

# AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

*Due the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month*

Region	Host Organization	Reporting Month / Year	Submission Date
Southeast	Ecotrust	December 2025	1/10/2026

## Administrative & Ongoing Tasks

How many total hours were spent this month working on Administrative & Ongoing Task: 12

### 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.

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

## 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: 22

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:

#### Organizations and leaders contacted / re-contacted and summary of engagement:

- **City of Craig** – Presented to City Council in December following rescheduled meeting. Council expressed continued support for mariculture and interest in future infrastructure development, including the long-term potential for a mariculture facility on False Island. Accepted invitation to present at Craig Whale Fest in April 2026.
- **City of Hollis** – Was scheduled to present at January 6 meeting; heavy snowfall prevented in-person presentation. Rescheduled for February agenda if travel allows, otherwise March or April.

- **Coffman Cove** – Continued outreach with City Clerk. City expressed interest in learning more about mariculture. City Clerk registered for the Introduction to Mariculture training in Juneau (February 2026). Scheduled to present to City Council on January 15, 2026.
- **Yakutat Tlingit Tribe / Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc.** – Assisted Executive Director and President Meda DeWitt with registration and travel planning for the Alaska Mariculture Conference. Discussed Yakutat’s prior oyster program, lessons learned, and interest in re-engaging with mariculture as environmental and economic conditions evolve.
- **Shaan Seet** – Continued discussions around restarting a mariculture facility project. Infrastructure funding remains the primary barrier. Communicated this need to SEC leadership (Charlie, Dan, and Robert) for awareness and potential future funding alignment.
- **Angoon Community Association & City of Angoon** – Cancelled January 2026 visit. After assessing travel conditions, I made the decision not to travel to Angoon during the week of January 12, 2026 due to heavy snowfall and guidance from SEC that the Basketball Tournament and Job Fair week would not be effective use of my time for focused mariculture engagement.
- **Klawock Cooperative Association** – Based on engagement during the Klawock Culture Camp (December 21–23, 2025) with current and previous Council members, KCA is actively monitoring mariculture developments in their waters and staying informed on public notices related to aquatic farm leases. At this time, KCA does not have immediate interest in entering the industry. However, there is clear interest in mariculture as it relates to food security, protection of seaweed resources in local waters, and safeguarding culturally significant areas from inappropriate or conflicting aquatic lease activity. Follow-up is needed to schedule a meeting with Dennis Nickerson, President of KCA, to continue these discussions.

Outreach tracking continued to be updated in the AMA Liaison Outreach Tracking Sheet, incorporating historical context from prior years and new December contacts.

**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: 6**

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

**Klawock Culture Camp (December 21–23, 2025)** – Shared information with community members on mariculture opportunities, pathways into farming, and workforce development. Built relationships with Tribal leadership, staff, and community members. Gathered informal feedback on interest areas and concerns.

**Mariculture Workforce Training (Juneau, February 11, 2026)** – Continued planning in partnership with Alaska Sea Grant and the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida).

- Registration launched January 1, 2025.
- Funding available to cover travel, lodging, and meals for accepted participants.

- Preference given to Southeast Alaska Alaska Native participants, Tribal leaders, and workforce-ready individuals.
- Began outreach to Tribes and Tribal Corporations across Southeast to share application details. All contacts on liaison outreach spreadsheet were emailed and called, and every community public facebook group that allowed for sharing news, I made sure to share details.
- Workshop timing aligned with Southeast Conference (Feb 10–13, 2026).

**Planning & Scheduling** – Continued development of a tentative Southeast travel and engagement schedule through June 2026, aligning site visits with conferences and regional events.

### **Task 1. C**

Travel to meetings and conferences + other outreach.

**How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. C: 10**

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

Developed multi-month Southeast travel plan (December 2025–June 2026) to align community visits with major events including Southeast Conference, Alaska Mariculture Conference, Guardians Gathering, and regional cultural conferences.

Prepared logistics and agendas for January community travel; adjusted travel plans in response to December and early January weather disruptions while maintaining engagement timelines.

### **Task 1. D**

Engage in miscellaneous outreach & engagement tasks.

