

**WiFi: Koniag-Guest**

**koniagconnect**

**Teams link:**

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Meeting ID: 224 147 776 419

Passcode: C6Pg63V9

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### **Governance Body**

Gregg Renkes, Chenega Corp

Richard Peterson, T&H

Chase Berenson, Aleut Ent.

Tom Panamaroff, Koniag

Thea Thomas, AMA

Jason Lessard, AMA

Heather McCarty, AMA

Markos Scheer, AMA

Cassidi Cameron, KPEDD

Kristin Smith, PWSEDD

Wanetta Ayers, SWAMC

Robert Venables, SEC

Julie Decker, Seafood  
Industry



*(Scan for Meeting Packet)*

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**APRIL 15, 2025 10:00 AM**

**GOVERNANCE BODY MEETING**

KONIAG BOARDROOM 3800 CENTERPOINT DR., SUITE 700

### **Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call and introductions
3. Safety moment - Tom Panamaroff
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of minutes, January 15, 2024

### **Old Business**

N/A

### **New Business**

6. Regional Liaisons Update (written report & 5 min update each)
  - o [Liaison Toolkit](#) - SE Conference
7. Review of RFPs/RFQs closed and awarded since last meeting
  - o [Kelp Seed Quality Improvement](#) - awarded
  - o [Mariculture Marine Safety Resource Development](#) - awarded
8. Project Updates (15 minutes on goals, metrics, equity)
  - o Revolving Loan Fund (SE Conference)
    - Business Training & Support Services (Spruce Root)
  - o Governance, Coordination and Outreach (EDDs & AMA)
  - o Workforce Development (UAA, UAF, UAS)
  - o Research and Development (ADFG, AFDF)
  - o Market Development
  - o Green Energy (AFDF)
  - o Equipment and Technology (DEC, CRRC)
  - o Grant Administration (EcoTrust)

### **\*\*Break for Lunch (approx. 12:30pm)**

- EDA Remarks - Shirley Kelly, Frank Wessbecher

### **Other Topics**

9. Review of RFPs/RFQs and contracts (issued or upcoming)
  - o [Mariculture Equipment Rounds #2 & #3](#) - issued
  - o [Marketing Program](#) - issued
  - o [Farmer Knowledge Exchange Grant Program](#) - issued
10. Upcoming Events
  - o International Seaweed Symposium, Victoria, BC, May 4 - 9, 2025
11. Public Comment
12. Next Governance Body meeting tentatively set for July 30, 2025
13. Good of the order
14. Adjourn



9360 Glacier Hwy, Suite 201  
 Juneau, AK 99801  
 Phone (907) 586-4360  
[alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://alaskamariculturecluster.org)  
[info@seconference.org](mailto:info@seconference.org)

**AMC GOVERNANCE BODY MEETING  
 SUMMARY FOR GOVERNANCE BODY MEETING  
 JANUARY 15TH, 2025**

Microsoft Teams meeting

1/15/25 meeting [Packet](#).

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Gov body meeting minutes 10.30.24- Final.docx](#)

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

The AMC Governance Body meeting was called to order at 10:09 am on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Meeting ID: 232 184 224 687

Passcode: BWMknD

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**Alaska Mariculture Cluster  
 Governance Body**

Members present: Jason Lessard, Ralph Wolfe, Markos Scheer, Robert Venables, Thea Thomas, Kristin Smith, Chase Berenson, Wanetta Ayers, Cassidi Cameron, Tom Panamaroff, Chase Berenson, Greg Renkes, Heather McCarty.

*Robert Venables – SEC*

Non-Governance body members in person attendance:

*Ralph Wolfe – TNH*

Charlie Herrington, Dan Lesh, Nick Mangini, Alex Huller, Chase Coleman, Briana Murphy, Willow Hetrick, Lindsey Hammer, Pheobe Koenig, Jenna Kennedy, Erik O’Brien, Chase Coleman, Shirley Kelly (EDA representative), Melissa Shawnweather, Haley Terpenney, Patryce McKinney,

*Wanetta Ayers – SWAMC*

*Tom Panamaroff – Koniag Corp*

*Chase Berenson – Aleut Corp*

) *Kristin Carpenter – PWSEDD* (

*Gregg Renkes – Chugach Corp*

*Jason Lessard – AMA*

*Heather McCarty – AMA*

*Thea Thomas – AMA*

*Markos Scheer – AMA*

*Julie Decker – Seafood Industry, PSPA*

*Cassidi Cameron- KPEDD*

Virtual non-governance body member attendance included:

Sean Den Adel, Noah Enelow, Karli Tyance Hassell, Chase Coleman, Cindy Zuluaga Jimenez, Cassidi Cameron, Alan Sorum, Phoebe Koenig, Melissa Good, Keolani Booth, Jeff Hetrick, Sara Ebersole, Shanoy Anderson, Lexa Meyer

**OPENING REMARKS:**

Tom Panamaroff gives an overview of Koniag and a safety site briefing for how to exit the building in case of emergency. Introductions around the room followed, including introductions of those participating virtually. The October 2024 meeting minutes and January 2025 meeting agenda were approved without objection.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None



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[alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://alaskamariculturecluster.org)  
[info@seconference.org](mailto:info@seconference.org)

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Regional Liaisons Updates:**

Liaison program is the best asset the AMC program has to reach rural communities. SEC plans to provide additional resources for this program (to be discussed later in the meeting). The Liaisons were each asked to provide a brief update, along with any challenges or achievements.

#### **SE Alaska:** Keolani Booth

Keolani is working in southeast on energy projects along with mariculture role. At the end of 2024, two kelp divers for source collection became certified divers in Kake. No lines in the water yet but aiming for 2026. An EPA grant was secured for Metlakatla to provide diver training and for equipment (grinders and driers). For 2025 the goal is to get more folks in the water on POW, and Ketchikan (more communities/ indigenous communities). Keo is working with Nautical Marine to submit a grant proposal for gear (bulk/ bring price down). Source collection training: SCUBA diver training from OW-Divemaster being offered.

#### **Kenai Peninsula, Alaska:** Briana Murphy, CRRC

Community outreach notes: Farm tours (all day events) received lots of interest and gave the communities information on what ‘mariculture’ options could look like for the communities. Lots of groundwork from ‘23/’24 is coming to fruition. Lots of workshops with good response rates, very encouraging to see results from previous workshops come back with additional projects. Briana shared organic certification with template to Kodiak Growers Association. Oregon Tilth is the certifying entity for Organic certification. AMA formally invited Mangini and Murphy to share info on this certification in a webinar format.

#### **Kodiak, Alaska:** Lexa Meyer & Robbie Townsend Vennel, KALI

Highlight ‘24: Gaining market traction. Connecting SEC BBB with communities has been a very busy year. Kodiak sees some market traction (25,000 ft kelp line) will be purchased ‘25. KALI has done research on traditional values, clam gardens, subsistence harvest, mollusks, to define what the communities want for ‘mariculture’. There will be a Kodiak conference in 2025. KALI is expanding and will work with CRRC on clam gardens and paralytic shellfish poisoning. Will be hosting the Alaska Food Policy Council.

#### **Prince William Sound, Alaska:** Sean den Adel, CRRC:

Highlight: Lots of collaboration for emerging mariculture industry, lots of work in organization and fundraisings for 2025 but these building blocks will allow us to carry forward. Kristin update: Lots of funding in Cordova. Excitement for AMA new staff member to improve liaison project in 2025. March: Asking for CRRC AK Natives’ perspectives in Eyak community, meeting folks in the region, and how we can assist them in the mariculture line.

#### **Southwest, Alaska:** Liaison pending Qawalangin Tribe awarded RFP



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## **General Discussion:**

SEC Liaison Resources: SE conference will put more resources into the program and will work with liaisons to better define what the mariculture goals are for each tribe/rural community and determine how/what tools are needed to document and track progress. Within each BBB component there are lots of opportunities (workforce dev/ green energy/ etc.). The goal for 2025: Documentation from every single Tribe and rural community in each District. The grant is designed to accelerate an mariculture industry, and there is a need to identify those communities that wish to embrace whatever level of participation they wish to have in that goal, document the needs to be on that path, and fully inform them of the opportunities and resources available through BBB, so implementation can proceed during the remaining time of this grant.

Planning for 2025 & Beyond: AMA has funding to provide liaisons with an in-person meeting for March 19<sup>th</sup> (Anchorage) to discuss goals and priorities for 2025.

Talking Points for Liaisons: Liaisons requested more talking points on how to discuss the opportunities to maximize the BBB opportunities. SEC will work with them to expand the “toolkit” and awareness of BBB project component opportunities.

Do the liaisons have a deliberate approach to fisheries? It is not a core tenant but there is an overlap. Responses are that no formal engagement. Liaisons have mostly engaged with small rural indigenous communities.

How does mariculture fit into the fishing community? Fishermen that want their boats running all year (get them in the plus before salmon fishing). Need to reach out to the groups (trollers association) and engage those groups (POW/ Kodiak) in more engagement. In S.E, communities are more dispersed, so if processors can be guided to learn about mariculture, it can be a voice of opportunity. USDA Rural Dev. money being made available to the Denali Commission support facilities, perhaps secondary bioprocessing facilities in AK- to allow stabilization of a product at a low energy cost, that can be done at scale, and allow AK to feed livestock or create biostimulants, soil amendments, etc.

## **REVIEW OF RFPs / RFQs CLOSED AND AWARD:**

- [Analysis of 2024 Seaweed Tissue Data:](#) Under contract- presenting for Mariculture Conference
- [Scientific Consulting Services Related to Heavy Metals and Kelp:](#) lead and cadmium concerns were voiced
- [Southeast Alaska Mariculture Liaison](#)
- [Other Mariculture Species Research & Development #2:](#) NOI
- [Kelp Agricultural Product Development & Testing:](#) Developing the contracts. Projects will fund the supply chain/ synergize. This will result in a working group. All three contracts



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are focused on bio-stimulants. Other projects included other areas but were not funded (GreenWave, CRRC, Pacific Kelp Company)

## **COMPONENT PROJECT UPDATES:**

*Order determined by presenters' availability*

### **#1 Revolving Loan Fund:**

Attorneys are reviewing the collateral support agreements, which will then need EDA approval (loan support can be up to 80% in some cases, and SEC will offer CD as collateral). The RLF's Loan Administration Board will meet in late January or early February. This board is composed of six members who collectively decide which loan applications get approved.

### **#2 Governance, Coordination and Outreach (EDDs & AMA):**

AMA contracted with Rising Tide Communications (RTC) to research and draft a plan for Public Relations, Outreach, and Engagement. Currently undergoing revision by AMA and RTC to further consider AMA's role and coordination between other players in mariculture communications. Communications plan will soon be available to this group. Then AMA will send revisions to Rising Tide, then will roll out finalized plan once they receive it. Will have a board meeting 1/16/2025 to discuss ASMI marketing question. AMA board is coming together, the annual meeting is in February and board seats are coming open and has more Alaska Native participation on board. AMA [solicited proposals](#) from organizations within Southeast Alaska to host a dedicated Mariculture Liaison position to provide communication, connection, and coordination services to underserved, rural, and Alaska Native communities. Ecotrust was awarded the contract.

## **DISTRICT REPORTS:**

**KPEDD:** Looking to finalize Industry Day agenda to include mariculture, CEDS will include mariculture as opportunity in region for economic viability. Working with Homer chamber to ID businesses/farmers to ensure mariculture cooperation (tours, tourism experiences). Will be at Mariculture conference next month and attending workshops and continue region engagement with Brianna. Preparing for equipment RFP.

**PWSEDD:** Is helping pilot an equipment program for the region. Will be renting equipment from Markos and purchasing the shredder from Sirputis. Lindsay is working on certifying the processing being organic. Looking to improve on how to engage/ encourage with markets.

**KALI:** Is working cross-regionally with many more projects underway.

**SWAMC:** The Aleutian regions- there are some permits. Synergy that allows for fisheries (King Cove has lost all fisheries- change to mariculture). Heading in the right direction.

Got a \$4 M congressional grant to construct king/blue crab hatchery (planted in designated by AFDF)/3-year project to find a permanent home in St. Paul, which will employ 4-5 people for hatchery techs and training locals.

CRRC: Continues to be a driver in research and development in POW. Sean continues to work on the tribes. Leases to begin an oyster program

PWS-Cordova: Contracted for seafood drier (highland refrigeration/ quote 3x higher and 24 weeks lead time than original. Will focus on renting equipment and buy drier. It has a place to operate and get the process certified as organic (processing plant must also be organic). GreenWave is doing lots of support for kelp farmers. The market is still pretty weak- we need to put more time and effort into connecting with markets and how to get them interested. Cordova is excited to see markets develop and sell more kelp than in the past.

