

AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

Due the 10th of each month

Region	Host Organization	Reporting Month / Year	Submission Date
Kodiak Archipelago	KALI	December 2025	12/010/2025

Administrative & Ongoing Tasks

How many total hours were spent this month working on Administrative & Ongoing Task:

Lexa- 7 hours, Robbie- 4 hours

Monthly Reporting

Provide monthly summaries (this report) of activities performing duties outlined in [Liaison Contracts](#).

Timesheets

Provide monthly timesheets. To be submitted with monthly report.

Meetings

Participate in weekly AMA meetings. Lexa also participates in KALI weekly coordination meetings.

List any meetings and dates you were not able to attend:

Either Robbie or Lexa were able to make all the AMA weekly meetings.

Outreach & Engagement (Task 1)

Task 1. A

Contact leaders of all Tribal governments, Tribal corporations, and municipalities within your region. Thoroughly inform and regularly meet with them to exchange information related to local mariculture priorities and opportunities.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. A:

None- please see detail under task 2A.

Continue to update the provided Tracking Sheet to note which organizations have been contacted / re-contacted, their level of interest, and desired scale: [AMA Liaison Outreach Tracking Google Sheet](#)

List any organizations and leaders that you have contacted / re-contacted this month, describe what information you exchanged and their interest [or lack of interest] in mariculture:

Please see detail provided under Task 2A.

Task 1. B

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. 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.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. B:

No hours spent on this task in December.

List and describe any workshops, presentations, or meetings you participated in or planned this month:

No listening sessions, workshops or presentations were planned for/provided in December due to the holidays.

Task 1. C

Travel to meetings and conferences + other outreach.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. C:

No hours spent in December.

List and describe any work-related travel you participated in this month, including dates:

There was no work-related travel in December.

Task 1. D

Engage in miscellaneous outreach & engagement tasks.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. D:

KALI staff performed this task in December without charge to the project.

List and describe any miscellaneous task you engaged in this month:

KALI provides regular updates and forwards announcements through its mariculture listserv on Mailchimp supported by KALI's IT coordinator. Updates and announcements in December included:

December 15th: Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit
<https://mailchi.mp/5c3b42d98de7/team-meeting-next-thursday-10155802>

December 23rd: AMRTC - December Newsletter
<https://mailchi.mp/079e544c5520/team-meeting-next-thursday-10155978>

In addition, KALI provides mariculture updates at its regular Alutiiq Grown (AG) team meetings. AG team meetings occurred on December 18 with 10 participants from the region.

Technical Support (Task 2)

Task 2. A

Assist new and existing mariculture businesses with funding, permitting, farm design, research, grant writing, and proposal submissions.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 2. A: Lexa = 38 hours

List any businesses that you assisted this month and describe your efforts:

Kodiak Ocean Growers.

Lexa continued to encourage participation by Alex Troxell from Old Harbor Native Corporation, Duke Delgado from Spruce Island Farms and Joe Kewan from Port Lions in the Kodiak Ocean Growers. As of the end of December none of them are officially part of the organization nor have they attended a meeting.

Spruce Island Farms, Ouzinkie AK

Lexa continued to support the community of Ouzinkie Alaska in completing their commercial kelp farm and oyster farm lease. The lease was approved by ADNR and the community was providing ADNR with deliverables (proof of insurance, bond fee payment, copy of business license). The permit is stalled due to a letter of appeal received inside of the 20-day appeal period. The appeal is still under review by the State of Alaska. Lexa edited the lease application for oysters as requested by ADNR reviewers. Lexa continues to support Ouzinkie and stand by for further requests for assistance with this issue. It is unlikely that Ouzinkie will produce kelp for the 2026 harvest season due to these issues.

Ouzinkie also does not have their USACE Letter of permission, even though the application was submitted in late April of this year. Last correspondence stated that the USACE was still waiting to hear back from the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the farm and any Endangered Species Act concerns they may have. The shutdown of the US government is having a direct impact on the issuance of this permit. Still no resolution to this permit either as of the end of December 2025.