**How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. D: 8**

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

- **Alaska Mariculture Resource Log** – Continued weekly updates and maintenance to ensure accurate, current resources for communities and farmers.
- **Guardians Program Coordination** – Continued planning with Brandon Ware (SIGN Coordinator, Tlingit & Haida) for mariculture mapping integration.
  - Confirmed attendance at January Guardians meeting for introductions.
  - Confirmed 30-minute presentation at February 17–20, 2026 Guardians Gathering in Juneau.

## **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: 4**

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

**Yakutat Kwaan / Shaan Seet / Hydaburg Cooperative Association / Individual Participants** – Assisted with conference registration, travel coordination, and discussion of workforce development opportunities.

**Prospective Farmers (Oysters & Kelp)** – Continued follow-up with interested farmers, sharing resource log materials and training opportunities. Discussed economic considerations and feasibility, particularly for kelp farming.

## **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: 3**

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

- Continued coordination with Alaska Sea Grant and follow-up conversations with GreenWave contacts regarding resources, needs, and applicability for Southeast Alaska communities.

## **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: 2**

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

- Assisted multiple Southeast participants (including Yakutat Kwaan representatives and Shaan Seet) with Alaska Mariculture Conference registration and travel planning.
- Shared upcoming training and conference opportunities broadly with Southeast contacts.

## **Additional Questions**

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

Communities continue to request hands-on training, examples of successful Alaska-based mariculture operations, and practical tools (such as mapping and infrastructure planning) to support informed decision-making. Infrastructure funding and transportation costs remain consistent concerns.

**Describe one success story:**

Registration successfully opened for the February 2026 mariculture workforce training, with early interest from multiple Southeast communities. This opportunity aligns with feedback I have consistently heard from communities who have shared that they have felt out of the loop regarding mariculture information and training opportunities. To date, more than 40 applicants have registered for the training, including 10 individuals who applied after direct coordination with me through their community or as individuals interested in farming. This training represents an important first step, with plans underway to offer an additional training later in spring 2026.

A notable success this month was my conversation with the City of Coffman Cove. Following our discussion, the City Clerk applied to attend the Introduction to Mariculture training in order to better support the community's understanding of mariculture opportunities and considerations.

Other highlights include the invitation to present at Craig's Whale Fest in April, following the City of Craig City Council meeting. In addition, ongoing connections with staff at Klawock Cooperative Association continue to strengthen relationships, which will facilitate future engagement on mariculture and other related community priorities.

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

- Continue outreach to remaining City governments and Tribal Councils, including scheduled January presentations.
- Attend Angoon Career Fair and conduct in-person meetings with Tribal and City leadership.
- Review and select participants for February mariculture training with Alaska Sea Grant and Tlingit & Haida.
- Continue business planning and lease application support for interested farmers.
- Present to Coffman Cove City Council and follow up with Craig, Hollis, and other Prince of Wales communities.

Additional progress includes continued outreach across Southeast to meet SEC's request to complete contact with all entities listed in the AMA Liaison Outreach Tracking Sheet by mid-January. To meet this directive, I have conducted frequent and repeated outreach through emails and phone calls weekly.

Additionally, there are communities listed in the Liaison tracking sheet that SEC has recommended not engaging with at this time.

- **Communities scheduled for connection in January (listed from soonest to farthest out, pending weather and logistics):**
  - Sitka Borough
  - Coffman Cove
  - Petersburg Borough
  - Petersburg Tribes
  - Sitka Tribe
  - Wrangell Borough
  - Wrangell Tribes

**CITY OF CRAIG  
COUNCIL AGENDA  
DECEMBER 18, 2025  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 6:30 PM**

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Kasey Smith, Chanel McKinley, Janice Trojan, Millie Schoonover, Michael Kampnich, Josh Bennett, Shauna Thomas

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**00. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed and placed on the regular meeting agenda.*

- Meeting Minutes, 11-6-25
- Ordinance 799 1<sup>st</sup> Reading- AP&T Land Sale, Lot 6 JT Brown Subdivision

**I. HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC**

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**II. REPORTS FROM CITY COMMITTEES**

- Harbor Committee Meeting Minutes- 11-13-25

**III. REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

Mayor	Planning Director	Public Works/Parks & Facilities
Administrator	Fire/EMS Coordinator	Recreation
Finance Director	Harbormaster	Aquatic Center
City Clerk	Police Chief	Library

