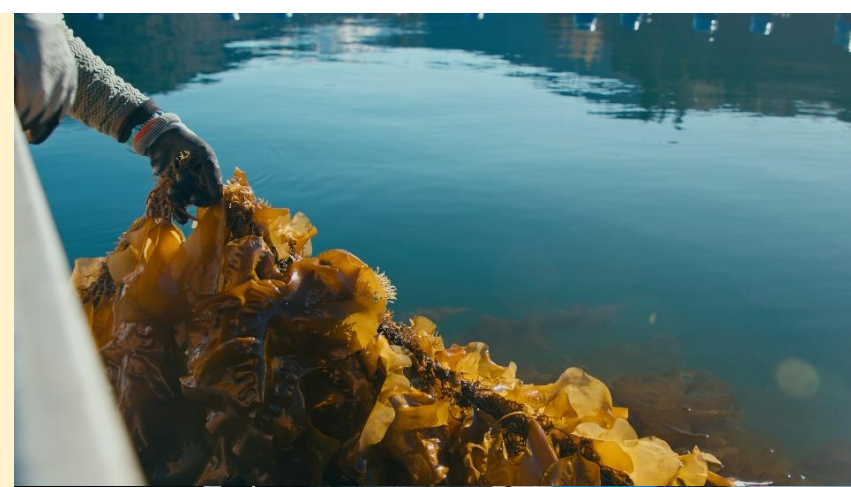


**13 Subaward
Recipients**



Goals

- \$100 million industry in 10 years
- \$325 million industry in 20 years
- 550 jobs in 10 years
- 1,800 jobs in 20 years





Targets

- 25% of AMC resources and opportunity toward Alaska Native populations
- 25% of AMC resources and opportunity toward distressed communities



Component Projects



Governance Body

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE



ROBERT VENABLES
Executive Director

TLINGIT & HADIA CENTRAL COUNCIL



RICHARD PETERSON
President

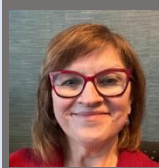
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

SOUTHWEST ALASKA

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE



WANETTA AYERS
Executive Director

KONIAG NATIVE CORPORATION



TOM PANAMAROFF
Regional & Legislative Affairs Exec.

THE ALEUT CORPORATION



CHASE BERENSON
General Manager

KENAI & PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND EDD



KRISTIN CARPENTER
Executive Director

KENAI PENINSULA EDD



CASSIDI CAMERON
Executive Director

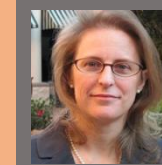
CHENEGA CORPORATION



GREGG RENKES
Senior VP

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

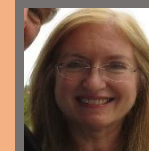


JULIE DECKER
PSPA President

ALASKA MARICULTURE ALLIANCE



JASON LESSARD
Executive Director



HEATHER MCCARTY
Board President



THEA THOMAS
Board Member



MARKOS SCHEER



Tribal Mariculture Liaisons

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

EcoTrust.



Keolani Booth

SOUTHWEST ALASKA

QAWALANGIN TRIBE OF UNALASKA



Shayla Shaishnikoff

KODIAK

KODIAK ARCHIPELAGO LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Lexa Meyer
lexameyer.kali@gmail.com