Old Harbor Alliance/Old Harbor Native Corporation

Lexa continued to support the Old Harbor Community kelp farm oyster gear amendment. The amendment is complete, and the lease is finalized. Alex Troxell, director of community affairs, was in touch and my set out some oyster gear and seed this winter to test how the floating gear and oysters fair at their site over the winter storm season. She confirmed that they wish to outplant 10,000 feet of kelp seed line this season and were interested in selling kelp produced in any local markets. Their kelp farm gear is in Old Harbor and Lexa will continue to support them through gear deployment and seed outplanting this fall. Old Harbor is also awaiting a USACE permit and the shutdown of the US government is having a direct impact on the issuance of this permit. They have been unable to outplant kelp yet due to lack of permitting.

Lexa forwarded the contact information for Sen. Sullivan's office, as provided by the AMA to three farms in the region that have been experiencing federal and state permitting issues. She offered her assistance in interacting with the senator's office staff and compiling information and building a case.

Native Village of Larsen Bay

Lexa continued to support Native Village of Larsen Bay with the purchase of an oyster FLUPSY. She checked in with tribal administrators and council president to see if they needed assistance with anything.

Task 2. B

Develop relationships with key stakeholders and agencies such as NOAA, UAF, UAA, EPA, ANTHC, EDDs, etc.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 2. B:

Lexa -2 hours

List any staff, job title, and organization you assisted this month and describe their relationship to mariculture:

Lexa has been in touch with Melissa Good, Mariculture Specialist and James Crimp, Shellfish specialist at ASG regarding the 2026 farmer exchange program. She will announce the opportunity in an email and at the Alutiiq Grown Team meetings in January 2026.

ASG (Good and Crimp) and former UAF students (Muriel Dittrich, MS Marine Biology) were contacted about assisting with the development of a Dulse and urchin cultivation system in the community of Port Lions. They were both eager to support this project (funding through a source outside this contract and SEC funding). Negotiations on participation and funding for this project are ongoing into 2026.

Task 2. C

Inform industry members about regional mariculture events and help them secure funding to attend.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 2. C:

Lexa Hours -2

List any industry members that you assisted this month and describe:

Please see Task 2. A. for specifics on assistance. Lexa is working on an email and announcements at upcoming Alutiiq Grown Team meetings regarding Farmer Exchange Grants available in 2026. She is working on an email announcement regarding loan opportunities through SEC Revolving Loan Fund.

Additional Questions

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

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. Small markets have emerged but they are not yet significant enough to warrant major investment. Most farms will farm between 10,000-30,000 ft of seed line and anticipate anywhere from 5,000-25,000 lbs. of sales. Production still outpaces markets.

Kodiak Island Borough and Other Alaska Municipalities and Borough Taxation Policies- As reported previously, 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.

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.

USACE Letter of Permission Issuance Delays

At least three farms in the region may not have USACE letters of permission for gear deployment ahead of outplanting this fall. At least 2 of the permits requested were submitted 5 months or more in advance of October 1. This is longer than the 135 days a full ESA consultation requires. An informal consultation by an agency such as USACE typically takes no longer than 60 days, especially considering the USACE stated in all three cases that the project is "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" a listed species or critical habitat. Correspondance with USACE has stated that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has yet to respond and this is stalling issuance of the permit. It would be nice to get clarity from USFWS as to why they are taking so long to respond.

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 finically 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, the office of habitat management, and the USFWS? Lexa met with Emma and Jason in late September to discuss marine mammal and mariculture concerns. Lexa stated that it seems that Agency representatives could benefit from education on mariculture structures/gear types and from speaking directly with farmers.

Describe one success story:

December was a short month due to the holidays, so no specific success story this month. Lexa wa on personal leave from December 17-31.

Describe any follow-up required next month for the above listed activities completed.

1. Continue to help ensure that any upcoming funding opportunities through SEC/AFDF are announced to the communities in the region. Help with proposals as needed.
2. Continue to work with federal and state agencies and the AMA to expedite the permitting and permit renewal process for marine farms and develop permitting processes for clam gardens.
3. Assist communities and farms with engaging with Senator Sullivan's office to resolve ongoing permitting issues in the region.
4. Promote participation in the SEC Revolving Loan Fund in the Region to finance farm gear purchase.

Please attach any photos or other media that could be shared.

AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

Due the 10th of each month

Region	Host Organization	Reporting Month / Year	Submission Date
Kodiak Archipelago	KALI	January 2026	2/09/2026

Administrative & Ongoing Tasks

How many total hours were spent this month working on Administrative & Ongoing Task:

Lexa - 16 hours, Robbie- 4 hours

Monthly Reporting

Provide monthly summaries (this report) of activities performing duties outlined in [Liaison Contracts](#).