**IV. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Thank you, Letter - SSRAA
- Letter from Andy Deering – Tourism
- Donation Request - Klawock Cooperative Association
- Letter from Shauna Thomas- Aquatic Center
- Donation Request- Whale Fest
- Letter from Maranda Hamme- Mariculture
- Letter from Circle Sea Foods

**V. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

- None

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- JHE Jr Foundation Grant Funds Allocation
- Proposal for a “Cell Phone Free Zone” at the Aquatic Center
- Discounted Harbor Rate for Local Users on Waiting List
- Tourism Survey Creation
- FY 26 Shared Fisheries Business Tax

**VIII. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT:** To provide public comment to the council remotely, please email [info@craigak.com](mailto:info@craigak.com) before 5:00 pm on the day of the council meeting.

# WORKSHOP

## INTRODUCTION TO MARICULTURE IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

FEBRUARY 11, 2026 · JUNEAU, AK

The Alaska Sea Grant and Tlingit & Haida are partnering to hold a introductory mariculture workshop. Participants will receive an overview of mariculture in the state through tours of local shellfish and seaweed hatchery and processing facilities, conversations with local and Indigenous farmers, hands-on farm gear activities, and tastings of locally grown products.

**Funding is available for travel and lodging available upon request.  
Register to attend the workshop by January 10, 2026.**



# Prince of Wales Whalefest

## SAVE THE DATE

### APRIL 10-12, 2026



CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF THE PACIFIC HERRING TO THEIR SPAWNING GROUNDS & THE INCREDIBLE MARINE LIFE THAT FOLLOWS THEM TO THE NEARSHORE WATERS OF CRAIG AND KLAWOCK

3 FUN  
FILLED  
DAYS

ACTIVITIES TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- WHALEFEST FUNFAIR
- TALKS FROM MARINE BIOLOGISTS
- MARINE TRIVIA
- ART EXTRAVAGANZA FEATURING LOCAL ARTISTS WITH STUDENT SHOWCASE
- SPECIAL SHOWING OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S "THE OCEAN"
- PAINTING AND OTHER ART MEDIA CLASSES
- GLASS BALL HUNT
- STORYTELLING, POETRY, AND MUSIC NIGHT
- GUIDED TRAIL, BIRDING, AND SHORELINE WALKS
- AND SO MUCH MORE...

STAY TUNED FOR THE FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS!



# AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

*Due the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month*

Region	Host Organization	Reporting Month / Year	Submission Date
Southeast	Ecotrust	January 2026	2/13/2026

## Administrative & Ongoing Tasks

How many total hours were spent this month working on Administrative & Ongoing Task: **9**

### 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.

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

No meetings missed for this month.

## 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: **9**

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:

During this reporting period, I identified upcoming public meeting dates and conducted outreach to request permission to attend and provide a brief introduction regarding available regional mariculture support resources.

#### Meetings identified:

- City and Borough of Sitka – January 13, 2026
- Petersburg Borough – January 20, 2026
- Petersburg Indian Association – January 21, 2026
- City and Borough of Wrangell – January 27, 2026

- Wrangell Cooperative Association – February 3, 2026
- Sealaska
- Douglas Indian Association
- City and Borough of Juneau
- Gold Belt

**Steps Taken:**

- Initial outreach emails sent requesting to attend meetings or be placed on agendas.
- Follow-up emails sent when no response was received.
- Phone calls placed to confirm receipt and request scheduling guidance.
- Voicemails left when possible with contact information.
- Additional outreach offering to meet informally with any available representatives or staff if full council agenda placement was not feasible.

**Outcome:**

As of the close of this reporting period, no responses or return calls were received from:

- Petersburg Borough
- Petersburg Indian Association
- City and Borough of Wrangell
- Wrangell Cooperative Association

No confirmations were received from the remaining entities listed above.

Despite multiple contact attempts via email and phone, including offers to meet with any available representative or staff member, no engagement was secured during this reporting period.

Formal meeting access appears to require either existing leadership relationships or in-person engagement. Cold outreach via email and phone has not been very successful in returned communication in several communities despite repeated attempts. Past in-person visits (e.g., Ketchikan, Fall 2025) were more successful in securing returned calls and engagement with leadership when going into the office and talking with staff myself and leaving contact information.