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

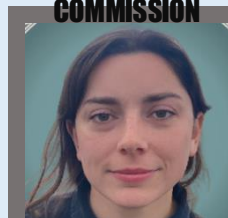
CHUGACH REGIONAL RESOURCES COMMISSION



Sean Den Adel
sean@alutiqprideak.org

KENAI PENINSULA

CHUGACH REGIONAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

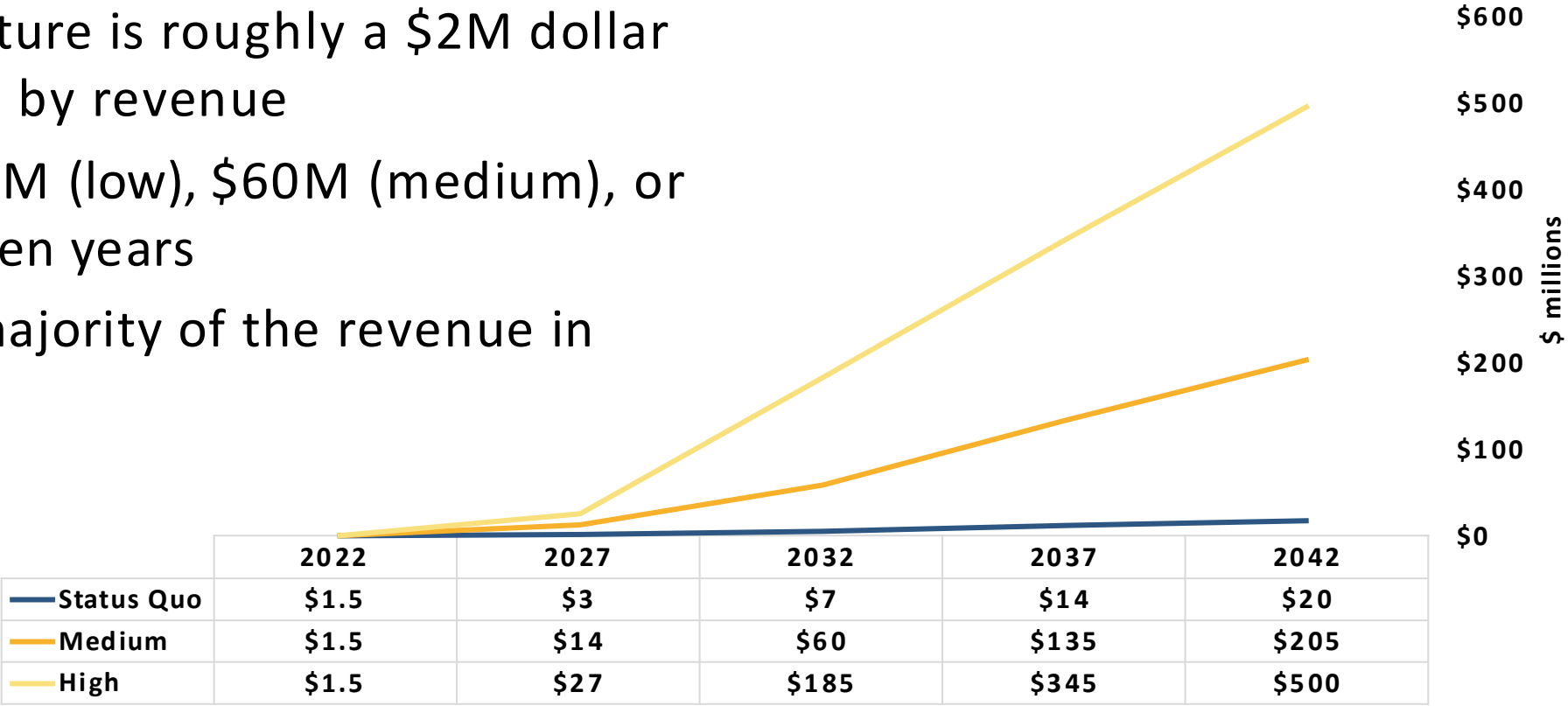


Briana Murphy
Briana @alutiqprideak.org



Industry Trajectory - Sales

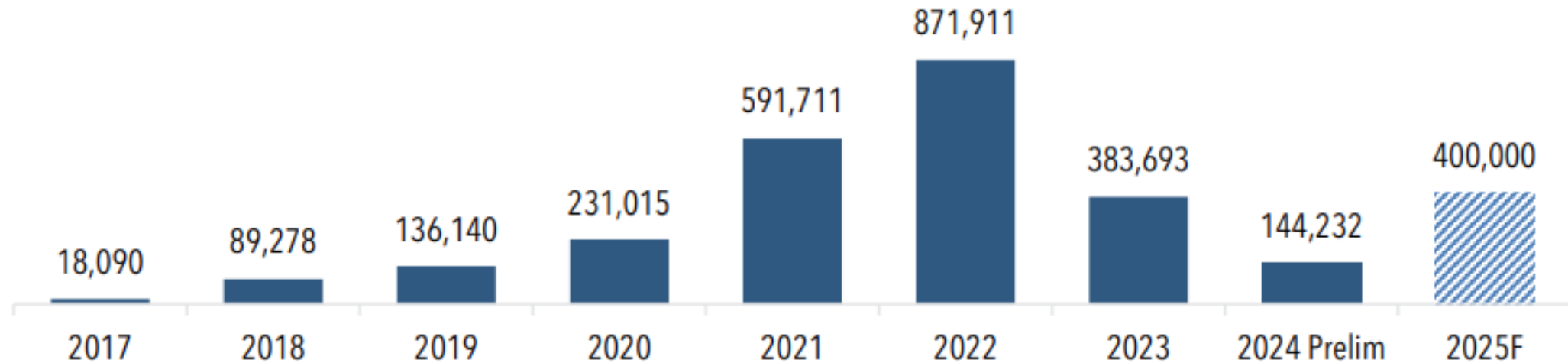
- Currently mariculture is roughly a \$2M dollar industry in Alaska by revenue
- Could grow to \$7M (low), \$60M (medium), or \$185M (high) in ten years
- Seaweed is the majority of the revenue in these models