### **#7 Equipment & Technology (Alaska DEC):**

Mouse supplier went out of business back in October/ November. Only 3 in the country, currently being supplied by CA, at double the price. In December they sent sludge (oyster) to SC for NOAA to sign off on. Collaboration with other states is helping the cause for approval/ validation of testing procedures. Sent 2 staff to SC to train with NOAA dude to train on new testing procedures (PST). Sent 2 other staff to Boston to train on the new equipment (Agilent). Will be requesting regional support for ISSC validation of new procedures/ testing methods. Potential emergency approval for RBA, this would grease the wheels for full approval down the road. After 9 vacancies, positions are starting to get filled.

### **#3 Workforce Development (UAA, UAF, UAS):**

The AMC is heavily invested in workforce development to ensure all interested Alaskans can learn more about and work in the mariculture sector. SEC is working on budget revisions with subawards to ensure all workforce development programs and funding are utilized within the grant period. [The AMC website](#) has been updated with information about recent and upcoming courses, workshops, internships, and other University of Alaska offerings, all supported with AMC grant funding

UAF- RFPs out- marine curriculum due 2/14. Second is Farmer exchange program. Kelp biz marketing and workshop 4/9-5/2 looking for applications for this due by 1/29/2025. James Crimp is creating oyster specific training (working heavily with ASGA). MCA – 20 vendors and participation is 170. AK Seagrant will host a community event

UAS- Finished last 3<sup>rd</sup> of semester. 3 maritime classes: helped sequester farms build multi-line in Juneau. Barnacle tours, out planted sugar, red kelp, into to mariculture course with Angie (13 students, 10 Valdez/ 1 Sitka) w/ 3-day lab intensive. NOAA facility trip for Sherry Umazor hatchery, helped sea quester farms build their catenary array. Toured Barnacle foods. Fish and

Shellfish pathology lab taught by Angie Bowers. Out planted with students in November- sugar kelp (and another) in front of the science center. Students will do farm presentations at the end of semester. They do a business plan/ trial run of hour to start a kelp farm. Angie just started intro to mariculture online course – 13 students enrolled. 3-day lab intensive in April (salmon enhancement, seaweed farming, spore release). 10 alumni will attend the mariculture conference. New employees will help build out the wet lab, and student support. 10 students from Valdez, 1 in Sitka. Premium Aquatics hired a previous UAS student.

#### **#6 Green Energy (UAF):**

Chandler Kemp is creating a large-scale plan to minimize emissions and fossil fuel use, and will eventually have a best practices guide. Built out the team (graduate student at UAA), research assistant (Calvin George). Conducted field work in Cordova and Seward, measuring energy usage in research facilities. Drafting qualitative analysis to deliver to groups worked with, as well as a trip report. Will be presenting at the mariculture conference. Chandler used to conduct energy audits at Longlines Fisherman's Association. Then designed a program for small businesses who can apply for grant funding/ loans at low interest rates. Mariculture farmers could qualify for this too.

#### **Ecotrust**

Ecotrust presented the [AMC Theory of Change](#) and updates on its grant evaluation work, including metrics, surveying, and interviewing efforts.

#### **LUNCH BREAK:**

Break at 12:41 PM. Meeting resumes at 1.35 PM

#### **#4 Research and Development (ADFG, AFDF, SEC):**

Seaweed profiles handouts will be available at conference, from the seaweed tissue analysis project. Joint Innovation Projects (JIP) first cohort is wrapping up; reports are due at end of Jan 2025. AFDF will be hosting a meet up to have the cohort report to each other. AFDF's Derisking Investments project with Kelson Marine project (\$1.1M) to develop oceanic models (salinity, wave etc.) to determine suitability with interactive maps (does not include the Aleutians). Kelp meal project data will be released soon. SEC contracted with Spencer Serin (PhD in chemistry) of Spoitz to produce a technical report delving into kelp composition. This informs the work to help develop site selection which brings specific invaluable information that will be shared to the mariculture community.

#### **#5 Market Development:**

SEC Presented air table, and new revamps to the website. (including Kelp Processing Technical report) by Spencer Serin. Food for Climate League (contractor). ASGA sole source contract. How to get food scientists to the table. Questions about product demand, market size and value. Info is



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hard to find as shellfish growers are mostly private companies. Dan estimated up to 45 million oysters could be sold in a year.

### **#7 Equipment & Technology (SEC):**

SEC team is working hard on equipment curing of proposals. No construction language, commissioning and minimal assembly is good for proposal language. Feasibility Studies and Other Mariculture Species projects have drafted webpages overviewing the programs and project details. SEC contracted with McKinley Research group to produced the [2024 Alaska Mariculture Industry Overview](#) report. Hatch Blue, which created the [Alaska Mariculture Insights](#) platform, also published an [Alaska Mariculture Series on The Fish Site](#).

### **OTHER TOPICS:**

#### Review of RFPs/RFQs and Contracts (issued or upcoming):

- [Kelp Seed Quality Improvement](#) - issued
- Mariculture Marine Safety and Farmer Knowledge Exchange – soon- UAF
- Equipment #2 RFP - soon
- Marketing Promotional Activities RFP – in development.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit: February 11-13
- Mariculture Conference of Alaska: February 18-20

#### General Discussion Questions:

Budget expenditures: are we concerned about not having enough time to spend the money? No, spending is proceeding well. Any new proposal ideas are welcomed (but don't spend time trying to repurpose other entity's funds).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Fish and Game has put out shellfish enhancement regs in November 2022, 30-day comment period, CRRC requested a deadline extension so they could comment. Fish and Game has apparently copied and pasted all the regs from fin fisheries to apply to mariculture.

Next Governance Body meeting scheduled for April 15, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 PM.



## LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

*Due the 10th of each month*

Liaison	Organization	Reporting Period	Submission Date
Briana Murphy	Chugach Regional Resources Commission	January 1-January 31, 2025	2/10/2025

### 1. Narrative Summaries - Networking, Engagement, and Communications

*Describe any work completed that relates to networking this month...*

Attended the Alaska Marine Science Symposium January 27-January 31<sup>st</sup>. Met with scientists and researchers throughout Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula. Met with mariculture industry participants and individuals from regulatory agencies, including NOAA and Fish and Game.

*Describe any Tribal entity engagements (tribes, corporations, native communities)...*

Worked with resident of Nanwalek and part-time community farm monitor at CRRC's commercial kelp site to facilitate payment and assist with travel and lodging reservations to attend Alaska's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mariculture Conference in Sitka.

Met with elder from Kenaitze Tribe during workshop attended through AMSS. Discussed ways that mariculture could possibly mitigate pollution affecting subsistence stocks throughout Cook Inlet and exchanged contact information to continue developing connections between CRRC and Kenaitze Tribe.

*List any outreach to new individuals or entities and describe efforts & outcomes...*

Met with elder from Kenaitze Tribe during workshop attended through AMSS. Discussed ways that mariculture could possibly mitigate pollution affecting subsistence stocks throughout Cook Inlet and exchanged contact information to continue developing connections between CRRC and Kenaitze Tribe.

*List any individuals, businesses, or organizations assisted this month. Include hours given to each entity...*

Sent out email surveys to Kenai Peninsula list serve folks to solicit feedback on Build Back

Better's equity metrics.

Worked on developing a proposal in response to SeaGrant's Mariculture Marine Safety RFP for CRRC staff and for informational materials and meetings to be held in each of CRRC's seven Tribal communities to spread awareness about symptoms of Paralytic Shellfish Toxins (PSTs).

Worked with resident of Nanwalek and part-time community farm monitor at CRRC's commercial kelp site to facilitate payment and assist with travel and lodging reservations to attend Alaska's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mariculture Conference in Sitka.

*Describe any community-wide meetings. Include number of attendees (in-person or virtual)...*

Participated in an EVOS-funded Kelp Values workshop during an evening event at AMSS to share industry perspectives on the development of Alaska's commercial kelp mariculture industry and shared perspectives voiced by community members on the development of kelp mariculture industry in Alaska.

*Describe any common themes of questions/concerns voiced from community members...*

General concern about the way the current administration will impact funding opportunities and project development in communities.

I certify that all reported time worked is accurate and in support of the Alaska Mariculture Alliance Communication, Connection and Coordination Services Agreement stated scope of work.

Briana Murphy

2/10/2025

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Mariculture Liaison

Date



## LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

*Due the 10th of each month*

Liaison	Organization	Reporting Period	Submission Date
Briana Murphy	CRRC	2/1/2025-2/28/2025	3/1/2025

### 1. Narrative Summaries - Networking, Engagement, and Communications

*Describe any work completed that relates to networking this month...*

Attended the AK Mariculture Conference and connected various shellfish farmers in Kachemak Bay with PWSC-Valdez's director to provide a connection to possible internships.

Met with industry participants and individuals from regulatory agencies to discuss common mariculture goals.

*Describe any Tribal entity engagements (tribes, corporations, native communities)...*

Conducted outreach to Port Graham community sampler; established sampling training time in early March.

Assisted Nanwalek community sampler with travel and lodging reservations to attend the mariculture conference in Sitka.

Met with resident of Port Graham and potential Southwest Mariculture Liaison to discuss collaboration on possible projects between KP and SW regions.

*List any outreach to new individuals or entities and describe efforts & outcomes...*

Met several new individuals and entities at the Mariculture Conference in Sitka, including SeaGrant Fellow for Native Lands and Resources, recent graduates of UAS's mariculture program, AMSEA executive director, and multiple shellfish and seaweed farmers.

*List any individuals, businesses, or organizations assisted this month. Include hours given to each entity...*

Coordinated with AMSEA Executive Director to arrange a meeting/workshop focused on ergonomics with APMI staff.

Coordinated with GreenWave representative to discuss possibility of sharing dried kelp samples with interested end-users of the product.

Met with shellfish farmers in Kachemak Bay to connect them with PWSC internship coordinator and provided email contacts.

*Describe any community-wide meetings. Include number of attendees (in-person or virtual)...*

None this month.

*Describe any common themes of questions/concerns voiced from community members...*

I certify that all reported time worked is accurate and in support of the Alaska Mariculture Alliance Communication, Connection and Coordination Services Agreement stated scope of work.

Briana Murphy

4/7/2025

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Mariculture Liaison

Date



## LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

*Due the 10th of each month*

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Liaison	Organization	Reporting Period	Submission Date
Sean Den Adel	Chugach Regional Resources Commission	1/1/2025-1/31/2025	2/10/2025

### 1. Narrative Summaries - Networking, Engagement, and Communications

*Describe any work completed that relates to networking this month...*

In January, I networked with UAF's T-3 program team as well as staff at Prince William Sound College's – Marine Natural Resources Technician program. During our conversations and correspondence, we identified regional events occurring in 2025 and discussed collaborative potentials.

I have continued to meet with Prince William Sound Economic Development District (PWSEDD), GreenWave, Cascadia Seaweed, and several local kelp farming entities to develop regional kelp processing capacity, establish project schedules/timelines, and facilitate 2025 market opportunities. This group is actively working to ensure that equipment purchases/rentals are made so that project timelines stay on schedule during the Spring 2025 kelp harvest season.

In January, I continued to collaborate with the Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) and physically supported with the setup and installation of new kelp seed nursery equipment funded by the Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC). This new nursery equipment will provide kelp farmers in the Eyak/Cordova community with a local seed supply option and hopefully improve future seed spool quality and availability. Theoretically, this will increase kelp harvest volumes in the region by making more seed available to Chugach/Prince William Sound kelp farmers.

*Describe any Tribal entity engagements (tribes, corporations, native communities)...*

During the month of January, I provided outreach to regional Tribes, Corporations, Alaska Native non-profit organizations and individuals about the latest AMC funding opportunities, workshops, and events. I engaged in conversations with the Tribes, Corporations, and non-profit organizations and community members that are either actively pursuing mariculture initiatives or have expressed interest in these opportunities.

In January, I provided outreach about the **Collective Alaska Native Perspectives** workshop hosted by Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) and the Community Organized Restoration and Learning Network (CORaL Network). I also assisted a Native Conservancy staff member with registering for the workshop.

In January, I continued to provide outreach about Sea Grant's – Training of the Trainers workshop and supported a Native Conservancy staff member with applying for the workshop.

Notably, I also provided a regional mariculture highlight since the inception of the liaison program for use in presentations at the 2025 Chugach Alaska Corporation's Annual Summit Meeting.

*List any outreach to new individuals or entities and describe efforts & outcomes...*

In January, I met with Annie Schatz, NCCOS and discussed regional perspectives about NOAA's Aquaculture Opportunity Areas assessment project. I suggested that regional Tribal governments should be engaged first for their perspectives about the NOAA/NCCOS mapping tools.

During the month of January, I met with a creative director/writer named Geoff Skigen, Skigen Creative who attended the 2024 Seagrass Conference in Ketchikan. I provided Geoff with outreach about the AMC program and discussed regional mariculture priorities and initiatives. Geoff is interested in marketing the domestic kelp farming industry and asked if I could help introduce him to influencers and leaders within the industry.