**Steps Moving Forward:**

- Prioritizing in-person introductions during regional gatherings (e.g., SE Mid Session Summit, Intro to Mariculture, ATCEM).
- Leverage established relationships with Tribal environmental staff to request internal introductions to leadership. (Connected with Brooke at Spruce Root who has established a relationship with Wrangell to get an introduction established.)
- Space out future outreach attempts to avoid over-contacting offices that have not responded.

**Additional Juneau Outreach Details:**

**Sealaska (Juneau Office)**

- **January 16:** Called Sealaska office to share information about my upcoming February trip to Juneau and to request a meeting with leadership. Spoke with the secretary, briefly explained

my role as the Regional Mariculture Liaison and how I can serve as a resource and support for mariculture development. Left my contact information and was told I would receive a call back to schedule a meeting. No call back was received.

- **January 22:** Sent an additional follow-up email to request a meeting after no call back was received. No response received.
- **January 26:** After no response, I used my personal connections as a Sealaska shareholder and contacted the shareholder office to seek assistance in connecting with leadership. This call was routed back to the same secretary. I was again told I would receive a call back. No call back was received.
- **January 29:**  
Shared this situation during the weekly Liaisons meeting. Connected with Molly over email after, she suggested reaching out to Bob Girt and noted she would continue looking for additional contacts through Sealaska.
- **January 30:**  
Connected with Bob Girt at the Craig Store and discussed the outreach challenges. He shared that he is no longer with Sealaska and that the position is currently in the hiring process. He also noted that the role is now housed within Tlingit & Haida and operates under a completely different structure, and he was unable to provide additional guidance on appropriate contacts.  
My next step is to connect with Joe Nelson and Sarah Dybdhal while in Juneau at the SE Mid Session Summit as I am not having success otherwise.

#### **Juneau Contacts Overall Summary of Response:**

- At this time, I have not received direct engagement or confirmation of interest due to lack of response despite multiple outreach attempts via phone, email, and personal connection channels.

I shared these outreach challenges during our AMA weekly liaison meeting and expressed that I am having difficulty securing responses from Juneau-based entities, including Sealaska, CBJ (City & Borough of Juneau), Gold Belt and DIA. I requested SE Conference's assistance in helping facilitate introductions and connections, as outreach efforts have not resulted in returned calls or responses to my ongoing emails.

#### **Sealaska Heritage Institute - Meeting with Rosita Worl, scheduled for February 10, 1-3pm.**

#### **All of Southeast Outreach Efforts**

In addition to direct organizational outreach, I conducted broad community-level engagement efforts across Southeast Alaska to ensure information about the Intro to Mariculture Training was widely accessible.

- Followed public Facebook pages for communities throughout Southeast Alaska.
- Shared information about the Intro to Mariculture Training across community groups.
- Researched community market schedules and public gathering opportunities.
- Identified potential opportunities to visit communities in person and connect with local leaders and residents.
- Reached out directly to individuals posting about community events to explore alignment with local gathering dates.

#### **Wrangell Outreach**

- After seeing a post from a Wrangell resident (Jared) regarding the February 7 Community Market Day, I reached out to inquire about potential March market dates to align a visit around a community event. No response was received.

### **Ketchikan & Craig Mariculture Infrastructure – Email Correspondence Update, SEC**

January 2, shared updates with Dan Lesh (Southeast Conference), Molly Dischner, and Jason Lessard (Alaska Mariculture Cluster) regarding renewed interest in mariculture infrastructure in Ketchikan and Craig.

- Ketchikan: Mayor Bob expressed community support for mariculture businesses and interest in infrastructure that would support individual farmers, similar to earlier concepts discussed for shared processing capacity.
- Craig (Shaan Seet): Kristi, Executive Director of Shaan Seet, shared that the board has renewed interest in exploring the mariculture facility concept previously discussed. At this stage, they are seeking clarity on available funding opportunities before advancing planning. Any facility would likely need to serve both mariculture producers and existing small-scale seafood processors.