Alaska Mariculture Industry Revenue Projections (\$millions)

Seaweed

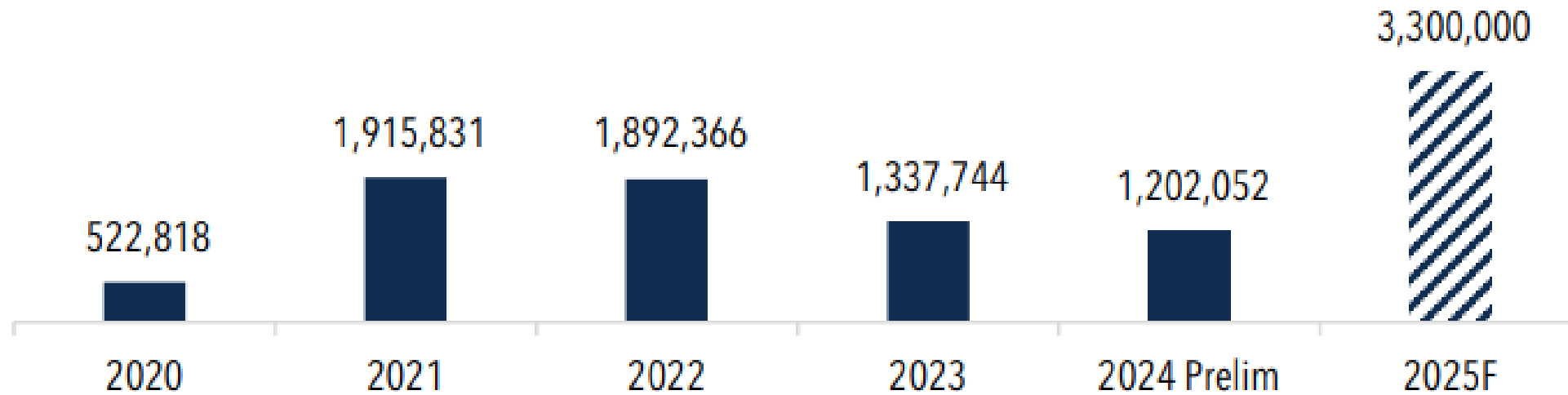
Figure 3. Alaska Seaweed Harvest (wet pounds), 2017-2025 Forecast