*List any individuals, businesses, or organizations assisted this month. Include hours given to each entity...*

Cascadia Seaweed – 12 hours  
GreenWave – 8 hours  
PWSEDD – 8 hours  
Native Conservancy – 8 hours  
WildBlue Mariculture – 6 hours  
PWSSC – 4 hours  
Mothers of Millions – 2 hours  
Native Village of Eyak – 2 hours  
Royal Ocean Kelp Co. – 2 hours  
Nautical Marine AK – 2 hours  
Rocky Pass Kelp Co. – 2 hours  
Vincent Corporation – 2 hours  
ADF&G – 2 hours  
UAF – Sea Grant – 2 hours  
UAF – T3 Program – 2 hours  
UAF – EPSCoR Interface of Change – 1 hour  
UAF - Alaska Blue Economy Center – 1 hour  
UAF - Green Energy in Mariculture – 1 hour  
Blue Dot Kitchen – 1 hour  
Orca Cannery – 1 hour

*Describe any community-wide meetings. Include number of attendees (in-person or virtual)...*

1/15 – AMC Governance Body meeting (~40 people, in-person/virtual)  
1/16 – AMA Board of Director's meeting (~25 people, virtual)  
1/30 – PWSEDD/GreenWave Kelp Processing Meeting (9 people, in-person/virtual)  
1/31 – National Aquaculture Association: Endangered Species Act Update (~25 people, virtual)

*Describe any common themes of questions/concerns voiced from community members...*

The Trump administration's decision to freeze all federal grants and loans as well as his threats to raise tariffs on Canadian goods were some of the concerns raised by regional mariculture entities during the month of January.

Several new market opportunities have expressed interest in purchasing kelp from the region this year. However, there is still no processing equipment readily available for farmers to fulfill these orders with.

I certify that all reported time worked is accurate and in support of the Alaska Mariculture Alliance Communication, Connection and Coordination Services Agreement stated scope of work.

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Mariculture Liaison

Date



## LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

*Due the 10th of each month*

Liaison	Organization	Reporting Period	Submission Date
Sean Den Adel	Chugach Regional Resources Commission	2/1/2025-2/28/2025	3/10/2025

### 1. Narrative Summaries - Networking, Engagement, and Communications

*Describe any work completed that relates to networking this month...*

In February, I networked with staff at UAF and Prince William Sound College's – Marine Natural Resources Technician program. During our conversations and correspondence, we identified regional events occurring in 2025 and began planning for an outreach event in Valdez to be held during the month of April.

I have continued to regularly meet with Prince William Sound Economic Development District (PWSEDD), GreenWave, Native Village of Eyak, Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC), Native Conservancy, Chugach Regional Resources Commission's Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute, Cascadia Seaweed, Mothers of Millions, and several Cordova based kelp farming entities to support the development of regional kelp farming and processing initiatives, as well as establish new market opportunities. This group of entities and others are collaboratively working together to develop a viable mariculture industry in the Prince William Sound region.

*Describe any Tribal entity engagements (tribes, corporations, native communities)...*

During the month of February, I provided outreach to regional Tribes, Corporations, Alaska Native non-profit organizations and individuals about the latest AMC funding opportunities, workshops, and events. I engaged in conversations with the Tribes, Corporations, non-profit organizations, and community members that are either actively pursuing mariculture initiatives or have expressed interest in these opportunities.

In February, I attended the 2025 Mariculture Conference of Alaska, where I met with a diverse array of mariculturists, including Tribal representatives from the Native Village of Eyak, Chenega Regional Development Group, Central Council of Tlingit & Haida, Sitka Tribe, Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, Native Conservancy, and Metlakatla Indian Community. This was a valuable gathering that allowed me the opportunity to speak with interested Tribes, native corporations, and rural and Alaska Native communities and exchange information related to local mariculture priorities. I also provided information about the opportunities presented by each project of the BBBRC grant as well as brainstormed how to address the challenges these entities are facing.

*List any outreach to new individuals or entities and describe efforts & outcomes...*

During the month of February, I corresponded with and met Noah Meyer, Alaska Sea Grant Fellow with The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska. Since meeting at the Mariculture Conference of Alaska, Noah, Briana, and I have continued to correspond with one another, and Noah is planning to visit APML in Seward to tour the facility this Spring.

In February, I met dozens of new individuals while attending the Mariculture Conference of Alaska in Sitka, AK. Notably, I learned that there was a new aquatic farm applicant in Valdez, that I have since contacted and am now actively supporting with their permit application process.

*List any individuals, businesses, or organizations assisted this month. Include hours given to each entity...*

Cascadia Seaweed – 12 hours  
GreenWave – 8 hours  
PWSEDD – 8 hours  
Mothers of Millions – 4 hours  
WildBlue Mariculture – 4 hours  
UAF – Sea Grant – 4 hours  
PWSSC – 2 hours  
Native Conservancy – 2 hours  
Native Village of Eyak – 2 hours  
Nautical Marine AK – 2 hours  
Rocky Pass Kelp Co. – 2 hours  
Vincent Corporation – 2 hours  
ADF&G – 2 hours  
UAF – T3 Program – 2 hours  
UAF – EPSCoR Interface of Change – 1 hour  
UAF - Alaska Blue Economy Center – 1 hour  
UAF - Green Energy in Mariculture – 1 hour  
Blue Dot Kitchen – 1 hour

*Describe any community-wide meetings. Include number of attendees (in-person or virtual)...*

2/18-20 – 2025 Mariculture Conference of Alaska, Sitka, AK, 337 attendees (*in-person*).

*Describe any common themes of questions/concerns voiced from community members...*

Seaweed processing and kelp seed quality remain the primary concern of kelp farmers in the Prince William Sound region. There are strong collaborations forming amongst entities in Cordova.

Some commercial fishermen are concerned about the long-term viability of the mariculture industry and feel that we should be looking at other species such as urchin and abalone.

I certify that all reported time worked is accurate and in support of the Alaska Mariculture Alliance Communication, Connection and Coordination Services Agreement stated scope of work.

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Mariculture Liaison

Date

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## LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

*Due the 10th of each month*

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Liaison	Organization	Reporting Period	Submission Date
Lexa Meyer Robbie Townsend Vennel, Liaison Support	KALI	01/1-31, 2025	1/11/25

### 1. Narrative Summaries - Networking, Engagement, and Communications

*Describe any work completed that relates to networking this month...*

Attend Weekly AMA or EED/AMA meetings. Required as part of the grant contract. Provides opportunity to network with the other regions and learn more about their outreach approach and events.

Meetings with Greenwave to discuss possible Kodiak regional engagement in a proposal for the SEC Seed Improvement RFP- Lexa and Robbie met virtually and in person on several occasions throughout the month with members of the Greenwave team to discuss the open SEC seed improvement FRP. Lexa highlighted needs from her nursery, seed production bottlenecks in the region, and seed production regulatory bottlenecks. She suggested some partner farms and stressed that there were indigenous farms in the region eager to outplant kelp and participate in research projects.

Meeting with University of Washington Researchers regarding community impacts of kelp mariculture in the Kodiak Archipelago- Lexa met with UW professor of environmental affairs Anne Beaudreau and her master's student Luke Weaver on January 30<sup>th</sup> and answered their questions regarding the community impacts of kelp mariculture in the Kodiak Archipelago region. Lexa highlighted KALI's engagement in mariculture and emphasized the value mariculture may have for the wellbeing and economy of rural and indigenous communities. The answers will be part of Luke's master's thesis published this spring. Anne is a former student of UA professor Dr. Courtney Carothers and received her master's degree from the University of Alaska Southeast.

*Describe any Tribal entity engagements (tribes, corporations, native communities)...*

KALI Informational Emails. KALI provided a listing of its mariculture email list by name and organization as part of its November report. The email process is supported by KALI staff member Max Lyons and hosted on MailChimp. Currently information is sent to over 100 individuals that include leadership from our region's tribes, Native Corporations, municipalities, regional organizations, our mariculture partners and beginning farmers. Informational emails provided in January included:

January 6- Upcoming ASMI Webinar!

January 7- Greenwave Newsletter

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January 14- Mariculture Marine Safety Opportunity  
January 14- SEC AMC Mariculture Equipment RFP  
January 15- MAPS Kelp Farm Operation Training

Native Village of Larsen Bay - Lexa and Robbie met with the Village of Larsen Bay tribal administrator Marilyn Henson regarding their SEC AMC Equipment Award for up to \$300,000 for a FLUPSY system. Marilyn requested assistance with the proposal including collecting information on vendors, pricing, installation costs and operating budget. Lexa and Robbie agreed to assist in information gathering for the project to be presented to the village council so that they could make an informed decision as to how to proceed with funding acceptance.

*List any outreach to new individuals or entities and describe efforts & outcomes...*

James Crimp, Afognak Native Corporation Shareholder. James requested information by email regarding how to set up a kelp farm and available assistance. Lexa corresponded and provided information on training available through MAPS (as supported by the SEC AMC) and other resources.

*List any individuals, businesses, or organizations assisted this month. Include hours given to each entity...*

Village of Larsen Bay FLUPSY Funding Assistance- as per tribal administrator request, Lexa began the process of compiling information for the Village Council on vendors, pricing, installation costs and operating budget for a village FLUPSY system. Lexa reached out for assistance from the Alaska Sea Grant Program as well. This is a large project and has taken up quite a bit of time. 20 hours total this month on this project.

Native Village of Ouzinkie/City of Ouzinkie Research Permit Assistance- Lexa continues to support this permit application, including setting up a teleconference with the Coast Guard regarding navigational aids for the site in response to public comments. 3 hours total for the month

Permit Amendment Support for Old Harbor—Lexa continues to support this permit amendment, which is in agency review. 1 hour total for the month

*Describe any community-wide meetings. Include number of attendees (in-person or virtual)...*

January 15- Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District Community Lecture Series- Lexa gave a presentation at the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District's community lecture series on January 15<sup>th</sup>. She highlighted the number of leases, research projects, and markets for Kodiak kelp and oysters. The talk was offered both in-person and virtually however there was lackluster attendance, only three people in person and one online. The online viewer followed up with Lexa via email and had many questions regarding kelp processing which she answered.

March 26 and 27 Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum. Planning is now completed for the Spring Forum that includes a robust panel on clam gardens and other

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mariculture topics. First tier rural registration is with 25 registered. Second tier registration for Native Corporation and Tribal and agency partners opened on February 11. We anticipate that at least 50 total will be registered and will report on the Forum in our March report.

Alaska Food Policy Council Food Conference and Fair. March 28 and 29. KALI serves on the planning committee on this event and has worked to connect potential mariculture speakers and workshop presenters. Currently, Lexa and Alaska Ocean Farms is holding a full day pre-conference event on kelp farming. Registration for the pre-conference event has reached the total number of participants and is closed! Lexa will also be presenting on current SEC AMC research projects in the region. Dune Lankard with Native Conservancy will be a keynote speaker. Other mariculture presenters who have confirmed with KALI that they submitted an abstract include the Marine Advisory Program (Missy Good), Greenwave (Samantha Garwin) and possibly AMA.

*Describe any common themes of questions/concerns voiced from community members...*

Larsen Bay FLUPSY - The project is under review by KALI at the request of the Tribal Council and the decision to accept the funding is pending.

Kodiak Island Borough and Other Alaska Municipalities and Borough Taxation Policies- it was recently brought to the attention of KALI that the Kodiak Island Borough may implement a business property tax on mariculture farm leases. This would be onerous for farmers, and the borough currently has no idea how they plan to assess the value of the leases. It is interesting to note that via AS 29.35.870, natural resources in place are exempt from taxation. Essentially, we are leasing the water as a resource to grow our crops in, livestock grazing leases on Kodiak are also taxed. It would be interesting to know what the policy is elsewhere in the state.