Response from Dan Lesh (Southeast Conference), January 23:

- SEC previously conducted substantial work on the Shaan Seet project several years ago; however, Shaan Seet was not in a position to move forward at that time.
- SEC's current capacity and funding have shifted, and they are unable to re-engage at the same level as before.
- Dan indicated willingness to participate in a call to discuss potential next steps if organized.
- All Alaska Mariculture Cluster equipment funding has now been fully allocated; no additional equipment RFPs are anticipated through that funding stream.
- Other funding avenues may exist, particularly if matching funds can be identified.
- Prior project deliverables were shared for reference.
- There is an outstanding thread with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that would need to be re-engaged. The Corps previously requested stronger justification regarding wetlands/intertidal fill associated with the facility plan.

Connected with Shaan Seet, time set to reconnect with Kristi in person the week of February 16, 2026. Due to travel schedules we could not connect until this week.

### **January 27 – SE Chat Attendance**

Attended the Southeast Chat, a monthly call hosted by Tlingit and Haida to share updates with Tribes and regional partners. Participated to provide information about the upcoming Intro to Mariculture Workshop in Feb/Mariculture Conference in March and reminded attendees that I am available as a resource for mariculture-related questions and support.

### **Outreach Expectations & Context**

It is important to note that from December 8, 2025, to mid-January 2026, this position was expected to contact over 58 individual entities across Southeast Alaska, including municipal governments, Tribal governments, Tribal corporations, and regional organizations.

Completing this level of outreach independently, while also maintaining ongoing engagement, providing technical support, coordinating industry updates, and responding to community inquiries, represents a significant workload for a single Liaison within a six-week timeframe.

Outreach at this scale requires multiple contact attempts, follow-up communication, relationship development, and, in many cases, in-person presence to establish trust. Based on experience to date, in-person introductions and facilitated connections have proven more effective than cold email and phone outreach alone.

These structural realities have influenced the pace of engagement across several Southeast Alaska communities during this reporting period.

### **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: 9**

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

**Invited to table and present at the Craig POW Whalefest in April 3-6, 2026, accepted invite on January 13, 2026.**

**Introduction to Mariculture Workshop, Juneau, February 11, 2026 - Development and Details:**  
The workshop received 63 registrations, demonstrating significant demand for mariculture training in Southeast Alaska.

Due to funding and space constraints, 17 participants were selected based on demonstrated commitment to entering the industry and prior engagement through liaison outreach. Participants included two prospective kelp farmers (Juneau and Sitka) and one prospective oyster farmer from Hydaburg, all of whom are considering submitting applications for the upcoming aquatic lease application period this 2026.

Overall, the outpouring level of interest received to attend this workshop reflects the need in outreach and access to industry resources in the Southeast region.

As a current shellfish farmer, I recognize how critical this type of early-stage training and exposure are for new entrants. When we entered the industry, we were unaware of available training and funding cycles due to limited visibility and outreach in rural Southeast communities at the time. As a result, we missed early opportunities such as the AMA Matching Grant.

This experience directly informed a broader outreach strategy, leveraging community Facebook groups and informal communication networks to expand access and prevent unintentional exclusion of individuals not connected to traditional industry channels.

Our initial personal startup investment in entering the industry exceeded \$55,000, not including bonding or lease fees, underscoring how essential early access to funding information and introductory workshops is for reducing financial risk for new entrants.

### **Workshop Agenda**

The workshop combined classroom instruction, hatchery and wet lab tours, gear demonstrations, and industry networking to provide participants with a full ecosystem overview of Alaska mariculture from seed to market.

**7:50am Van & Carpool Pickup:** collect everyone from Juneau Hotel & travel to CFOS Lena Point Campus.

- Jeremy Timothy to drive passenger van
- Maranda will help drive
- James will help drive

**8:30am:** Light breakfast & coffee. 17101 Lena Point Loop Road, Room 101

**8:45am:** Intro to Mariculture in AK

- Group introductions & an ice breaker question.
- Intro from Maranda—role of southeast mariculture liaison
- Intro from T&H representative
- Intro from Sea Grant and overview of the day—Ginny/James
- Overview of mariculture in AK—James, 15 minutes
- Oyster case study—Maranda Hamme, 15 minutes
- Kelp case study—Jonny Antoni, 15 minutes
- Abalone case study—Schery Umanzor, 15 minutes
- Q&A session, 15 minutes

**10:45am:** Break

**11am:** Tour of NOAA oyster hatchery, UAF wet lab. Group divides into two and swaps.

- James brings one group to NOAA, meet AFSC team in lobby
- Schery leads other group on tour of wetlab.
- Groups head to opposite location at 11:45