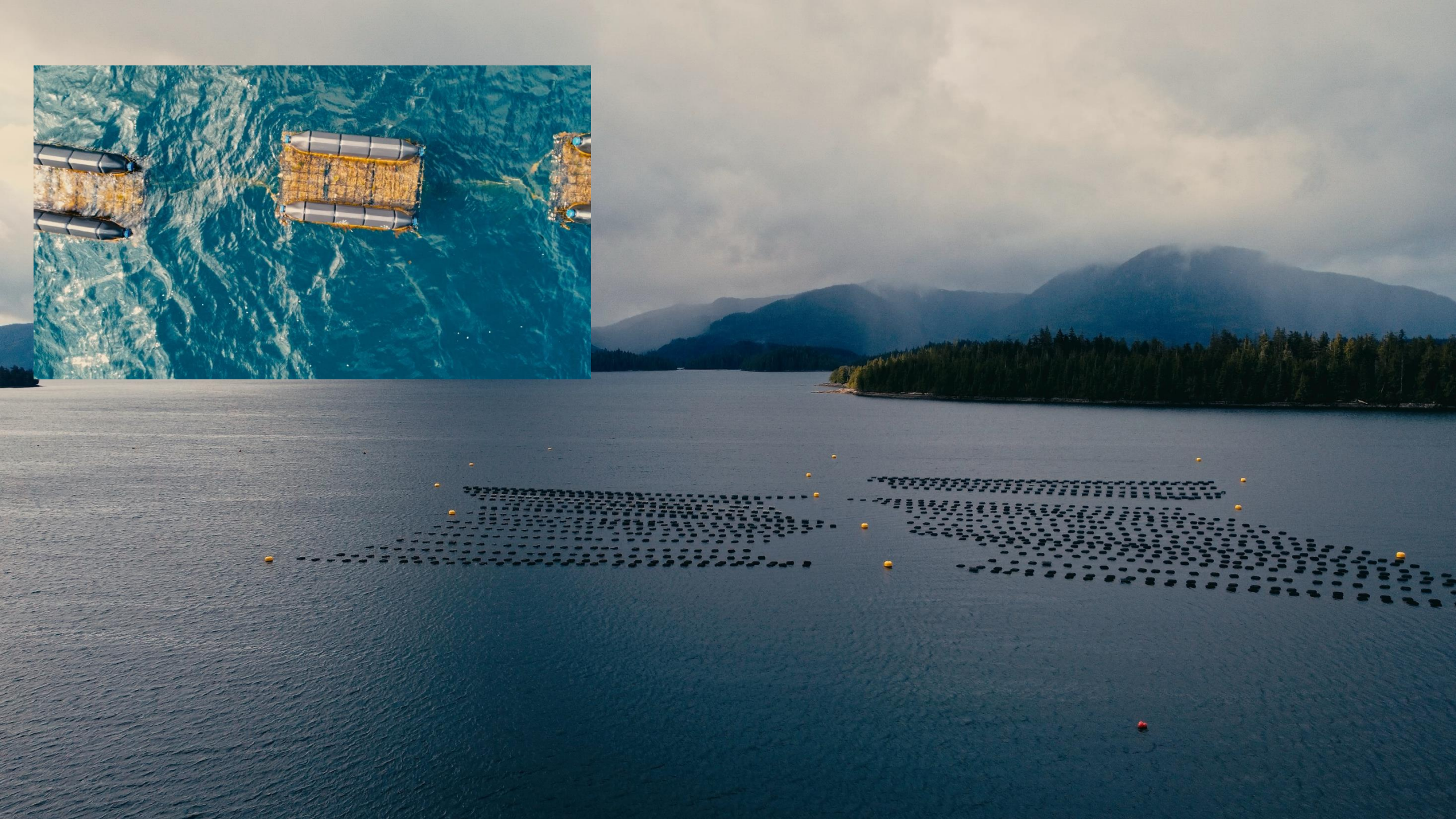
Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, industry interviews, and McKinley Research Group/Pacific Shellfish Institute estimates