Timesheets

Provide monthly timesheets. To be submitted with monthly report.

Meetings

Participate in weekly AMA meetings. Lexa also participates in KALI weekly coordination meetings.

List any meetings and dates you were not able to attend:

Either Robbie or Lexa were able to make all the AMA weekly meetings. Lexa attended the AMA Governance and AMA Board meetings. Lexa participates in KALI weekly coordination meetings.

Outreach & Engagement (Task 1)

Task 1. A

Contact leaders of all Tribal governments, Tribal corporations, and municipalities within your region. Thoroughly inform and regularly meet with them to exchange information related to local mariculture priorities and opportunities.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. A:

None this month, please see detail provided under Task 2A.

Continue to update the provided Tracking Sheet to note which organizations have been contacted / re-contacted, their level of interest, and desired scale: [AMA Liaison Outreach Tracking Google Sheet](#)

List any organizations and leaders that you have contacted / re-contacted this month, describe what information you exchanged and their interest [or lack of interest] in mariculture:

Please see detail provided under Task 2A.

Task 1. B

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. 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.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. B:

Lexa = 14 hours

List and describe any workshops, presentations, or meetings you participated in or planned this month:

Preparation for Virtual Rural Forum Update in April 2026

Lexa has been working with KALI staff to begin work on mariculture updates and presentations as part of the virtual rural forum update scheduled for the end of April. An update agenda should be ready by the end of February.

January 30, 2026 Virtual Meeting with Port Lions City and Tribal Council.

This meeting was originally scheduled to be held in-person but weather did not allow for travel. Instead, a zoom meeting was hosted with the Port Lions City and Tribal Councils regarding mariculture opportunities on January. A power point was prepared to provide information on onshore dulse cultivation and urchin cultivation and presented to the 4 city/tribal council members.

Task 1. C

Travel to meetings and conferences + other outreach.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. C:

None, no travel this month.

List and describe any work-related travel you participated in this month, including dates:

No travel during the month of January. Planned to go out to Port Lions on Jan 30th but the trip was canceled due to weather. Hosted a Zoom meeting instead with the tribal council and the city council. See description provided under Task 1.B.

Task 1. D

Engage in miscellaneous outreach & engagement tasks.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. D:

KALI staff performed this task with no charge to the project.

List and describe any miscellaneous task you engaged in this month:

KALI provides regular updates and forwards announcements through its mariculture listserv on Mailchimp supported by KALI’s IT coordinator. Updates and announcements in January included:

January 15th - UAS Intro to Mariculture course offered ONLINE this spring
<https://mailchi.mp/e5e181f96ed1/invitation-to-traditional-foods-gathering-10156406>

January 21st - AK Mariculture Roundtable
<https://mailchi.mp/dc6d44281e01/invitation-to-traditional-foods-gathering-10156547>

Technical Support (Task 2)

Task 2. A

Assist new and existing mariculture businesses with funding, permitting, farm design, research, grant writing, and

proposal submissions.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 2. A:

Lexa- 44

List any businesses that you assisted this month and describe your efforts:

Kodiak Ocean Growers:

Lexa continued to encourage participation by Alex Troxell from Old Harbor Native Corporation, Duke Delgado from Spruce Island Farms and Joe Kewan from Port Lions in the Kodiak Ocean Growers. As of the end of October none of them are officially part of the organization.

Spruce Island Farms, Ouzinkie, AK

Lexa continued to support the community of Ouzinkie Alaska in completing their commercial kelp farm lease. The lease was approved by ADNR and the community was providing ADNR with deliverables (proof of insurance, bond fee payment, copy of business license). The permit is stalled due to a letter of appeal received inside of the 20-day appeal period. The appeal is still under review by the State of Alaska. Lexa met with City of Ouzinkie, Spruce Island Farms (farmer Duke Delgado, Mayor Elijah Jackson, and Director of Shareholder Services Ouzinkie Native Corporation Vickie Novak) and an arbitration lawyer from the ADNR to discuss the lease and the letter of appeal. It was stated that perhaps moving the lease slightly (<2 miles) might resolve the conflict. Lexa produced several maps along with new coordinates that Ouzinkie could use that showed the lease further away from the Sunny Cove area. Lexa continues to support Ouzinkie and stand by for further requests for assistance with this issue. It is unlikely that Ouzinkie will produce kelp for the 2026 harvest season due to these issues.