USACE Letter of Permission ESA Threatened/Endangered Species Mitigation Measures for Aquatic Farms: 2. Due to the necessity of needing a USACE permit to operate a farm in navigable waters, including state waters (0-3 mi), farms must engage with the NMFS regarding threatened and endangered species. This usually involves a section 7 informal Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation with the NMFS Habitat Protection Office. Recent USACE permit applications have been receiving pushback from NMFS regarding the following:

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a. Sunflower Sea Stars (SSS) will at some point be listed as threatened under the ESA. The NMFS habitat protection biologist was requiring dive or ROV surveys prior to gear installation such as anchors to ensure that no sea stars were harmed. This is time consuming and expensive for farmers, it would be better to have a “take” issued for the industry, similar to what has been done for commercial fisheries, so that farmers can deploy gear without expensive mitigation measures. Alicia Bishop with NOAA said this is a real possibility and probably the best route for the industry, we need to see that this gets done. Commercial fisheries have lobbyists and policy specialists that have helped get these “takes” allocated, kelp farmers don’t.

b. Almost all coastal waters in Alaska are home to marine mammals, many listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. NMFS is recommending on new USACE permits that farmers use weak links in their farming systems to prevent possible marine mammal entanglements. While these weak links work on the horizontal cultivation lines of a catenary array system they will not work on anchor lines as forces greater than the breaking strength of the weak links are needed to hold large farm systems in place. It seems that the NMFS have a general lack of understanding of farm systems and I think they need a third party to educate them. NMFS is also pushing back on keeping anchors and associated buoy lines in the water, year-round. Removal of 10 or more anchors annually is a huge cost to farmers and may particularly hurt smaller farm operations that have to pay for a larger vessel to assist with anchor placement and removal.

c. The NMFS is requiring that all farms submit an annual report to NMFS by the end of January annually summarizing each time the farm was visited by the farmer or crew, when gear was deployed, when gear was removed, when kelp is harvested, and if there were any endangered, threatened or generally any marine mammals in or around the site. While farmers may not mind submitting data in an online form regarding marine mammal or EAS listed species in and around the farms, the other information is private and perhaps even proprietary. NMFS has no plan as to how the information will remain confidential, how it will be used, nor is there any format or template for a report. Farmers already report harvest and sale information to the State of Alaska annually, the state does not ask for this level of information. There is also no precedence for this level of oversight and reporting for any state managed fisheries in Alaska. Kelp and seaweed resources from 0-3mi are under the management oversight of the state of Alaska.

As mariculture continues to expand in coastal Alaska it will be imperative that the industry collectively engage with regulators to develop solutions to these issues that work physically and financially for farmers. We request assistance from the AMA to achieve greater understanding between regulators and farmers to develop regulations that support rather than hinder ecologically responsible mariculture development. Is there an update for the status of these conversations with NMFS and the office of habitat management?

Provide an efficient mechanism for feedback from the liaisons and their constituency. How do we give feedback and how does this feedback become integrated for any needed changes? Is this report the primary way we give feedback? How does AMA summarize feedback for SEC use? We are still not sure, other than the AMC/Liaison meetings, how this information is being relayed?

*[Note: SEC appreciates and encourages feedback through these Liaison reports and our biweekly meetings with AMA & Liaisons. On March 19, SEC met w/ AMA & Liaisons to provide updated toolkit and reporting expectations.]* - 4 -

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**2. Timesheet** -Please see attached timesheets included in our invoice.

**3. Expenses** -None this month.

*I certify that all reported time worked is accurate and in support of the Alaska Mariculture Alliance Communication, Connection and Coordination Services Agreement stated scope of work.*



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Roberta J. Townsend Vennel, Executive Director.

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## LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

*Due the 10th of each month*

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Liaison	Organization	Reporting Period	Submission Date
Lexa Meyer	KALI	02/3-28, 2025	2/13/25

### 1. Narrative Summaries - Networking, Engagement, and Communications

*Describe any work completed that relates to networking this month...*

#### Attend Weekly AMA or EED/AMA meetings.

Required as part of the grant contract. Provides opportunity to network with the other regions and learn more about their outreach approach and events.

#### AFPC Conference Committee meetings (2).

KALI staff participate in the AFPC March 2025 Conference Planning Committee meetings. Participation has resulted in additional outreach working with AMA to secure mariculture related presentation proposals for the conference. Lexa Meyer will be supporting a half day pre-conference event around kelp farming (with MAPS) and she will also be presenting on current mariculture research projects in the Kodiak region supported through the AMC. Robbie Townend Vennel worked with MAPS and KANA to develop a Clam Garden Panel to provide foundational information on clam garden projects in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. These presentations will be to a diverse state-wide audience.

*Describe any Tribal entity engagements (tribes, corporations, native communities)...*

#### KALI Informational Emails.

KALI previously provided its mariculture email list by name and organization. The email process is supported by KALI staff member Max Lyons and hosted on MailChimp. Currently information is sent to over 100 individuals that include leadership from our region's tribes, Native Corporations, municipalities, regional organizations, our mariculture partners and beginning farmers. Informational emails provided in February included:

**February 3rd** - Funding Opportunity to Support Community-led Marine Debris Removal

<https://mailchi.mp/87ea6060068e/mariculture-equipment-rfp-10147981>

**February 7th** - Call for Applications: Oyster Hatchery and HAB Trainings

<https://mailchi.mp/8cf60a0b3cac/mariculture-equipment-rfp-10148048>

**February 12th** - "The last skipper in Ouzinkie"

<https://mailchi.mp/78b08bd82fbb/fwd-the-last-skipper-in-ouzinkie>

**February 19th** - Kelp Drying Workshop Invite

<https://mailchi.mp/ef6158e12d06/invitation-kodiak-leadership-forum-march-10148350>

**February 24th** - Kelp Drying Workshop Invite

*List any outreach to new individuals or entities and describe efforts & outcomes...*

AFDF JIP March 14 Kelp Drying Workshop Outreach.

KALI Sustainable Food Systems Catalyst\_Max Lyons worked with Lexa Meyer to provide outreach to the region's tribes and rural kelp farmers to participate in this workshop that was limited to 6-8 participants. Lexa Meyer is teaching the workshop as part of KALI's AFDF JIP Small-Scale Drying project. Tribal Administrators were contacted to encourage participation from their community. Outreach resulted in 3 new participant sign-ups from Ouzinkie and Old Harbor in addition to sign-ups from those who had previously participated in KALI sponsored mariculture trainings and events,

*List any individuals, businesses, or organizations assisted this month. Include hours given to each entity...*

Native Village of Larsen Bay- FLUPSY project-

Lexa and Robbie met with the Village of Larsen Bay tribal administrator Marilyn Henson regarding their up to \$300,000 award from the SEC for a FLUPSY system. Marilyn requested assistance with the project including collecting information on vendors, pricing, installation costs and operating budget. The FLUPSY is viewed as providing region wide benefit as there are other tribes who are looking at starting up oyster farms. Lexa reached out for assistance from the Alaska Sea Grant Program, Blue Star Oysters, and 3 separate FLUPSY manufacturers to gather the necessary information to provide a capital and installation budget as well as a high level operating budget. 27 hours total this month on this project. Follow-up meetings with Larsen Bay and SEC are being scheduled in March.

Native Village of Ouzinkie/City of Ouzinkie Research Permit Assistance-

Lexa continues to support this permit application, which is through public review. 4 hours total for the month

Permit Amendment Support for Old Harbor.

Lexa continues to support this permit amendment, which is in agency review. 1 hour total for the month,

*Describe any community-wide meetings. Include number of attendees (in-person or virtual)...*

February 25- Koniag/KANA Roundtable.

KALI staff provided updates on AMC related projects happening in the region. 90 Alaska Native Tribal and Corporation leaders attended, either 70 in-person and 20 virtually.

Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum scheduled in March

Planning work for the KALI Rural Forum Spring 2025 includes a clam garden panel and guests from mariculture partners such as Green Wave, the Native Conservancy and Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute.

*Describe any common themes of questions/concerns voiced from community members...*

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Continued holding pattern for new kelp farmers due to lack of markets.

It is challenging to develop enthusiasm for kelp farming given the lack of markets and processors in the region. Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations have adopted a stand-by stance and are not willing to make significant investments.

Kodiak Island Borough and Other Alaska Municipalities and Borough Taxation Policies- it was recently brought to the attention of KALI that the Kodiak Island Borough may implement a business property tax on mariculture farm leases. This would be onerous for farmers, and the borough currently has no idea how they plan to assess the value of the leases. It is interesting to note that via AS 29.35.870, natural resources in place are exempt from taxation. Essentially, we are leasing the water as a resource to grow our crops in, livestock grazing leases on Kodiak are also taxed. It would be interesting to know what the policy is elsewhere in the state.

USACE Letter of Permission ESA Threatened/Endangered Species Mitigation Measures for Aquatic Farms: 2. Due to the necessity of needing a USACE permit to operate a farm in navigable waters, including state waters (0-3 mi), farms must engage with the NMFS regarding threatened and endangered species. This usually involves a section 7 informal Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation with the NMFS Habitat Protection Office. Recent USACE permit applications have been receiving pushback from NMFS regarding the following:

a. Sunflower Sea Stars (SSS) will at some point be listed as threatened under the ESA. The NMFS habitat protection biologist was requiring dive or ROV surveys prior to gear installation such as anchors to ensure that no sea stars were harmed. This is time consuming and expensive for farmers, it would be better to have a “take” issued for the industry, similar to what has been done for commercial fisheries, so that farmers can deploy gear without expensive mitigation measures. Alicia Bishop with NOAA said this is a real possibility and probably the best route for the industry, we need to see that this gets done. Commercial fisheries have lobbyists and policy specialists that have helped get these “takes” allocated, kelp farmers don’t.

b. Almost all coastal waters in Alaska are home to marine mammals, many listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. NMFS is recommending on new USACE permits that farmers use weak links in their farming systems to prevent possible marine mammal entanglements. While these weak links work on the horizontal cultivation lines of a catenary array system they will not work on anchor lines as forces greater than the breaking strength of the weak links are needed to hold large farm systems in place. It seems that the NMFS have a general lack of understanding of farm systems and I think they need a third party to educate them. NMFS is also pushing back on keeping anchors and associated buoy lines in the water, year-round. Removal of 10 or more anchors annually is a huge cost to farmers and may particularly hurt smaller farm operations that have to pay for a larger vessel to assist with anchor placement and removal.

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c. The NMFS is requiring that all farms submit an annual report to NMFS by the end of January annually summarizing each time the farm was visited by the farmer or crew, when gear was deployed, when gear was removed, when kelp is harvested, and if there were any endangered, threatened or generally any marine mammals in or around the site. While farmers may not mind submitting data in an online form regarding marine mammal or EAS listed species in and around the farms, the other information is private and perhaps even proprietary. NMFS has no plan as to how the information will remain confidential, how it will be used, nor is there any format or template for a report. Farmers already report harvest and sale information to the State of Alaska annually, the state does not ask for this level of information. There is also no precedence for this level of oversight and reporting for any state managed fisheries in Alaska. Kelp and seaweed resources from 0-3mi are under the management oversight of the state of Alaska.

As mariculture continues to expand in coastal Alaska it will be imperative that the industry collectively engage with regulators to develop solutions to these issues that work physically and financially for farmers. We request assistance from the AMA to achieve greater understanding between regulators and farmers to develop regulations that support rather than hinder ecologically responsible mariculture development. Is there an update for the status of these conversations with NMFS and the office of habitat management?

**2. Timesheet** -Please see attached timesheets included in our invoice.

**3. Expenses** -None this month.

*I certify that all reported time worked is accurate and in support of the Alaska Mariculture Alliance Communication, Connection and Coordination Services Agreement stated scope of work.*



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Roberta J. Townsend Vennel, Executive Director.

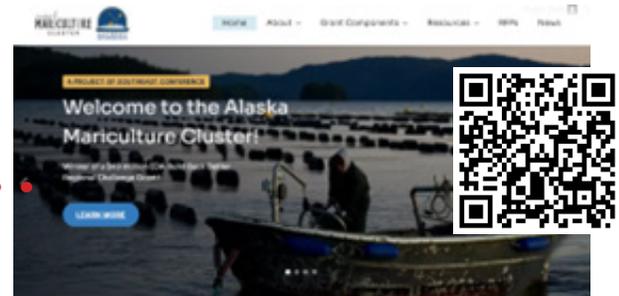
# Alaska Mariculture Cluster Liaison Program Toolkit



The following resources are intended to help AMA Liaisons provide communication, connection, and coordination services to underserved, rural, and Alaska Native communities in support of mariculture development. This program plays a critical role in ensuring that these communities are included in the state's growing mariculture industry.

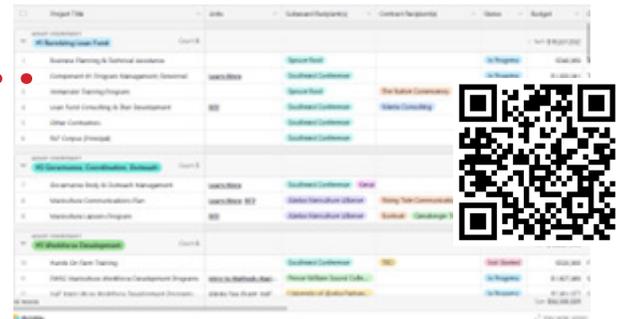
## AlaskaMaricultureCluster.org

The AMC Website is where you can find more detailed information about the AMC grant components, [active and archived RFPs](#), [funding compliance resources](#), and the [latest news](#) and reports. Everything we do is being shared on the AMC website.