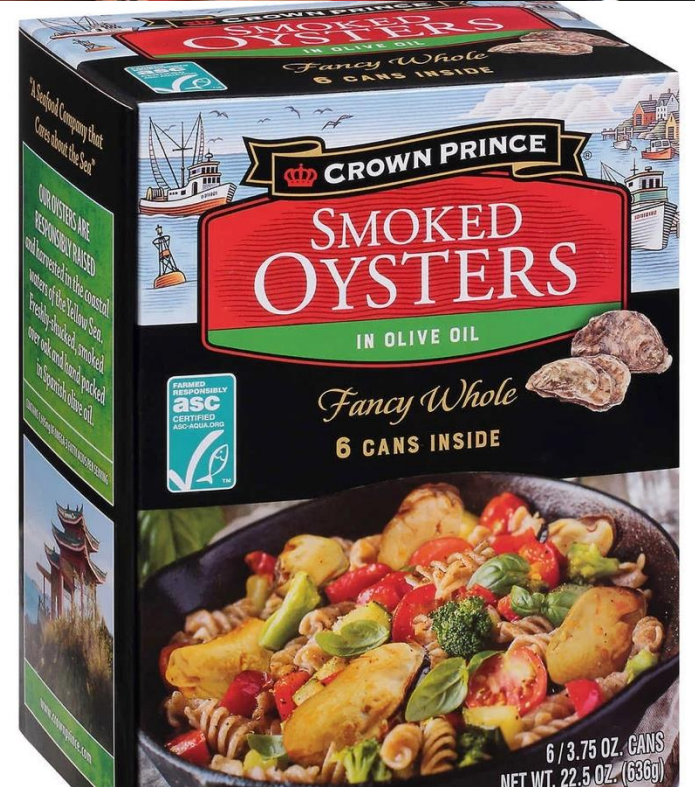
Oysters

Figure 1. Alaska Oyster Harvest, (count of oysters sold*), 2020 – 2025 Forecast











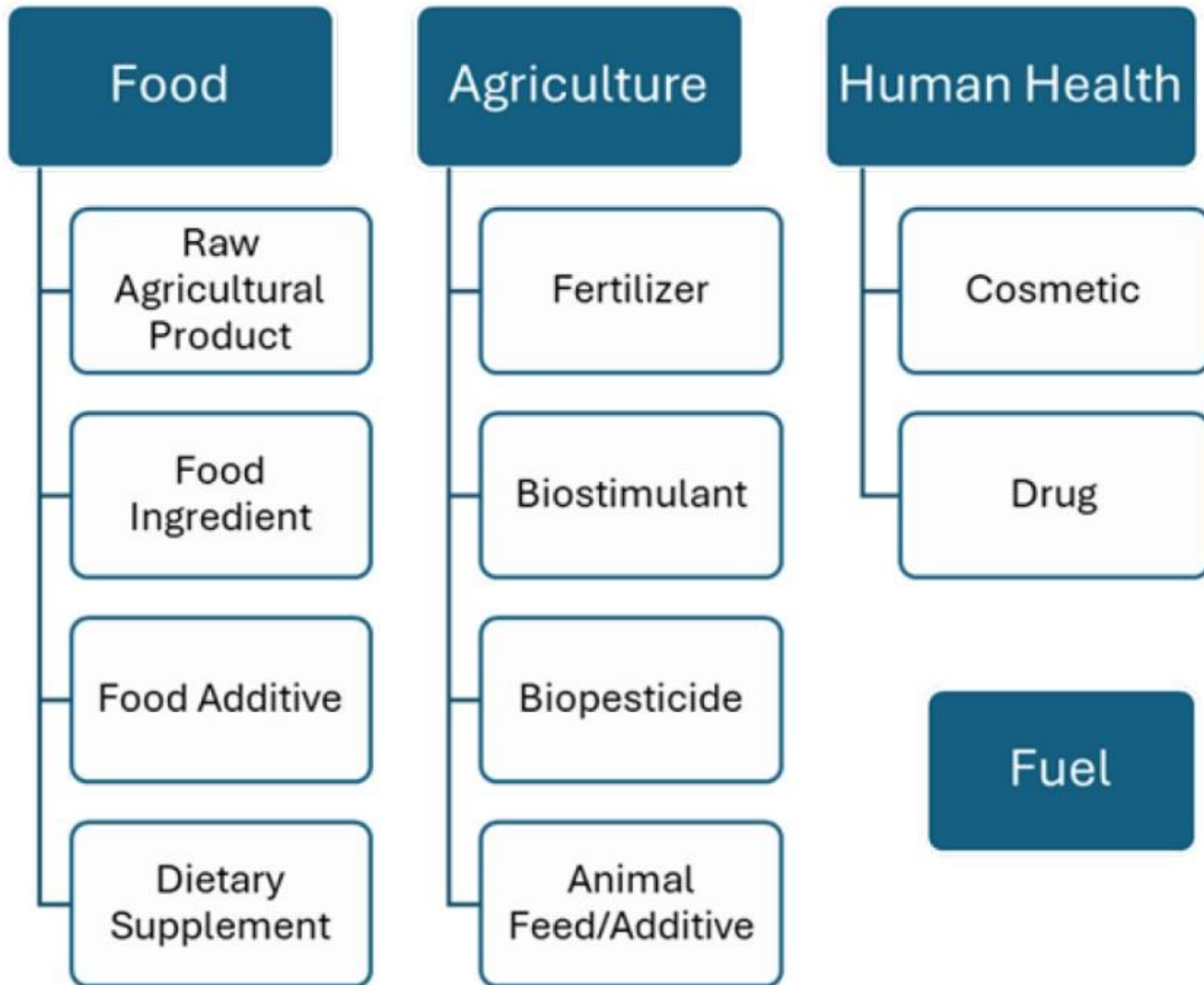




barnacle

FOODS











KELP EDGE™

LIQUID KELP EXTRACT

100% Alaskan Giant Kelp

(Derived from Macrocystis Pyrifera)

0-0-0.5

GUARANTEED ANALYSIS

Soluble Potash (K₂O)..... 0.5%
Derived from Macrocystis Pyrifera (Kelp Extract)

NET CONTENTS: 33.81 fl oz (1 Liter) / 2.20 Lbs (1 Kg)

BULK DENSITY: 8.49 lbs/gal at 68°F / 1.02 kgs/L

Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at: <https://www.aapfco.org/metals.html>





Fieldkelp
5
Transport 1000 kg max

Fieldkelp
6

Fieldkelp
6



Check for updates and join our mailing list:
www.alaskamariculturecluster.org



AMC Announces Kelp Seed Quality Improvement Research & Development Projects

April 15, 2025

To scale the kelp industry in Alaska, farmers need reliable access to quality kelp seed. Seed consistency can lower cost structures and improve yield ...