The Ouzinkie oyster lease is in agency review. Lexa is standing by to help address any concerns that arise because of this review. Lexa has been in contact with the city clerk and has been assisting her with applying for the USACE permit for this lease.

Ouzinkie also does not have their USACE Letter of permission, even though the application was submitted in late April of this year. Last correspondence stated that the USACE was still waiting to hear back from the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the farm and any Endangered Species Act concerns they may have. The shutdown of the US government is having a direct impact on the issuance of this permit. Still no resolution to this permit either as of the end of January 2026.

Old Harbor Alliance/Old Harbor Native Corporation

Lexa continued to support the Old Harbor Community kelp farm oyster gear amendment. The amendment is complete and the lease is finalized. Alex Troxell, director of community affairs, was in touch and my set out some oyster gear and seed this season to test how the floating gear and oysters fair at their site over the winter storm season. They have been unable to do this due to the lack of a USACE LOP even though the government is back in session and has been for some time. Their kelp farm gear is in Old Harbor and Lexa will continue to support them through gear deployment and seed outplanting, if it takes place at all. They have been waiting since October 10 of 2025 for the LOP to be authorized, putting them well over the 45 days for an information ESA consultation and even beyond the 90 days for a full ESA consultation. They have 10,000 ft of kelp seed that they are currently unable to outplant.

Native Village of Larsen Bay

Lexa continued to support Native Village of Larsen Bay with the purchase of an oyster FLUPSY. She checked in with tribal administrators and council president to see if they needed assistance with anything.

Task 2. B

Develop relationships with key stakeholders and agencies such as NOAA, UAF, UAA, EPA, ANTHC, EDDs, etc.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 2. B:

Lexa- 8 hours

List any staff, job title, and organization you assisted this month and describe their relationship to mariculture:

State of Alaska Office of Small Business Advocacy

Lexa has plans to meet with the State of Alaska office of Small Business Advocacy along with AMA staff in February to review the state and federal permitting issues. She has compiled information and is working on a Presentation to give summarizing the issues and listing solutions to the permitting hold up. The overall theme of the presentation will be that permitting uncertainty, and difficulty is leading to a lack of large investment in mariculture in the State of Alaska.

Alaska Sea Grant-Melissa Good

Lexa continued to work with ASG to secure at least one Farmer Exchange Grant for the region. The community of Port Lions is considering a shore-based mariculture pilot project to grow Dulse and urchins and would like to visit systems in Oregon. Lexa also reached out to Oregon Sea Grant on their behalf. KALI will send out a email notice regarding the open Farmer Exchange Grants for 2026 in February. Former UA students and possibly NOAA faculty are interested in assisting with the dulse project.

Task 2. C

Inform industry members about regional mariculture events and help them secure funding to attend.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 2. C:

Lexa- 6 hours

List any industry members that you assisted this month and describe:

Lexa mentioned the KALI Rural Forum during AMA meetings and AMA/EDD meetings and at the AMC Board Meeting. Lexa also mentioned this event to the Kodiak Ocean Growers and reminded the group of the ongoing Farmer Exchange Grants through SEC. Lexa and Robbie continued to work to get out notifications regarding AMC Grants including the JIP Round III and the AMA Incentive Grant via KALI mailing lists and on social media.

Additional Questions

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

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. Small markets have emerged but they are not yet significant enough to warrant major investment. Most farms will farm between 10,000-30,000 ft of seed line and anticipate anywhere from 5,000-25,000 lbs. of sales. Production still outpaces markets.

Kodiak Island Borough and Other Alaska Municipalities and Borough Taxation Policies- As reported previously, 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, help 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.

USACE Letter of Permission Issuance Delays

At least three farms in the region may not have USACE letters of permission for gear deployment ahead of outplanting this fall. At least 2 of the permits requested were submitted 5 months or more in advance of October 1. This is longer than the 135 days a full ESA consultation requires. An informal consultation by an agency such as USACE typically takes no longer than 60 days, especially considering the USACE stated in all three cases that the project is "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" a listed species or critical habitat. Correspondance with USACE has stated that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has yet to respond and this is stalling issuance of the permit. It would be nice to get clarity from USFWS as to why they are taking so long to respond.