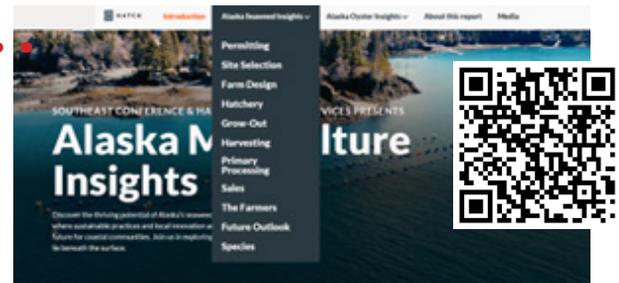
## AMC Airtable Database

The AMC Airtable Database serves as a user-friendly, centralized information hub for everything related to the AMC grant coalition. It consolidates information from every AMC-funded project into a single online platform, connecting the dots of 100+ projects being led by 20+ subaward recipients and 80+ contract recipients. Users can search, filter, and group projects by subaward recipient, contract recipient, status, budget, region, location, species, and more.



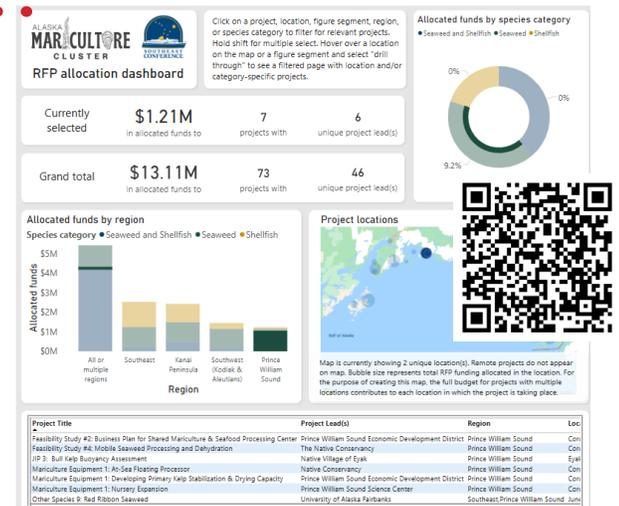
## Alaska Mariculture Insights

SEC contracted with Hatch Innovation Services to create the open-source Alaska Mariculture Insights Platform for seaweed and oysters. It presents production insights broken down into the different supply chain stages and provides a unique perspective of the Alaska's seaweed and oyster industries, while also providing more great tools, maps, media, and other resources.



## Alaska RFP Allocation Dashboard

The AMC RFP Allocation Dashboard encompasses AMC funds allocated through competitive RFPs put out by Southeast Conference and its AMC subaward recipients. Users can filter funded projects by species category, regio, and location to understand how the AMC has allocated RFP funds.



## Sign up for the AMC Newsletter



Please contact Charlie Herrington for assistance: [charlie@seconference.org](mailto:charlie@seconference.org) (907) 419-4433

# Mariculture Liaison Program

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The Alaska Mariculture Cluster's (AMC) Liaison Program is charged with providing rural community leaders (Tribal and municipal) a clear understanding of the BBBRC components projects, funding opportunities, and other available resources. The Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA) contracts with liaisons to provide communication, connection, and coordination services that play a critical role in ensuring these communities are included in the state's growing mariculture industry. Each liaison position is funded annually at \$90,000 to provide the support necessary to achieve this goal. Contracts are typically one year, with a renewal option based on performance. AMC and AMA provide liaisons with resources to assist their outreach, engagement, and technical support efforts.

Below is a summary of each liaison's scope of work and expected deliverables:

## Task 1 - Outreach and Engagement

- Contact leaders of all Tribal governments, Tribal corporations, and municipalities within your region.
- Thoroughly inform and regularly meet with Tribal and municipal leaders to exchange information related to local mariculture priorities and opportunities.
- Plan, design, and conduct culturally appropriate listening sessions, workshops, and presentations for the purpose of sharing information about and collecting input on local mariculture priorities.
  - Written reports will be generated after each session and workshop.
- Conduct at least four in-person (per year) community-wide meetings to gather input and discuss local mariculture priorities.
  - Detailed meeting notes with actionable items and follow-up guidance will be provided to AMA.
- Travel to meetings and conferences.
- Engage in miscellaneous outreach tasks.

## Task 2 - Technical Support

- Assist new and existing mariculture businesses with funding, permitting, farm design, research, grant writing, and proposal submissions.
- Develop relationships with key stakeholders and agencies such as NOAA, UAF, UAA, EPA, ANTHC, and local economic development districts.
  - Conduct desktop research of each organization and its mariculture-related programs.
  - Establish appropriate points of contact.
  - Conduct informal interviews about mariculture programs and resources.
  - Develop an annual contacts list.
- Inform industry members about regional mariculture events and help them secure funding to attend.

## Administrative & Initial Tasks

- Participate in weekly AMA meetings.
- Provide monthly summaries of activities and impacts for each of the bullet points in Tasks 1 & 2, using AMA-approved reporting template, to be submitted with monthly timesheets.
- Create and maintain a list of community leaders and primary contacts to be shared with AMA.
- Develop a task execution schedule in collaboration with AMA.



9360 Glacier Hwy, Ste 201  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-4360  
[www.seconference.org](http://www.seconference.org)  
[www.alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://www.alaskamariculturecluster.org)

## Kelp Seed Quality Improvement

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP #2024-06

EDA Project Number 07-79-0794

Date of Issue: December 18, 2024

Closes: February 12, 2025

### Summary

Southeast Conference is soliciting proposals from individuals, companies, or organizations, as part of the Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) program, to advance projects that improve kelp seed quality and scalability in Alaska.

To scale the kelp industry in Alaska, farmers need increased access to quality, reliable kelp seed. Seed consistency can lower cost structures as well as improve yield estimates, which can inform business planning and build trust with buyers. This RFP is focused on projects with the potential to increase seed quality and consistency for the benefit of Alaska's kelp farmers and coastal communities.

### Background

Southeast Conference – the state and federally recognized economic development organization for Southeast Alaska – is the lead institution administering a federal grant from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) to grow Alaska's mariculture industry through the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) program. The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) grant coalition includes a diverse group of stakeholders including Alaska state regulatory agencies, Alaska's university system,

Economic Development Districts, trade organizations, and more. A Governance Body, composed of AMC coalition leads as well as Tribal representatives from each of the project regions, guides the work and equity metrics of the overall grant. The Alaska Mariculture Cluster has an overall equity goal that applies to all projects. Specifically, 25% of AMC program impacts and investments are targeted to rural underserved communities and 25% to Alaska Native entities and individuals.

The AMC grant is composed of seven component projects (listed below), which have been purposely designed to be complementary to address barriers to growth and break out of the “chicken or egg” cycle of industry development:

- Revolving Loan Fund
- Governance, Coordination and Outreach
- Workforce Development
- Research and Development
- Market Development
- Green Energy
- Equipment and Technology

The full project period for the AMC BBBRC project is October 1, 2022 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. More information on the Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) is available at [www.alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://www.alaskamariculturecluster.org), including the Overarching Narrative, which explains how the seven components work together to grow the mariculture industry in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner.

### *Related AMC Projects*

Applicants are encouraged to consider ways to collaborate or build on what has been learned or is currently underway. Related AMC projects underway include:

- Chugach Regional Resources Commission is currently researching optimal gametophyte husbandry and direct seeding protocols for *Saccharina latissima*. This project is funded through an Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation Joint Innovation Project, see [here](#) for more info.

- The [Gene Conservation Lab](#) at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is currently developing GTseq panels for sugar, ribbon, and bull kelp to determine the effective population size and population structure of kelps in Alaska as a sub-awardee of the AMC BBBRC.
- Some recipients of the AMC’s [first round of equipment funding](#) are procuring kelp nursery supplies and equipment. A second equipment funding RFP is set to be issued in early January 2025. Note: due to EDA requirements, only certain entities are eligible to be awarded equipment funding. Please refer to the “Eligible Entities” section in the AMC’s first [Equipment RFP](#).
- Research by McKinley Research Group and the Pacific Shellfish Institute, summarized in a [November 2024 report](#), found that poor seed quality and failures at the hatchery level contributed to lower harvests in 2024 and are a significant issue currently impacting the Alaska seaweed industry.

## Eligible Entities

Some previous RFPs from SEC for the AMC program have not allowed private businesses to apply. That restriction does not apply to this RFP and a wide variety of entities are encouraged to apply. If you need assistance navigating the application process, contact Phoebe Koenig at [phoebe@seconference.org](mailto:phoebe@seconference.org) and Dan Lesh at [dan@seconference.org](mailto:dan@seconference.org).

## Scope of Work

To scale the kelp industry in Alaska, farmers need increased access to quality, reliable kelp seed. Seed consistency can lower cost structures as well as improve yield estimates, which can inform business planning and build trust with buyers. This RFP is focused on projects with the potential to increase seed quality and consistency for the benefit of Alaska’s kelp farmers and coastal communities.

Funded projects should focus on commercially relevant kelp species and advance our knowledge and/or increase the adoption of kelp nursery best practices. Ultimately, projects should have the potential to facilitate the growth and sustainability of the mariculture industry in Alaska by improving kelp nursery practices and informing related regulatory discussions.

Any project within this scope will be considered. Potential projects could include:

- Investigating how different nursery or seeding methods affect seed quality, consistency, and farm yield
- Investigating how different nursery methods affect the genetic diversity of the resulting seed and kelp
- Comparing efficiency, commercial viability and scalability, resulting genetic diversity, and/or environmental effects of gametophyte- and spore-based seeding methods
- Tech-transfer services to increase adoption of current best practices for Alaska kelp nurseries

## **Deliverables**

Findings from this RFP will become publicly available on completion. Specific deliverables, deadlines, and projects will be identified in collaboration with selected contractor(s). The following deliverables are generally required of all funded projects:

- Semiannual reports to SEC detailing progress, including any problems encountered and how they are being addressed.
- Annual virtual presentation to AMC Coalition members on project progress
- Summary of the project to be presented at the annual Alaska Mariculture Conference or a similar mutually agreeable venue.
- A copy of all data produced in conducting the project, with code when applicable. Data and code should be provided in commonly used formats with READMEs and annotations that allow other researchers to replicate analyses.
- A final report submitted to SEC detailing project outcomes – including successes, challenges, and lessons learned – to be posted online for the public.

## **Funding Available**

Funding is secured through the AMC equipment and technology component of the BBBRC. Selected proposals must be completed and fully invoiced by September 2026.

The number of funded projects and award amounts will depend on the quantity and quality of proposals received. Proposals may request funding up to \$200,000. If the need for additional related services arises, additional scope and budget may be added to this contract on mutual agreement.

## General Requirements

**Single Point of Contact.** The consultant will designate one person as the project manager and point of contact with SEC. In the case of multiple investigators/contractors, one shall be designated as the lead to serve as the project manager and point of contact. Any change of lead personnel shall be reported to SEC within 7 days. The point of contact will send monthly progress reports to AMC and have regular check-ins with the AMC team.

**Disbarment.** Applicants must have or acquire a UEI and be registered through SAM.gov prior to award finalization. Applicants, including any subcontractors, must not be disbarred from receiving federal funds.

**Alaska Business License.** Per AS 43.70.020(a) a business license is required for the privilege of engaging in a business in the State of Alaska. Per AS 43.70.110(1) “Business” means a for-profit or non-profit entity engaging or offering to engage in a trade, a service, a profession, or an activity with the goal of receiving a financial benefit in exchange for the provision of services, or goods, or other property. If selected for funding under this RFP, an [Alaska Business License](#) will be required.

**Restrictions on Funds.** Funding is not eligible to be used for infrastructure, including construction, real property or improvements to real property. Funding cannot be used to purchase equipment. “Equipment” means purchases of single units with a total purchase price in excess of \$5,000. If your proposal is contingent upon purchasing equipment, please contact Dan Lesh (dan@seconference.org) to discuss in advance of proposal submission. We expect to put out an additional Equipment RFP in early 2025 and we will consider projects that intend to apply to that RFP in tandem with this one on a case-by-case basis.

**Public Information.** All products produced under this RFP will become publicly available on completion. All files and raw data collected during this project shall be the property of SEC.

## Proposal Contents

Proposals are expected to be no more than 8 pages in length, excluding attachments such as budget templates and resumes.

Proposals should include the following components:

- **Introduction and Understanding of the Project.** Include the RFP title, discussion of project context and importance, and an overview of the project team and approach.
- **Methodology.** Discuss the proposed approach to accomplishing the scope of work listed, including deliverables and timeline. Respondents may propose to provide services related to one or more of the tasks listed above.
- **Experience and Qualifications.** Describe relevant experience of the firm and key team members, including any subcontractors if part of your team. Relevant experience includes projects with related content as well as project experience working with rural, coastal, and/or indigenous stakeholders.
- **Management Plan.** Briefly describe how the work will be managed including the role of each key individual/subcontractor expected to be involved in the work and their availability to complete the work.
- **Costs.** Provide a total project cost and breakdown, using the [Contractor Budget Template spreadsheet available at this link](#).

