



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT UPDATES FOR THE ALASKA MARICULTURE CLUSTER



January 14, 2026

SEAWEED TISSUE ANALYSIS



**2024 AK
Seaweed
Tissue
Analysis
Final Report**

AFDF is working to translate Spencer's doc into Industry-facing report.

Est Release:
February 2026

90% COMPLETE

**2025
Farmed and
wild
samples
processed
at 3 labs**

Compositional analysis results received from : SGS and Creative Proteomics

Allergen testing results pending from Foodmetrics

Additional soluble carbohydrate testing in process by CEVA to allow for more accurate alginate measurement

IN PROGRESS

**2025
Results
Reporting**

Unique sample data to be organized and shared with participating farmers

Statewide results shared, with sample IDs remaining anonymous

STARTING

JOINT INNOVATION PROJECTS

Rounds 1 & 2

A number of Round 2 projects conclude this month and will present their findings at the Mariculture Conference. While extensions vary by project, all Cohort 2 projects are scheduled to finish by September 2026.



12 PROJECTS
COMPLETE



13 PROJECTS
UNDERWAY



3 PROJECTS
CLOSED

JOINT INNOVATION PROJECTS

Round 3 - Innovations in Product Development

This smaller round focused on: product R&D,
scaling, and/or activities necessary to bring new
products to market- will start immediately with
awarded projects concluding Sept-December
2026

17

**Proposals
Received**

5

**NOI to Award
issued**

up to

50k

per project

2-3

**additional
projects
TBD**

JOINT INNOVATION PROJECTS

In collaboration with Jordan Hawkswell, we are conducting a comprehensive review of final project reports to confirm achieved objectives and/or adjustments due to challenges, ensure all data and shareable deliverables (webinars, articles, reports, workshops, photos, etc.) are uploaded, and document any follow-up needs.

In parallel, we have developed a set of metrics across the categories below and distributed surveys to past and current awardees to further assess and track impacts.