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 finically 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, the office of habitat management, and the USFWS? Lexa met with Emma and Jason in late September to discuss marine mammal and mariculture concerns. Lexa stated that it seems that Agency representatives could benefit from education on mariculture structures/gear types and from speaking directly with farmers.

Describe one success story

KALI's work in the mariculture space, facilitated by the Liaison contract, has led to inclusion of regenerative mariculture as part of the Alaska Southcoast Partnership and one possibly two new mariculture projects, a shore-based dulse cultivation system and clam garden, in the Kodiak Region focused in rural communities. KALI will continue with these projects beyond the scope of the Liaison program and SEC/BBB funding.

Describe any follow-up required next month for the above listed activities completed.

1. Follow up with permits, ensure that the leases are finalized and ADFG issues farming permits.
2. Continue to help ensure that any upcoming funding opportunities through SEC/AFDF are announced to the communities in the region. Help with proposals as needed.
3. Continue to work with federal and state agencies and the AMA to expedite the permitting and permit renewal process for marine farms and develop permitting processes for clam gardens. Reach out to senators and other agencies as is needed.
4. Work on the agenda and mariculture focused presentations for the Rural Forum in April.

Please attach any photos or other media that could be shared.

We have attached a presentation titled *"Pilot Dulse and Urchin Cultivation System"* that was made to the combined Port Lions City and Tribal Councils on January 30. This presentation demonstrates the outreach power of the AMA Liaison Program when combined with developing specific pilot projects aimed at long term community food security and sustainability. KALI is utilizing information gained through the AMC JIP projects focused on kelp drying with other industry knowledge to develop a village-based and shore-based kelp and sea urchin cultivation pilot. This outreach to Port Lions is providing that community with an opportunity to participate in shore-based mariculture to address their long-term concerns regarding sea-based mariculture.

AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

Due the 10th of each month

Region	Host Organization	Reporting Month / Year	Submission Date
Kodiak Archipelago	KALI	February 2026	3/17/26

Administrative & Ongoing Tasks

How many total hours were spent this month working on Administrative & Ongoing Task:

Lexa - 9hours, Robbie- 3 hours

Monthly Reporting

Provide monthly summaries (this report) of activities performing duties outlined in [Liaison Contracts](#).

Timesheets

Provide monthly timesheets. To be submitted with monthly report.

Meetings

Participate in weekly AMA meetings. Lexa also participates in KALI weekly coordination meetings.

List any meetings and dates you were not able to attend:

Either Robbie or Lexa were able to make all the AMA weekly meetings. Lexa attended the AMA Governance and AMA Board meetings. Lexa participates in KALI weekly coordination meetings.

Outreach & Engagement (Task 1)

Task 1. A

Contact leaders of all Tribal governments, Tribal corporations, and municipalities within your region. Thoroughly inform and regularly meet with them to exchange information related to local mariculture priorities and opportunities.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. A:

None this month, please see detail provided under Task 2A.

Continue to update the provided Tracking Sheet to note which organizations have been contacted / re-contacted, their level of interest, and desired scale: [AMA Liaison Outreach Tracking Google Sheet](#)

List any organizations and leaders that you have contacted / re-contacted this month, describe what information you exchanged and their interest [or lack of interest] in mariculture:

Please see detail provided under Task 2A.

Task 1. B

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. 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.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. B:

Lexa = 4hours

List and describe any workshops, presentations, or meetings you participated in or planned this month:

Preparation for Virtual Rural Forum Update in April 2026
Lexa has been working with KALI staff to begin work on mariculture updates and presentations as part of the virtual rural forum update scheduled for the end of April. An update agenda should be ready soon.

Draft Presentation for Koniag Roundtable
Lexa prepared a detailed update for the Koniag Roundtable on March 4, 2026. The presentation highlighted KALI’s role in mariculture development and technical assistance in the Kodiak region past, present, and future. A copy of the power point will be available with the March Liaison report.

Task 1. C

Travel to meetings and conferences + other outreach.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. C:

None, no travel this month.

List and describe any work-related travel you participated in this month, including dates:

No travel during the month of February.

Task 1. D

Engage in miscellaneous outreach & engagement tasks.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. D:

KALI staff performed this task with no charge to the project.