**12:30pm:** Lunch

**1:30pm:** Depart for Fishermen's Bend

**1:45pm:** FLUPSY and Oyster Gear Demonstration

**2:30pm:** Travel to Barnacle

**3pm:** Tour Barnacle

**4:15pm:** Depart Barnacle

**4:30pm:** Drop participants at Juneau Hotel, break

**5:20pm:** Van leaves for Harbor Mountain. Participants can walk if they'd like.

**5:00pm:** Oysters and dinner at Harbor Mountain Brewing Company

- Shucking, quality, and tasting lessons from Maranda
- Workshop close-out: Plug upcoming mariculture events, things we want to do in the future
- Opportunity for others orgs to introduce themselves

**8pm:** Van departs for airport for those on Sitka flight—Jeremy drives

**To ensure equitable regional access, workshop information was distributed across 18 Southeast Alaska community groups between January 7–12.**

- Tenakee Springs Community Forum
- Sitka Chatters - Public
- Metlakatla AK News
- Yakutat Area News & Info
- Wrangell Area News & Info
- Greater Throne Bay
- Coffman Cove Community Discussion, NO CENSORSHIP
- POW
- POW Chatter
- POW TRADER
- Angoon buy, sell, trade, announce
- Shareholders of Sealaska
- Haines Chatters
- Saxman Village News
- Ketchikan Events
- Whale Pass Community
- Petersburg Alaska Neighborhood News
- Metlakatla AK News

## **Task 1. C**

Travel to meetings and conferences + other outreach.

**How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. C: 9**

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

### **Juneau, February 9-13, 2026**

Spent time preparing for upcoming meetings and outreach in Juneau during the week of February 9–13, 2026. Scheduled activities include attending the SE Conference Mid-Session Summit on February 10, the Introduction to Mariculture Workshop on February 11, and multiple meetings throughout the week. Preparation included scheduling meetings, reviewing materials, and

coordinating travel logistics to maximize efficiency and engagement. All days are planned with meetings and related work from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. every night.

**SE Liaison Travel Plan Review Meeting - SEC, AMA, Ecotrust, January 29, 2026**

The Southeast Alaska Liaison Travel Plan outlines planned travel through June 2026 to support mariculture outreach, partnership development, and engagement with Tribal governments, organizations, and community stakeholders. Travel to both hub communities and smaller, rural locations allows for strategic engagement with multiple stakeholders, facilitates relationship-building, and ensures equitable access to mariculture resources and training opportunities.

Due to limited travel funds, trips are prioritized to maximize impact. Conferences in hub communities (Juneau, Sitka, Anchorage) allow engagement with multiple Tribal and municipal representatives in a single location. Visits to smaller, rural communities are scheduled strategically to align with local events and leadership availability. Trips previously planned but canceled (e.g., Angoon, AFE) reflect feedback received.

**Planned Travel & Budget Summary Finalized Draft as of Jan 29, 2026:**

Juneau, AK – Intro to Mariculture Workshop & SE Mid-Session Summit	Feb 9–13, 2026	\$3,549
Juneau, AK – Guardians Gathering	Feb 17–21, 2026	\$2,799
Anchorage, AK – Alaska Mariculture Conference	Mar 8–14, 2026	\$2,357
Sitka, AK – Heritage & Cultural Tourism Conference	Mar 16–20, 2026	\$1,950
Anchorage, AK – ATCEM	Mar 23–28, 2026	\$3,152
Wrangell & Petersburg Community Visits	TBD	\$2,565
Kake, AK – Community Visit	TBD	\$2,142

Angoon, AK – Community Visit Reschedule (Community Fair Visit Cancelled)	Jan 13-16, 2026 (Reschedule)	\$2,621
<b>Total Travel Budget</b>		<b>\$21,135</b>

### Task 1. D

Engage in miscellaneous outreach & engagement tasks.

**How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. D: 9**

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

**Jonny, Sequester Farm:** outreach to see how things are going and to catch up while in Juneau, meeting scheduled for February 12, 2026, 8:30am at Coppa

**Lila Hobbs, PEW:** outreach to see how things are going and to catch up while in Juneau, meeting scheduled for 10am on February 12, 2026.