## Proposal Submission Process

**Deadline.** Submit proposals in pdf format by **February 12, 2025** via email to Phoebe Koenig at [phoebe@seconference.org](mailto:phoebe@seconference.org) and Dan Lesh at [dan@seconference.org](mailto:dan@seconference.org).

- Proposers are encouraged to verify with the procurement officer that the proposal has been received prior to the deadline.
- Proposals and additional information provided after the deadline may also be considered but only if such information can be accommodated by the review process.

**Public Information:** Proposals and work plans may be distributed throughout the organization for review and comment. Proprietary information should not be submitted in any proposal. SEC will not knowingly reveal the contents of a proposal that is not subsequently accepted for contract; however, SEC accepts no liability should such contents inadvertently be revealed to third parties.

**Changes.** Any changes or addendum will be posted on the Alaska Mariculture Cluster website and sent directly to respondents who have specifically requested notification.

**Preparation Costs.** SEC is not liable for any costs incurred by the proposer during the proposal preparation.

**Questions.** Inquiries should be directed to Phoebe Koenig at [phoebe@seconference.org](mailto:phoebe@seconference.org) and Dan Lesh at [dan@seconference.org](mailto:dan@seconference.org).

## Evaluation Criteria and Award Process

Criteria for evaluating proposals are as follows:

- Importance of the project to the growth of the Alaska mariculture industry (30%)
- Potential for the project to inform regulatory discussions (10%)
- Past experience on relevant or similar projects (30%)
- Demonstration of capacity and methods to complete deliverables successfully and within a reasonable timeline (20%)
- Costs are reasonable and fall within available/projected funding levels (10%).

Scoring of each proposal against the criteria listed above will be conducted by an RFP review committee. SEC reserves the right to reject any and all of the proposals received. If necessary, SEC may select the proposal or proposals that, in its sole view, most nearly conform to its needs as outlined in this RFP and then negotiate directly with that consultant to refine the proposal to achieve a contract that fully satisfies SEC needs.

## About Southeast Conference

As the state and federally designated regional economic development organization for Southeast Alaska, Southeast Conference serves as the collective voice for advancing the region's economy. Southeast Conference has over 200 member organizations representing 1,200 people from 32 regional communities and 19 Tribes. The mission of Southeast Conference is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska. Southeast Conference formed in 1958 with a group of people supporting the establishment of a regional transportation system in Southeast Alaska, which led to the formation of the Alaska Marine Highway System. After that success Southeast Conference stayed together through more than a half-century to focus on concerns unique to the region, including transportation, maritime, tourism, seafood, natural resources, health care, government, and overall quality of life.



## **Request for Proposals**

### **Mariculture Marine Safety Resource Development**

#### **I. Proposal selection schedule**

14 Feb 2025, 5:00 PM AKDT	Deadline: Proposals due via eSeaGrant by 5pm Alaska time
28 Feb 2025	Selection of projects
1 April 2025	Project start date
1 May 2026	Project end date

#### **II. Summary and proposal objectives**

Alaska Sea Grant is requesting proposals from individuals, companies, or organizations to develop and pilot training materials for Alaska mariculture focused marine safety education.

Proposals should develop materials such as curriculum, online trainings, videos, or publications that meet any of the following priorities:

- Aid in the offering of mariculture specific marine safety trainings by organizations that could include but are not limited to the applicant
- Aid in the offering of train-the-trainer courses with a mariculture focus, similar to Drill Conductor certification courses that are directed to commercial fishermen
- Allow for the integration of mariculture topics into other marine safety courses such as Alaska Water Wise
- Assist farm owners and managers to easily and effectively train new employees on best practices for mariculture safety
- Promote a culture of safety within the mariculture industry in Alaska.

Proposals should include a component designed to promote engagement with educational materials developed through this funding. This could include piloting train-the-trainer or direct-to-farmer mariculture safety courses, or presenting on resources developed at industry events such as the Mariculture Conference of Alaska.

Competitive proposals should include industry outreach and should develop educational materials that have the potential to be accessed by rural and/or Alaska Native communities.

### **III. Project background**

This project is part of the Workforce Development component of the Alaska Mariculture Cluster, a coalition funded by a U.S. Economic Development Administration Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant (project number 07-79-07901). A Governance Body guides the work and equity metrics of the Alaska Mariculture Cluster. Alaska Sea Grant is a part of the coalition and one of the subaward recipients. As part of its subaward, Alaska Sea Grant oversees a portion of the Workforce Development component, one of seven components purposely designed to be complementary in order to break down barriers to growth for the mariculture industry, and break out of the “chicken or egg” cycle of industry development. More information on the Alaska Mariculture Cluster is available at [alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://alaskamariculturecluster.org), including the [Overarching Narrative](#) which explains how the seven components work together to grow the mariculture industry in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner.

Established at the University of Alaska in 1970, Alaska Sea Grant is one of 34 programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Sea Grant College Program, authorized by Congress in 1968. We are funded by federal and state appropriations, as well as project-specific funds from local governments, federal and state agencies, community organizations, and industry. Alaska Sea Grant supports research, education, and extension activities that enhance the ability of Alaskans to understand, conserve, and sustainably use our rich and diverse marine and coastal resources.

### **IV. Proposal award, eligibility, and restrictions on funds**

#### *Award information*

Start dates must be between April 1 and May 1, 2025. Selected proposals will be funded for a timeline generally limited to 12 months, and must be completed by May 1, 2026.

#### *Funding Available:*

The number of projects funded and award amounts will depend on the quantity and quality of proposals received. Proposals of up to \$37,000 will be considered.

#### *Eligible Entities*

Applicants must have or acquire a Unique Identity ID (UEI) and be registered through SAM.gov prior to award finalization. Applicants, including any subcontractors, must not be debarred from receiving federal funds.

### *Alaska Business License*

Per AS 43.70.020(a) a business license is required for the privilege of engaging in a business in the State of Alaska. Per AS 43.70.110(1) "Business" means a for-profit or non-profit entity engaging or offering to engage in a trade, a service, a profession, or an activity with the goal of receiving a financial benefit in exchange for the provision of services, or goods, or other property. If selected for funding under this RFP, an Alaska Business License will be required.

### *Infrastructure and equipment restrictions*

Funding is not eligible to be used for infrastructure, including construction, real property or improvements to real property. Funding cannot be used to purchase equipment. "Equipment" means purchases of single units with a total purchase price, delivered, in excess of \$5,000.00.

### *Product and data sharing*

All products produced under this RFP must become publicly available on completion. All files and raw data collected during this project shall be the property of Alaska Sea Grant.

### *Insurance Requirements*

Funding of projects will be contingent upon providing proof of required insurance policies for project activities, which may include: 1) commercial general liability insurance, with property damage; 2) protection and indemnity insurance, with limits of not less than one million dollars per event; 3) professional liability insurance; and/or 4) workers compensation insurance.

### *Diversity, equity, and inclusion*

Sea Grant champions diversity, equity, and inclusion by recruiting, retaining, and preparing a diverse workforce, and proactively engaging and serving the diverse populations of coastal communities. Sea Grant is committed to building inclusive research, extension, communication, and education programs that serve people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives, and ways of thinking. Alaska Sea Grant encourages proposals that include diverse participants with regards to age, race, ethnicities, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities, cultures, religions, citizenship types, marital statuses, education levels, job classifications, veteran status types, income, and socioeconomic status.

## **V. Proposal guidance**

Proposals must be submitted via eSeaGrant by 5:00 pm AKDT on February 14, 2025.

Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered; the system will shut down automatically and lock out further submissions. Please be sure to allow ample time for online proposal completion and submission. Register in the eSeaGrant system (<https://eseagrants.alaska.edu>) well ahead of the proposal deadline.

During the online submission, be prepared to provide the following information:

1. *Applicants:* Names, affiliations, addresses, phones, emails, and CVs of the principal contact and others who will significantly contribute to the project.
2. *Project title:* Exact title as it appears in the rest of the application. Please keep titles succinct.
3. *Project period:* Initiation and completion dates. Proposals should request a start date of 1 April 2024 or later and a completion date of 01 May 2026 or earlier. Project duration is no more than 12 months.
4. Project narrative (four page maximum):
  - a. *Introduction and Understanding of the Project:* Discuss project context and importance, and provide an overview of the project team and approach.
  - b. *Methodology:* Discuss approach to accomplishing the work planned, including proposed deliverables and timeline.
  - c. *Experience and Qualifications:* Describe relevant experience of the entity and key team member(s), including relevant education or professional experience as it relates to marine safety education in Alaska
5. *Budget table and budget narrative:* A completed budget table and budget narrative, using [the provided template](#), should be uploaded in eSeaGrant. The budget narrative should provide sufficient detail to justify the amount allocated in each category. All salaries must be detailed on a monthly or hourly basis with appropriate institutional fringe benefits or other charges detailed separately. All subawards require full project documentation (narrative and budget) and official approvals from subawardee organizations or institutions.

## VI. Selection criteria and review process

Criteria	Proposal Weighting	Elements
Relevance	40%	Degree to which the proposal meets objectives, outlined in section II
Qualification of applicants	25%	Experience and knowledge of Alaska marine safety education, including past experience with similar projects

Feasibility	25%	Demonstration of capacity to complete deliverables within a reasonable timeline
Budget	10%	Costs are reasonable and fall within available/projected funding levels

Scoring of each proposal against the criteria listed above will be conducted by an RFP review committee. Alaska Sea Grant reserves the right to reject any and all of the proposals received. If necessary, Alaska Sea Grant may select the proposal or proposals that, in its sole view, most nearly conform to the needs as outlined in this RFP and then negotiate directly with that applicant to refine the proposal to achieve a contract that fully satisfies these needs. The Alaska Sea Grant Director has final discretion to select projects based on reviewer feedback, diversity and balance of proposals, availability of funding, and programmatic objectives, needs, and priorities.

## **VII. Reporting requirements**

The following deliverables will be a requirement of all funded projects:

- Semiannual reports to Alaska Sea Grant detailing progress, including any problems encountered and how they are being addressed.
- Virtual presentation to AMC Coalition members on project accomplishments
- Summary of the project to be presented at the annual Alaska Mariculture Conference or a similar mutually-agreeable venue.
- A final report submitted to Alaska Sea Grant detailing project outcomes – including successes, challenges, and lessons learned – to be posted online for the public.
- Federal funding sources shall be identified in all produced materials, conference presentations and posters, and scholarly publications.

## **VIII. Contact information**

To discuss proposal ideas or issues contact Alaska Sea Grant Shellfish Mariculture Specialist James Crimp ([jcrimp@alaska.edu](mailto:jcrimp@alaska.edu)).

For *eSeaGrant* technical issues or questions contact Alaska Sea Grant Communications and Technology Specialist Dave Partee ([dave.partee@alaska.edu](mailto:dave.partee@alaska.edu), 907-474-2432)



9360 Glacier Hwy, Ste 201  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-4360  
[www.seconference.org](http://www.seconference.org)  
[www.alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://www.alaskamariculturecluster.org)

## Alaska Mariculture Cluster AMC Marketing Program RFP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP #2025-06

Date of Issue: April 1, 2025  
Closes: May 5, 2025

### Summary

Southeast Conference (SEC), in partnership with Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA), is soliciting proposals from experienced marketing firms to work with SEC and AMA staff, Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) coalition and industry members, and others to unlock industry growth potential and increase market demand for Alaska mariculture products. Currently, mariculture production in Alaska is primarily focused on oysters and kelp products sold into food-related markets, though many kelp products are being researched and developed for other markets, including bioplastics, cosmetics, agriculture, and other markets. The intent of the RFP is to build demand within existing and emerging markets. Multiple contractors may be selected to ensure the ability to engage in a broad range of mariculture products and markets.

### Background

Southeast Conference – the state and federally recognized economic development organization for Southeast Alaska – is the lead institution administering a federal grant from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) to grow Alaska’s mariculture industry through the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) program. The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) grant coalition includes a diverse group of stakeholders including Alaska state regulatory agencies, Alaska’s university system, Economic Development Districts, trade organizations and more. A Governance Body,

composed of AMC coalition leads as well as Tribal representatives from each of the project regions, guides the work and evaluation of the overall grant.

The AMC grant is composed of seven component projects (listed below), which have been purposely designed to be complementary to address barriers to growth and break out of the “chicken or egg” cycle of industry development:

- Revolving Loan Fund
- Governance, Coordination and Outreach
- Workforce Development
- Research and Development
- **Market Development**
- Green Energy
- Equipment and Technology

The full project period for the AMC BBBRC project is October 1, 2022 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. More information on the Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) is available at [www.alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://www.alaskamariculturecluster.org), including the Overarching Narrative, which explains how the seven components work together to grow the mariculture industry in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner.