List and describe any miscellaneous task you engaged in this month:

KALI provides regular updates and forwards announcements through its mariculture listserv on Mailchimp supported by KALI’s IT coordinator. Updates and announcements in February included:

February 11th: Mariculture Farmer Knowledge Exchange Grant Program
<https://mailchi.mp/bfc90e12e0c2/mariculture-farmer-knowledge-exchange-grant-program>

February 12th: Marine Science Expedition Opportunity
<https://mailchi.mp/34342e505560/mariculture-farmer-knowledge-exchange-grant-program-10157080>

Technical Support (Task 2)

Task 2. A

Assist new and existing mariculture businesses with funding, permitting, farm design, research, grant writing, and proposal submissions.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 2. A:

Lexa- 49 hours

List any businesses that you assisted this month and describe your efforts:

Spruce Island Farms, Ouzinkie, AK

Lexa continued to support the community of Ouzinkie Alaska in completing their commercial kelp farm lease. The lease was approved by ADNR and the community was providing ADNR with deliverables (proof of insurance, bond fee payment, copy of business license). The permit is stalled due to a letter of appeal received inside of the 20-day appeal period. The appeal is still under review by the State of Alaska, however, Ouzinkie decided to abandon the lease at this location and will pursue a 25-acre lease closer to the City of Ouzinkie. KALI and Alaska Ocean Farms is helping Ouzinkie with this new lease application.

The Ouzinkie oyster lease is in agency review. Lexa is standing by to help address any concerns that arise because of this review. Lexa has been in contact with the city clerk and has been assisting her with applying for the USACE permit for this lease.

Old Harbor Alliance/Old Harbor Native Corporation

Lexa continued to support the Old Harbor Community kelp farm oyster gear amendment. The amendment is complete and the lease is finalized and the USACE LOP was awarded. They have 10,000 ft of kelp seed that they may outplant, however, late winter weather has precluded outplanting. Lexa has offered to assist with outplanting if necessary.

Native Village of Larsen Bay

Lexa continued to support Native Village of Larsen Bay with the purchase of an oyster FLUPSY. She checked in with tribal administrators and council president to see if they needed assistance with anything.

Task 2. B

Develop relationships with key stakeholders and agencies such as NOAA, UAF, UAA, EPA, ANTHC, EDDs, etc.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 2. B:

Lexa- 9 hours

List any staff, job title, and organization you assisted this month and describe their relationship to mariculture:

State of Alaska Office of Small Business Advocacy-Form Letter Explaining Permitting Issues

Lexa forwarded the form letter to permit holders in the region and urged them to pass on any difficulties with state or federal permitting processes. The letter was sent to all the community lease holders and to the Kodiak Ocean Growers.

Alaska Sea Grant-Melissa Good

Lexa continued to work with ASG to secure at least one Farmer Exchange Grant for the region. The community of Port Lions is considering a shore-based mariculture pilot project to grow Dulse and urchins and would like to visit systems in Oregon. Lexa also reached out to Oregon Sea Grant on their behalf. KALI will send out an email notice regarding the open Farmer Exchange Grants for 2026 in February. Former UA students and possibly NOAA faculty are interested in assisting with the dulse project. Lexa will continue to remind farmers of this opportunity.

Task 2. C

Inform industry members about regional mariculture events and help them secure funding to attend.

How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 2. C:

Lexa- 9 hours

List any industry members that you assisted this month and describe:

Lexa provided information on the KALI Rural Forum during AMA meetings and AMA/EDD meetings and at the AMC Board Meeting. Lexa also mentioned this event to the Kodiak Ocean Growers and reminded the group of the ongoing Farmer Exchange Grants through SEC.

Additional Questions

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

Reduced Volume of Kelp Sales for 2026

Cascadia Seaweed has reduced the volume of kelp they wish to purchase from the Kodiak Ocean Growers by 50%, possibly more. Early kelp growth on farms is reported to be excellent and the region will undoubtedly have surplus. The KOG is working to find other markets for surplus kelp in 2026. This is the 5th year in a row where >10,000 lbs. of kelp will have to be disposed of. Unless another buyer is found, disposal projections this year will be in excess of 125,000 lbs.

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. Small markets have emerged but they are not yet significant enough to warrant major investment. Most farms will farm between 10,000-30,000 ft of seed line and anticipate anywhere from 5,000-25,000 lbs. of sales. Production still outpaces markets.

Kodiak Island Borough and Other Alaska Municipalities and Borough Taxation Policies- As reported previously, 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.

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.