**Meta, Salty Lady Seafood:** reached out to Meta on Jan 28 to catch up and set up a time to meet with her while Im in Juneau. Unfortunately, she replied back and stated she is out of town from 2/9-2/25/2026. She shared she had a rough summer last year for mortality, and mud blister worms but hoping this upcoming season they are able to meet sales goals and see less dead oysters and worms.

#### **Cooler Room at Alaska Seaplanes – Klawock**

Multiple farmers from Prince of Wales Island reached out for support and information regarding delays with the cooler room project at Alaska Seaplanes. After initial research did not indicate funding or a timeline, contacted Dan Lesh and Charlie Herrington at Southeast Conference (SEC) to gather accurate project details.

#### **Correspondence and Actions:**

- Jan 26, 2026: emailed Dan and Charlie requesting updates and clarification on the project, noting that farmers had asked about the cooler and shipments from PoW were beginning.
  - Dan Lesh (SEC) Response: Provided a link to the AMC Mariculture Equipment Program and Airtable database listing all equipment projects. Noted that progress on this project has been slow and suggested that encouragement from stakeholders could help advance it.
  - Charlie Herrington (SEC) Response: Confirmed he could mention the slow progress to Noah Meyer.
- After not hearing back from SEC or Tlingit & Haida representatives, reached out directly to Noah Meyer, requesting connections to Ralph and Karli to help move the conversation forward.

- Feb 10, 2026: Updated Katie Bode and Jimmy with Tamasso that meetings with Tlingit and Haida representatives were scheduled to provide a clearer timeline for the cooler.
  - Katie Bode (ASGA) Observation: Noted frequent deliveries of Full Circle boxes at the Seaplanes facility, indicating high local demand for a cooler. The Alaska Oyster Coop offered support to help advance the project.

**Organization of Southeast Mariculture Focus Group Discussion – February 4, 2026**

- Coordinated a meeting for mariculture stakeholders to discuss opportunities and support through the Alaska Mariculture Cluster grant. Finalized dates and times on January 26, 2026.
  - Sent a Doodle poll to identify participant availability.
  - Collected responses and scheduled the meeting for Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 2:00 PM Alaska / 3:00 PM Pacific, when the majority of participants were available.
  - Communicated meeting details, including discussion topics, duration (90–120 minutes), and participant stipend (\$50).
- All key participants confirmed attendance ensuring a well-organized and inclusive session. Liaison did not attend due to evaluation of Liaison over call.

**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: 9**

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

**Resource Coordination & Information Sharing**

- Shared mariculture resource log (funding opportunities, permitting resources, infrastructure contacts, regulatory links) that I use for Southeast with Sean and other interested liaisons on January 23, 2026, to support cross-regional alignment and farmer assistance capacity.

**Infrastructure & Facility Conversations**

- Re-engaged conversations regarding mariculture infrastructure development in Ketchikan and Craig (Shaan Seet), including discussion of funding pathways, prior SEC deliverables, and potential next steps.
- Coordinated follow-up with Shaan Seet leadership to assess renewed interest and clarify funding feasibility before advancing further planning.

**Funding & Equipment Landscape Assessment**

- Confirmed that Alaska Mariculture Cluster equipment funding has been fully allocated; no additional RFPs anticipated under that stream.
- Identified that future infrastructure or equipment funding will likely require matching funds or alternative funding pathways.

### Farmer Pipeline Observations

- New farmer inquiries remain limited since I have been in my position.
- Current industry participants appear to be in a stabilization phase due to infrastructure constraints, funding availability, and market conditions.
- Outreach efforts continue to focus on ensuring communities are aware of available resources should interest arise.

### 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: 9**

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

In January, I worked closely with Alaska Sea Grant staff on the development and coordination of the Introduction to Mariculture training scheduled for February 11 in Juneau. This January effort reflects the success of several months of prior planning, relationship-building, and collaborative development to bring this concept to life.

The training was developed in response to gaps identified by Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska regarding the lack of introductory mariculture education and workforce entry points in Southeast Alaska. Through ongoing conversations and regional engagement, it became clear that Southeast lacked a foundational, accessible training tailored to community members, Tribal citizens, and prospective growers.