### Related AMC Projects

Applicants are encouraged to review and consider existing AMC research and initiatives related to this RFP, including but not limited to the following:

- **Food Sector Market Research:** The AMC has contracted Food for Climate League (FCL) to [conduct market research](#) on consumer preferences, market gaps, and potential growth areas for Alaska's mariculture products in food markets.
- **AMA Governance Coordination and Outreach:** Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA) has a seat on the AMC governing body, manages the tribal and rural community liaison program, and led creation of a Public Relations and Communications Plan for the Alaska mariculture industry.

AMA's members identified marketing as a key priority and voted to support legislation allowing the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute to market mariculture products. AMA will be collaborating with SEC on guiding and informing the work of the contractor selected through this RFP. AMA will create and manage two industry panel groups (shellfish & seaweed) to provide initial input and continued feedback throughout the project, recognizing that each sector has their own unique marketing needs.

- **Kelp Processing Technical Report:** This report provides information on kelp processing technologies, market trends, and regulatory considerations related to both food and non-food applications. "[Kelp Processing: Technical Report on Technology, Market, and Regulatory Considerations](#)".
- **Oyster Nutritional Profile:** AMC recently funded a project managed by the Alaska Shellfish Grower's Association to develop a [nutritional label for Alaska oysters](#).
- **Joint Innovation Projects:** These initiatives are exploring innovative approaches to seaweed processing and farming that may yield new products and applications to be marketed.
- **Equipment Program:** This program supports investments in seaweed processing and nursery equipment that will enhance product quality and consistency.
- **Kelp Biostimulant Market Development:** AMC recently announced funding for three groundbreaking projects that will help propel Alaska's mariculture industry by researching kelp-based biostimulants for agricultural markets.

## Scope of Work

This Marketing Program Development & Implementation project will lay the groundwork for growing the commercial value of Alaska's mariculture industry within Alaska, domestic, and international markets in collaboration with companies producing Alaska mariculture products or products made with Alaska mariculture ingredients.

Successful proposals will demonstrate a plan to increase demand for Alaska mariculture products sold into food-related markets as well as unlock industry potential within less developed markets, such as agriculture, bioplastics, and cosmetics, among others. The work of this project may feed into future marketing efforts by trade organizations or marketing associations working to advance Alaska's mariculture industry.

Proposals can address a variety of topics, including some or all of those listed below. Proposers may include additional recommendations or specifics that would benefit the project based on their professional expertise.

- Digital & Physical Asset Creation
  - Coordinating photographers with industry members to create a media library of high-quality imagery/video assets of mariculture operations, products, preparations, and consumers. Ensure permissions are in place for expected uses.
  - Establish methodology for using these assets for long-lasting effect, such as an online platform to share assets among industry and promotion partners or other long-term uses.
- Trade Show and/or Culinary Festival Participation
  - Organize an Alaska mariculture umbrella booth or presence at trade shows or festivals focused on targeted audiences for mariculture products. This could include consumer-packaged goods (CPG), food service, seafood, agricultural markets, beauty/health ingredient markets, and/or others.
  - Support mariculture food product samples at events. Please explain the target audience and target mariculture products associated with any proposed events.
- Media & Familiarization Tours/or in-bound buyer's missions
  - Design and execute media and/or influencer familiarization trips to Alaska mariculture farms, processing facilities, and coastal communities. Trips will support targeted food influencers and media becoming Alaska mariculture advocates and ambassadors, among other strategic goals.

- Design and execute in-bound buyer’s mission targeting one or more segments of the mariculture industry
- Engaging Restaurants, Chefs, & Retailers
  - Partner and promote mariculture products to grow familiarity among chefs and retail buyers about taste and potential uses of kelp, oyster, and other mariculture products.
  - Conduct menu promotions in target markets, including within Alaska, showcasing Alaska mariculture products suitable for restaurants.
- Digital and physical sales collateral such as buyer’s guides, tasting notes, or marketing templates that producers can customize to fit their products.

All deliverables produced under this RFP will become publicly available on completion. Specific deliverables, deadlines, and projects will be identified in collaboration with selected contractor(s), building on project proposals submitted through this RFP.

## **Funding Available:**

A total of \$500,000 in funding available, secured through the AMC’s [Market Development](#) component project. Depending on proposals received and the submitting firms’ specialized expertise, multiple contractors may be selected for different work areas. SEC is pursuing approval of additional marketing funds through the AMC project; if approved, additional budget could be added to this contract on mutual agreement with selected contractor(s).

## **General Requirements:**

**Timeline.** A notice of intent to award is expected to be announced by May 23, 2025. Project work is to begin in June or July 2025. Selected proposals will be funded through the end of the AMC grant (September 2026).

**Single Point of Contact.** The consultant will designate one person as the project manager and point of contact with SEC. In the case of multiple investigators, one shall be designated as the lead to serve as the project manager and point of contact.

**Progress Reports.** Updates will be submitted to SEC monthly, detailing progress to date, any difficulties encountered in accomplishing the work, and next steps planned.

**Disbarment.** Applicants must have or acquire a UEI through SAM.gov prior to award finalization. Applicants, including any subcontractors, must not be disbarred from receiving federal funds.

**Public Information.** All products produced under this RFP will become publicly available on completion.

## **Proposal Contents:**

Proposals are expected to be no more than 10 pages in length, excluding attachments such as resumes, project examples, letters of support, and/or budget templates. Proposals should include the following components:

### **1. Introduction and Project Understanding**

- Demonstrate understanding of the Alaska mariculture industry and relevant markets
- Overview of team and approach to the project

### **2. Methodology**

- Provide a proposed approach to the scope of work, including general tactics, timelines, and deliverables
- Describe how the plan will address different market segments and product applications
- Explain how success will be measured for each component

### **3. Experience and Qualifications**

- Describe relevant experience of the firm and key team members
- Highlight experience with similar projects, industry sectors, and markets

## 5. Management Plan

- Describe how the work will be managed and coordinated, including the role of each key team member and subcontractor
- Provide a project timeline with major milestones
- Explain procedures for ensuring quality control and addressing challenges

## 6. Budget and Cost Effectiveness

- Provide a summarized budget in the proposal as well as spreadsheet budget using the [Contractor Budget Template](#). Details will be further refined and negotiated with the selected contractor.
- Include a table that breaks down costs by major activity/deliverable
- Include fully loaded hourly rates for personnel working on the project

## Proposal Submission Process:

**Deadline.** Submit proposals in pdf format by May 5, 2025 via email to Stephane Granato at [stephane@seconference.org](mailto:stephane@seconference.org) and Dan Lesh at [dan@seconference.org](mailto:dan@seconference.org).

- Proposers are encouraged to verify with SEC that the proposal has been received prior to the deadline.
- Additional information provided after the deadline may also be considered but only if such information can be accommodated by the review process.

**Public Information:** Proposals and work plans may be distributed throughout the organization for review and comment. Proprietary information should not be submitted in any proposal. SEC will not knowingly reveal the contents of a proposal that is not subsequently accepted for contract; however, SEC accepts no liability should such contents inadvertently be revealed to third parties.

**Changes.** Any changes or addendum will be posted on the [Alaska Mariculture Cluster website](#) and sent directly to respondents who have specifically requested notification.

**Preparation Costs.** SEC is not liable for any costs incurred by the proposer during the proposal preparation.

**Questions.** Inquiries regarding this request for proposals shall be directed to Dan Lesh (dan@seconference) and Jason Lessard (jlessard@alaskamariculture.org).

## Evaluation Criteria and Award Process:

Criteria for evaluating proposals are as follows:

- **Strategic Approach and Impact (40%):** The quality, creativity, and potential effectiveness of the proposed marketing approach, including consideration of innovative strategies that address the unique challenges and opportunities of Alaska's mariculture industry.
- **Experience and Capability (40%):** The qualifications, experience, and demonstrated success of the proposer in similar marketing initiatives. Specific experience with seafood, agricultural, or marine products marketing will be highly valued.
- **Cost Effectiveness (20%):** The reasonableness of the proposed budget relative to the scope of work and expected outcomes. Efficient use of resources and clear budget justification.

Scoring of each proposal against the criteria listed above will be conducted by an RFP review committee. SEC reserves the right to reject any and all of the proposals received. If necessary, SEC may select the proposals that, in its sole view, most nearly conform to its needs as outlined in this RFP and then negotiate directly with that proposer to refine the proposal to achieve a contract that fully satisfies SEC's needs.

## About Southeast Conference:

As the state and federally designated regional economic development organization for Southeast Alaska, Southeast Conference serves as the collective voice for advancing the region's economy.

Southeast Conference has over 200 member organizations representing 1,200 people from 32 regional communities and 19 Tribes. The mission of Southeast Conference is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska. Southeast Conference formed in 1958 with a group of people supporting the establishment of a regional transportation system in Southeast Alaska, which led to the formation of the Alaska Marine Highway System. After that success Southeast Conference stayed together through more than a half-century to focus on concerns unique to the region, including transportation, maritime, tourism, seafood, natural resources, health care, government, and overall quality of life.

### **About Alaska Mariculture Alliance:**

Established in 2021, the Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA) is a successor organization to the Alaska Mariculture Task Force. AMA is a nonprofit organization with the stated mission to develop a robust, sustainable mariculture industry for the long-term benefit of Alaska's economy, environment, and communities. AMA's membership represents a diverse cross-section of Alaska's growing mariculture industry and includes shellfish and seaweed farmers and processors, hatchery operators, Alaska Native Corporations and villages, regional economic development authorities, research institutions, state agencies, and coastal communities.



9360 Glacier Hwy, Ste 201  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-4360  
[www.seconference.org](http://www.seconference.org)  
[www.alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://www.alaskamariculturecluster.org)

## Mariculture Equipment RFP Rounds II & III

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP #2025-01

#### **Timeline: Equipment Round II**

Date Opens: January 22, 2025

~~Closing Date: April 7, 2025~~

Closing Date: May 5, 2025

#### **Timeline: Equipment Round III**

Date Opens: July 11, 2025

Closing Date: October 13, 2025

### Summary

Under the Equipment & Technology component of the Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) grant, Southeast Conference is soliciting proposals from eligible entities for the purchase of equipment to support mariculture operations. The goal of this RFP is to stimulate mariculture industry growth through strategic investments in nursery, hatchery, and processing capacity in Alaska. Equipment purchases will help industry participants:

- Safely and cost-effectively handle and process seaweed and shellfish into products with strong market demand.
- Reduce operating costs, increase production capacity, and improve seed quality and consistency.
- Add capacity where needed to address any regional seed supply gaps.

### Background

Southeast Conference – the state and federally recognized economic development organization for Southeast Alaska – is the lead institution administering a federal grant from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) to grow Alaska’s mariculture industry through the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) program. The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) grant coalition includes a diverse group of stakeholders including Alaska state regulatory agencies, Alaska’s university system, Economic Development Districts (EDDs), trade organizations, and more. A Governance Body,

composed of AMC coalition leads as well as tribal representatives from each of the project regions, will guide the work and equity metrics of the overall grant. The AMC has an overall equity goal that applies to all projects. Specifically, 25% of AMC program impacts and investments are targeted to rural underserved communities and 25% to Alaska native entities and individuals.

The AMC grant is composed of seven component projects (listed below), which have been purposely designed to be complementary to address barriers to growth and break out of the “chicken or egg” cycle of industry development:

- Revolving Loan Fund
- Governance, Coordination and Outreach
- Workforce Development
- Research and Development
- Market Development
- Green Energy
- **Equipment and Technology**

The full project period for the AMC BBBRC project is October 1, 2022 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. More information on the Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) is available at [www.alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://www.alaskamariculturecluster.org), including the Overarching Narrative, which explains how the seven components work together to grow the mariculture industry in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner.

A total of \$7.2 million in equipment funds are included in the AMC grant. Additionally, \$378,000 in supplies is included with a focus on hatchery/nursery supplies. SEC intends to use the supplies budget to support equipment purchases.

Through a separate RFP awarded in summer 2023, SEC hired Hatch – a global aquaculture consultancy – to provide equipment consulting services to SEC as well as potential equipment applicants upon request. Requests for Hatch consulting services can be made at any time and will be considered by SEC on a rolling basis – reach out to [dan@seconference.org](mailto:dan@seconference.org) to discuss your information needs and the fit with the Hatch consulting services available. Hatch will also be advising SEC in the process of evaluating proposals submitted through this RFP.

Proposals are solicited from qualified applicants with equipment programs that broadly stimulate the growth of the mariculture industry in their region. Consideration will be given to ensure a spread of projects between the four regions identified in the AMC grant (Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula, and Kodiak/Aleutians).