USACE Letter of Permission Issuance Delays

At least three farms in the region may not have USACE letters of permission for gear deployment ahead of outplanting this fall. At least 2 of the permits requested were submitted 5 months or more in advance of October 1. This is longer than the 135 days a full ESA consultation requires. An informal consultation by an agency such as USACE typically takes no longer than 60 days, especially considering the USACE stated in all three cases that the project is "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" a listed species or critical habitat. Correspondance with USACE has stated that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has yet to respond and this is stalling issuance of the permit. It would be nice to get clarity from USFWS as to why they are taking so long to respond.

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 finically 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, the office of habitat management, and the USFWS? Lexa met with Emma and Jason in late September to discuss marine mammal and mariculture concerns. Lexa stated that it seems that Agency representatives could benefit from education on mariculture structures/gear types and from speaking directly with farmers.

Describe one success story

KALI's work in the mariculture space, facilitated by the Liaison contract, has led to inclusion of regenerative mariculture as part of the Alaska Southcoast Partnership and one possibly two new mariculture projects, a shore-based dulse cultivation system and clam garden, in the Kodiak Region focused in rural communities. KALI will continue with these projects beyond the scope of the Liaison program and SEC/BBB funding.

Describe any follow-up required next month for the above listed activities completed.

1. Follow up with permits, ensure that the leases are finalized and ADFG issues farming permits.
2. Continue to help ensure that any upcoming funding opportunities through SEC/AFDF are announced to the communities in the region. Help with proposals as needed.
3. Continue to work with federal and state agencies and the AMA to expedite the permitting and permit renewal process for marine farms and develop permitting processes for clam gardens. Reach out to senators and other agencies as is needed.
4. Work on the agenda and mariculture focused presentations for the Rural Forum in April.

Please attach any photos or other media that could be shared.

None this month



Pilot Dulse and Urchin Cultivation System

LEXA MEYER- ASCP
REGIONAL MARICULTURE
CATALYSIT



What is Dulse?

- Red Seaweed
- Tastes Very Good Dried – Like Sea Bacon!
- Used in Food Products – Spice Blends, Salt substitute
- Urchin Feed, Abalone Feed



How is Dulse Cultivated?

- In tanks onshore – Inside a Shipping Container
- Recirculating or flow-through systems.
- Added artificial light if indoors
- Added nutrients – like hydroponics



How are Urchins Cultivated?

- In tanks onshore
- Recirculating or flow-through systems.
- Added food: dulse, sugar kelp, and fishmeal



What are the Benefits to Land Based Cultivation?

- Easy Access
- Can involve more community members and age groups
- Easy harvest- not weather dependent
- More control of growth parameters, can harvest year-round vs. seasonal ocean production.
- Harvest urchins when roe is prime