METRICS MEASURED

Engagement

Innovation, Products, &
Development

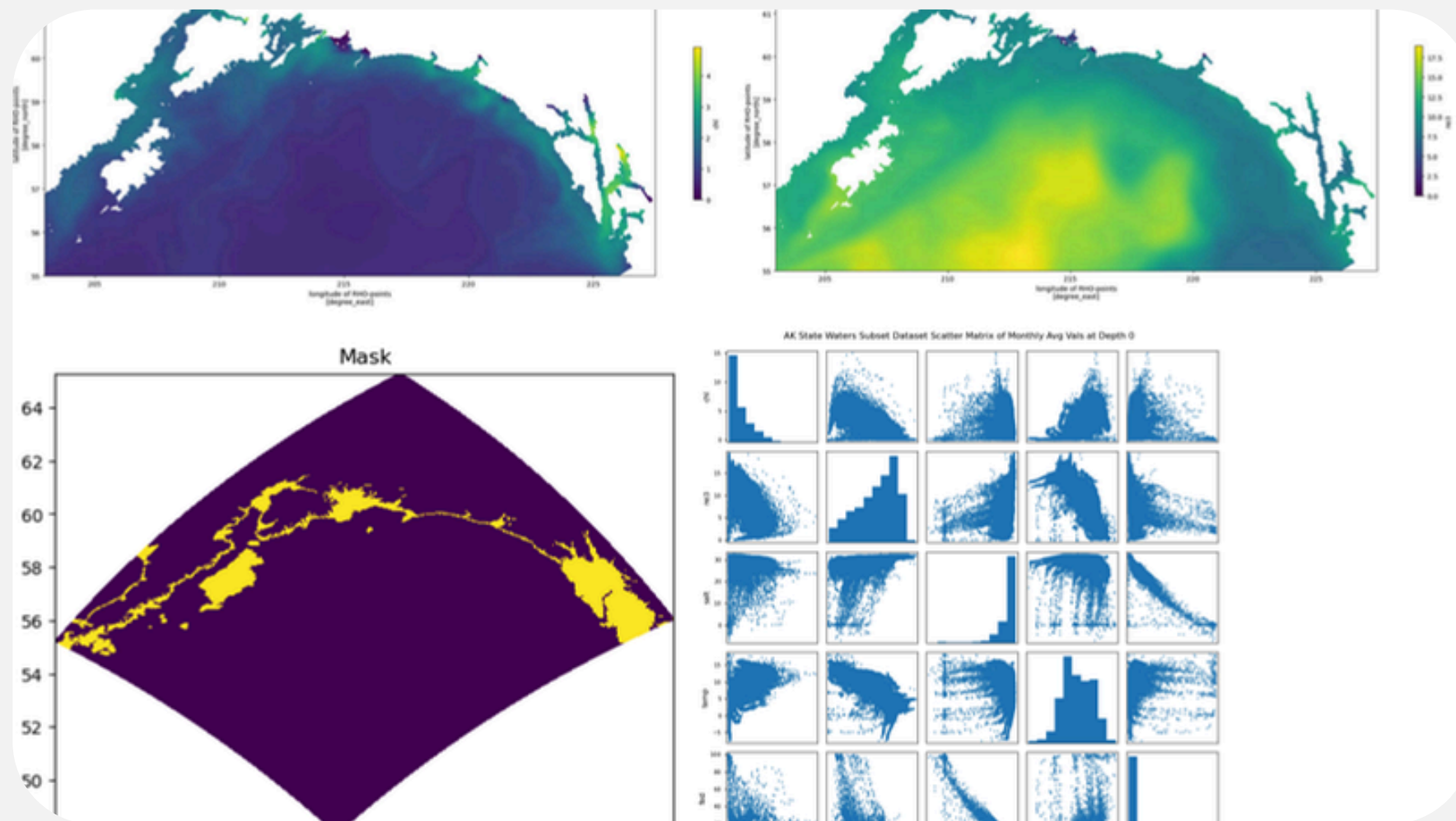
Sector Growth &
Future Plans



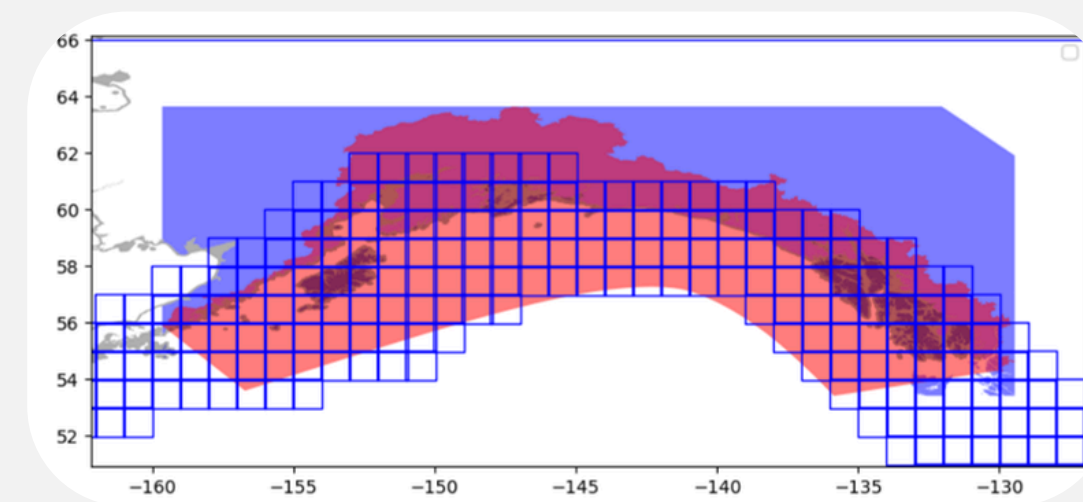
DE-RISKING INVESTMENTS IN AQUATIC FARMING

Kelson Marine

Objective 1: Regional characterization of currents, waves and Biogeochemistry



Continued Gulf of AK literature review with focus on biogeochemistry across estuarine to shelf waters- including assessment of variable relationships between Chl-a, nitrate, dissolved iron, salinity, temperature



Synthesis of all Digital Elevation Models for Gulf of AK region

Objective 2: Regional Informing Required Component Specification of Cultivation Structures for Selected Representative Sites of currents, waves and Biogeochemistry

- Preliminary input from advisory board on ideal represented sites
- revised anchor holding power analysis for imperfectly-embedded anchors in realistic aquaculture applications for component right-sizing
- Techno-economic build-out for cost of production mapping

MARICULTURE CONFERENCE

MARCH 10-12
ANC- Captain Cook Hotel

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