## **Eligible Entities**

Due to EDA rules, only the following types of entities are eligible for proposing equipment purchases through the AMC grant:

- EDA-designated Economic Development Districts
- Indian Tribes, consortium of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Tribal Cooperatives
- States, boroughs, cities, or other political subdivisions of a State
- Institutions of higher education or consortiums of institutions of higher education
- Non-profit organizations.

## **Eligible Equipment and Expenses**

Equipment purchases must be for use at mariculture hatcheries/nurseries or processing facilities/sites. Farming equipment is not eligible for funding. Equipment is defined in 2 CFR 200.1 as tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds \$5,000 (these regulations were updated in 2024 but the AMC grant is operating off the rules in place when the grant was finalized in 2022). Equipment maintenance and use are not funded under this RFP, only the cost of equipment purchase, shipping, and calibration.

It is important to note that this RFP is for equipment purchases, not construction projects. Construction activities, such as electrical or plumbing modifications to buildings as just one example, cannot be funded through the AMC grant.

## **AMC Equipment Procurement and Purchase Process**

Prior to receiving funding, applicants must have a plan for housing and maintaining the equipment for its useful life, among other requirements.

Applicants should be aware that EDA will maintain first priority lien on any equipment purchased with BBBRC funds and will require recipients of BBBRC-funded equipment to follow specific procurement and filing processes detailed in this [Equipment Purchase Checklist](#) found on the AMC website's [resources page](#). Applicants also must not be disbarred from receiving federal funds and have an active UEI number through sam.gov. Applicants are advised that additional requirements may be added by EDA or SEC to meet federal requirements.

Successful applicants to this RFP can elect to either be reimbursed for the relevant equipment or have SEC pay equipment vendors directly on behalf of the applicant. Both options require applicants to assume ownership of the equipment and fulfill the requirements listed in the equipment purchase checklist describe above. Please contact SEC with any questions.

## **Funding Available:**

Funding is secured through the Equipment & Technology component of the AMC grant, which includes \$7.2 million in equipment funding and \$378K in supplies funding. [Round I of the Equipment program](#) resulted in the allocation of approximately \$2.25 million for nine projects. The remaining amount of the equipment funds are intended to be released in two additional rounds under this RFP.

The amount of equipment funding obligated under each round will depend on the quantity and quality of proposals received. Up to but not more than three-quarters of the remaining equipment funds may be obligated in Round II, with the remaining funds expected to be fully obligated in Round III.

Completion of the necessary steps to acquire equipment through the AMC grant can take many months if not more than a year. All grant funds through the equipment and technology component project must be invoiced and reimbursed by September 2026.

There is no cap set on each individual equipment purchase, but impact is expected to scale with project budget.

Applicants may indicate if a proposed project can move forward with partial funding and identify funding sources that have been previously sought, if applicable. Match is not required though financial

resources and experience will be considered as part of the applicant's ability to house and maintain the equipment for its useful life.

## **Proposal Contents:**

Proposals should be fully developed and include specifics relating to budget, operations, and maintenance. There is no page limit. Supporting documents including resumes, letters of support, designs, equipment quotes, etc. can be included. The details and documentation will prepare your project for the next steps of the equipment procurement process should your proposal be funded.

### **Proposals should include the following:**

1. Name of organization, Title of project, and Project Leader and team members with email contact(s) and description of experience (resumes or CVs may be attached).
2. Focus area (hatchery/nursery or processing).
3. Description of equipment requested – please include cost estimates with supporting documentation (quotes, designs, etc).
4. Discussion of project context and importance, including any related work completed to date. How is the equipment purchase necessary to stimulate growth within the relevant focus area (hatchery/nursery/processing) and region?
5. Description of how the equipment purchase will have a broad benefit to multiple stakeholders and contribute to the equity goals in the BBB program. Please include letters of support from local and regional stakeholders. All proposals must demonstrate collaboration with and/or support from local or regional Alaska Native entities.
6. Description of the organization requesting funding and proposed equipment program. Where present, include a description of the organization's activities related to mariculture; experience with federal grants/contracts; experience with housing, maintaining, and/or using equipment comparable to that requested. Proposals should include a detailed plan for housing, maintaining, and using equipment purchased, including sources of funding identified for

maintaining and operating the equipment. Please include a layout of the facility with the location marked where the equipment will be used/installed.

7. Detailed Budget- Provide a total project cost and breakdown, using the [Equipment Subaward Budget Template available at this link](#). Only equipment and supplies can be funded through this RFP, though other expenses can be included to document other funding secured to support the applicant's overall equipment program.
8. Letter of commitment from the governing body of the organization requesting equipment indicating support for the acquisition, placement, use, and maintenance of the equipment.

## Proposal Submission Process

**Deadline.** Submit proposals in pdf format **by April 7, 2025** for consideration in Round II and **by October 13, 2025** for consideration in Round III. Submit proposals via email to procurement officer Alan Sorum at alan@seconference.org and project manager Dan Lesh at dan@seconference.org.

Proposers are encouraged to verify with the procurement officer that the proposal has been received before their intended deadline.

Additional information provided after the deadline may also be considered but only if such information can be accommodated by the review process.

**Public Information:** Proposals and work plans may be distributed throughout the organization for review and comment. Proprietary information should not be submitted in any proposal. SEC will not knowingly reveal the contents of a pre-proposal that is not subsequently accepted for contract; however, SEC accepts no liability should such contents inadvertently be revealed to third parties.

**Changes.** Any changes or addendum will be posted on the Alaska Mariculture Cluster website and sent directly to respondents who have specifically requested notification.

**Preparation Costs.** SEC is not liable for any costs incurred by the proposer during the pre-proposal preparation.

**Questions.** Inquiries regarding this request for proposals can be directed to procurement officer Alan Sorum at alan@seconference.org and project manager Dan Lesh at dan@seconference.org.

## Evaluation Criteria and Award Process

Consideration will be given to ensure a spread of projects between the four regions identified in the AMC grant (Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula, and Kodiak/Aleutians).

Criteria for evaluating proposals are listed below. There is no cap set on each individual equipment purchase, but the larger the budget the more impact will be expected:

- Organizational capacity – Does the entity receiving equipment have the resources needed to house, maintain, and use the equipment for its useful life (or a credible plan to gather the necessary resources)? (35%)
- Regional impact – Does the equipment purchase represent a coordinated solution that addresses a barrier to mariculture industry growth in the state or region? How much does this investment stimulate private sector job creation/investment and benefit multiple stakeholders? (50%)
- Cost effectiveness – Does the proposed purchase use appropriate technology to accomplish goals in a cost-effective way? (15%)

Scoring of each proposal against the criteria listed above will be conducted by an RFP review committee. SEC reserves the right to reject any and all of the proposals received. If necessary, SEC may select the proposals that, in its sole view, most nearly conform to its needs as outlined in this RFP and then negotiate directly with SEC staff and its consultant to refine the proposal to achieve a contract that fully satisfies SEC needs.

Decisions on proposals are expected to be announced by May 19, 2024 for Round II and November 14, 2025 for Round III.

## About Southeast Conference

As the state and federally designated regional economic development organization for Southeast Alaska, Southeast Conference serves as the collective voice for advancing the region's economy. Southeast Conference has over 200 member organizations representing 1,200 people from 32 regional communities and 19 Tribes. The mission of Southeast Conference is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska. Southeast Conference formed in 1958 with a group of people supporting the establishment of a regional transportation system in Southeast Alaska, which led to the formation of the Alaska Marine Highway System. After that success Southeast Conference stayed together through more than a half-century to focus on concerns unique to the region, including transportation, maritime, tourism, seafood, natural resources, health care, government, and overall quality of life.



## **Call for Applications**

### Farmer Knowledge Exchange Grant Program 2025

#### **I. Introduction**

Aquaculture is the world's fastest growing food production sector, and innovations in the industry are occurring at a rapid pace. With its maritime background, extensive coastline, and reputation for producing some of the highest quality seafood in the world, Alaska's shellfish and seaweed (mariculture) industry is well positioned for expansion. Due to the remote nature of the state, staying abreast of current technologies and innovations occurring nationally and internationally presents a challenge for Alaskan mariculturists.

To assist Alaskan mariculturists in taking advantage of the most up to date technology and husbandry practices, Alaska Sea Grant is accepting applications from farmers for travel funding to visit mariculture operations elsewhere. This funding is available for travel within the state of Alaska and nationally. Along with bringing information to the state of Alaska, this program seeks to build awareness of the Alaskan mariculture brand by encouraging reciprocal knowledge exchange from Alaskan industry members to other regions.

#### **II. Funding**

Applications for up to \$3,500 per farmer per calendar year will be considered. This figure is the estimated cost of a trip for one person for a weeklong visit to another farming region in the continental US, including airfare, car rental, lodging, and per diem.

Generally, funding will be considered for up to two staff per farming business. Larger group trips, including staff from multiple farms, are encouraged to make for more efficient knowledge sharing and travel.

Applicants should not book travel until confirmation of award is received if trip is contingent upon funding from this program. While travel and lodging can be booked up front by the UAF travel office, some expenses, including per diem, will need to be reimbursed after travel has concluded.

### III. Eligibility

This application is primarily targeted to commercial mariculture businesses, including farmers and hatchery/nursery operators. Not-for-profit organizations or individuals that are actively involved in the cultivation of marine organisms for commercial, subsistence, or restoration purposes may also be considered. Preference will be given to applicants that have over a year of experience with cultivation.

In cases where individuals from multiple farms are applying for joint travel, staff from not-for-profit organizations may be included to assist with travel logistics and knowledge capture for sharing back to Alaska.

### IV. Application Guidance

Applications can be submitted in eSeaGrant for a single individual or groups of individuals. During the online submission process, be prepared to provide the following information:

- 1. Applicants:** Name, business/group, position, address, phone, and email of all applicants
- 2. Trip details:**
  - a. Letter of support from at least one host farm you plan to visit (an email is sufficient)
  - b. Tentative trip itinerary, including approximate dates of travel
- 3. Narrative** (maximum two pages, single-spaced) answering the following questions:
  - a. How did you decide on the proposed location for your trip?
  - b. What knowledge do you hope to gain and how will it benefit your business or endeavor?
  - c. Why is travel necessary to achieve this knowledge?
  - d. How will you work to share the information learned with the broader Alaska mariculture industry?
- 4. Budget table:** A completed budget table, using the [provided template](#), should be uploaded in eSeaGrant.

### V. Selection criteria and review process

Selection will be determined by the following criteria:

- *Impact:* the degree to which the knowledge obtained has the potential to positively impact the Alaska mariculture industry as a whole. Applications targeting innovations that are specific to a single grower will be less competitive than if these innovations are more broadly applicable to the Alaskan industry.

- *Travel necessity:* applications should demonstrate that travel is necessary to obtain the information sought, or that connections made while traveling will be highly valuable to the applicant going forward. Applications should propose an itinerary that is centered around mariculture and makes good use of time for learning purposes.
- *Information sharing plan:* While not required, applicants that propose going beyond the reporting requirements (below) to share the knowledge and innovations they learn with other farmers will be given priority.
- *Experience farming:* Farmers that have been actively cultivating a crop for over a year will be given priority

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis by a review panel of at least three individuals. Travel must commence within the 2025 calendar year.

## **VI. Reporting Requirements**

Awardees will be required to complete a trip summary (two pages single spaced) detailing travel activities and highlights from what they have learned. Awardees will be required to present on trip findings at a webinar with other awardees. We LOVE photos and video for sharing via social media and other outreach. *Proprietary information shared by host farms will not be required to be reported.*

### VII. Contact Information

With questions or to discuss proposal ideas, contact Alaska Sea Grant Shellfish Mariculture Specialist James Crimp ([jcrimp@alaska.edu](mailto:jcrimp@alaska.edu)).

For eSeaGrant technical issues or questions contact Alaska Sea Grant Communications and Technology Specialist Dave Partee ([dave.partee@alaska.edu](mailto:dave.partee@alaska.edu), 907-474-2432)

## **VII. Funding Background**

This project is part of the Workforce Development component of the Alaska Mariculture Cluster, a coalition funded by a U.S. Economic Development Administration Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant (project number 07-79-07901). A Governance Body guides the work and equity metrics of the Alaska Mariculture Cluster. More information on the Alaska Mariculture Cluster is available at [alaskamariculturecluster.org](http://alaskamariculturecluster.org), including the [Overarching Narrative](#) which explains how the seven components work together to grow the mariculture industry in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner.

Established at the University of Alaska in 1970, Alaska Sea Grant is one of 34 programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Sea Grant College Program, authorized by Congress in 1968. We are funded by federal and state appropriations, as well as project-specific funds from local governments, federal and state agencies, community organizations, and industry. Alaska Sea Grant supports research, education, and extension activities that enhance the ability of Alaskans to understand, conserve, and sustainably use our rich and diverse marine and coastal resources.