Permitting

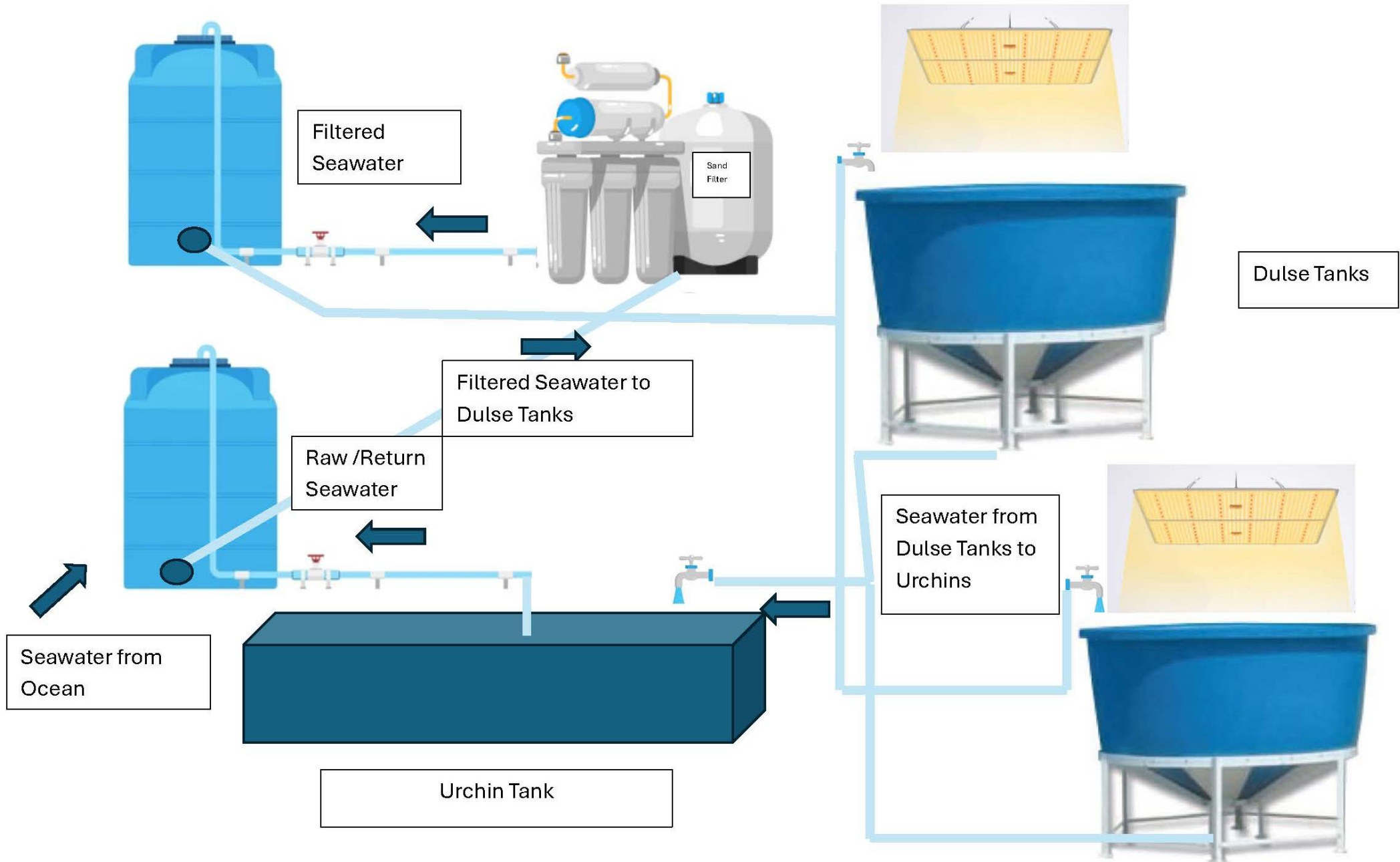
State of Alaska = Approved Cultivation Plan and Water Treatment System

For Drying or selling Urchin Roe Commercially: Approved HACCP Plan, DEC Approved Processing Plant for Urchin Roe

For Urchins: State of Alaska Commercial Harvest Permit/Fish Tickets

No federal permits or joint agency permits that take months for approval





Housed in a 40 ft
Conex

Temp Controlled By a
Heat Pump

Water transported in
IBC tanks and Stored
in 800 Gallon Tanks
near the Conex



Small Commercial Dryer

28 trays- 130 Square
feet

Average Power Use =
3.75 kW Max = 7.5 kW

Wiring = Single Phase
50-amp breaker, 3-Wire
Cable, N6-50P Plug Tip

Dimensions = 2' 10.5" x
5' 6.5" x 2' 2.5"



<https://www.dehydratorsamerica.com/product/2-zone-28-tray-130-sq-ft-tray-area>

Project Benefits

- Creates 2 new 15 hour per week positions- Could supplement the employment of Port Lions Farm Agriculturalists
- Expands Access and security to indigenous foods such as urchins and seaweed
- Expands opportunities for engaging with Mariculture – little infrastructure is needed compared to kelp and oyster farming –No access issues
- Production is modular- allows for easy expansion
- Would be the first community operated dulse and urchin farm in Alaska!
- Should the community lose interest- the infrastructure can be used for additional hydroponic growing space or for cold storage (produce, eggs, fish, game meat). The dryer can dry other foods as well.

What Support Does The Project Need?

Location to Install Conex- Access to Power and Fresh Water- Rent Free, Utility Free?

Access to a Flat Bed Truck – Is there one the project could use for 1/2 Day per week?

Access to a forklift for 3-4 hours every other month?

Access to a kitchen or other area to set up the dryer and packaging?

Long term support after 24-month funding period is over.

Project Support

- KALI = Lexa Meyer –Project Manager, Aaron Simeonoff, Max Lions
- Alaska Sea Grant – Kodiak
- Muriel Dittrich – UAF Graduate Student – Dulse Cultivation Thesis
- Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute- Urchin Cultivation



Quyanaa!