Seaweed Tissue Analysis Program Overview

March 24, 2025

Through the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) subaward, the Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) has funded three Research & Development projects to date focused on ...



De-Risking Mariculture Investments: Ocean And Wave Simulations & Analysis

March 24, 2025

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC), in partnership with the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) and Kelson Marine, has launched an ocean modeling, data collection, ...



AMC Invests In Kelp-Based Biostimulant Agriculture Projects

February 25, 2025

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) is proud to announce funding for three groundbreaking projects that will help propel Alaska's mariculture industry by researching kelp-based biostimulants ...



Seaweed Dryers Market Research Report

February 18, 2025

Through the Equipment & Technology component of the AMC grant, Southeast Conference (SEC) contracted with Hatch Innovation Services (Hatch) to study the global landscape ...



Kelp Processing: Technical Report On Technology, Market, And Regulatory Considerations

January 9, 2025

New technical report presents an overview of kelp processing technologies, key market trends, and regulatory considerations to inform product development efforts. On behalf of ...



UAF Hosts Mariculture Ideation Session In Kodiak

December 9, 2024

With funding from the AMC's Workforce Development grant component, the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) recently hosted the Kodiak Ideation Studio, a multidisciplinary event aimed ...



Report: 2024 Alaska Mariculture Industry Overview

November 21, 2024

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) contracted with McKinley Research Group and the Pacific Shellfish Institute to provide AMC and the broader mariculture industry with ...



AMC Launches Dashboard To Overview RFP Award Distribution

March 18, 2025

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) has launched the AMC RFP Allocation Dashboard, an interactive tool that allows users to explore how AMC BBBRC funds ...



AMC Launches Airtable Database To Overview Funded Projects & Programs

March 17, 2025

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) has launched the AMC Airtable Database to serve as a user-friendly, centralized information hub for funded projects and programs ...



AMC Awards Second Cohort Of Other Mariculture Species R&D Projects

March 4, 2025

Mariculture farming in Alaska is primarily focused on cultivating Pacific oysters and three species of kelp (sugar, ribbon, and bull). The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) ...



Seaweed Population Genetics Program Overview

February 6, 2025

The Seaweed Population Genetics program, led by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADFG) Gene Conservation Laboratory, is conducting advanced genetic research on ...



AMC Theory Of Change & Evaluation Survey

February 4, 2025

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) is a four-year grant-funded project aiming to stimulate Alaska's mariculture industry through strategic investments that de-risk the sector and ...



2025 Mariculture Conference Of Alaska

November 13, 2024

Save the Date With major funding support for the Alaska Mariculture Cluster, the 2025 Mariculture Conference of Alaska will be held in beautiful Sitka, Alaska ...



The Fish Site Publishes Alaska Mariculture Series

November 5, 2024

The Fish Site, an aquaculture industry news outlet and subsidiary of Hatch Blue, is publishing a series of articles profiling Alaska's mariculture industry. The ...



Food Sector Market Research For Alaska's Kelp And Oyster Products

November 1, 2024

Southeast Conference (SEC) contracted with Food for Climate League (FCL) to provide market research services to advance the goal of unlocking industry growth potential ...

Alaska Mariculture Insights Platform

Valuable insights and information for the whole Alaskan Mariculture ecosystem.

Scan the code to visit the platform.



PRESENTED BY:



the fish site



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

50 STUDENTS
currently enrolled in UA's
BBB Mariculture Programs

+12M IN FUNDS SPENT
THROUGH
FISCAL YEAR 2024

<\$7M New projects
AWARDED

ALASKA
MARICULTURE
CLUSTER





Long-Term Outcomes

- Reduce industry cost structure
- Establish supply chains
- Grow industry equitably and with durability
- Create new markets and expand demand for Alaska products
- Attract Private investment and job creation



THANK YOU!



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