My role included collaborative planning, helping shape training content to ensure regional relevance, coordinating outreach, and supporting inter-organizational communication. This work strengthens partnerships, increases alignment across agencies, and builds workforce and industry capacity in Southeast Alaska's mariculture sector.

### 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: 9**

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

#### Industry Members & Organizations Assisted This Month:

##### Alaska Shellfish Growers Association (ASGA)

I attend monthly ASGA meetings and am now serving as a board member. During each meeting, I provide regional updates and ensure members are aware of important deadlines, upcoming trainings, funding opportunities, and industry events. This consistent communication helps keep growers informed and increases participation in professional development and funding programs. I am also now apart of ASGA's Legislative Committee, and am supporting the development of our legislative

priorities.

### **Established Oyster Farms (Statewide)**

I maintain strong relationships with already established oyster farms across the state, regularly sharing relevant funding opportunities, training announcements, and conference information. While these farms are well connected, maintaining these relationships strengthens information flow across regions and supports industry cohesion.

### **Emerging & Prospective Farmers (Statewide & Southeast Alaska)**

A primary focus is identifying and engaging new and emerging farmers, particularly those who may not yet be connected to industry networks. I plan to expand this outreach at this year's Mariculture Conference to collect contact information and ensure new growers are included in communications, avoiding the disconnect I personally experienced when first entering the industry.

### **Kelp Farmers (Southeast Alaska)**

I am actively building relationships with kelp farmers in Southeast Alaska to better understand their operations and needs. I have initiated outreach to Jonny at Seaquester in Juneau to schedule a meeting, learn more about his work, and identify ways I can provide support. While I have a strong background in shellfish, I am intentionally expanding my knowledge of Southeast Alaska kelp farming to better serve that sector.

### **Tribal Governments & Community Leaders (Southeast Alaska)**

I conducted multiple rounds of outreach to Tribes and community leaders leading up to the Mariculture Conference registration and travel funding deadlines. Through direct communication and reminders, I ensured they were aware of available funding to support attendance.

As a direct result of this outreach, multiple Tribes and Tribal corporations have confirmed they will attend the conference for the first time. Specifically, Hydaburg and Kasaan have confirmed they will be sending Tribal Council members and/or staff, with travel funding secured.

Feedback indicated that many were previously unaware that funding was available to attend and learn more about mariculture. This demonstrates that direct outreach and consistent follow-up are successfully increasing participation and expanding regional engagement in the mariculture industry. I'm personally really proud of this and excited to see stronger Southeast representation than in past years.

## **Additional Questions**

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

- Access to startup capital and early-stage funding remains the most consistent concern among prospective growers. Many individuals express interest but are hesitant due to upfront equipment, bonding, and lease costs.
- Uncertainty regarding market access and buyer commitments, especially for kelp products, is creating hesitation among potential new entrants.
- Clarity around permitting timelines and lease application cycles remains a recurring request from prospective farmers preparing for the 2026 application period.

- Several Tribal representatives expressed interest in mariculture but indicated that capacity constraints and competing priorities limit immediate action.
- Infrastructure limitations remain one of the most significant barriers to mariculture expansion in Southeast Alaska.
  - **Kelp Sector:** Many rural Southeast communities lack processing infrastructure for kelp, creating uncertainty around post-harvest handling, product stabilization, and market readiness. Without local drying, freezing, or value-added capacity, prospective growers are hesitant to enter production due to the risk of not having reliable pathways to market.
  - **Shellfish Sector:** Oyster farmers on Prince of Wales Island have expressed ongoing challenges related to cold storage and air freight logistics. Limited or inconsistent access to refrigerated storage at airports complicates product transport to Lower 48 markets. Farms not directly aligned with established airline freight channels face additional logistical hurdles, increasing cost and reducing competitiveness.

Several growers also shared that, despite recent mariculture-focused funding investments, there have been minimal improvements to on-the-ground logistics constraints affecting shellfish transport. While significant effort has been directed toward marketing Alaska oysters to Lower 48 buyers, farmers emphasized that strengthening cold-chain infrastructure and reliable freight pathways may need to be prioritized in parallel to ensure product quality and consistency upon arrival.

Addressing transportation and storage bottlenecks may significantly enhance the effectiveness of marketing efforts and improve long-term competitiveness for Southeast producers.

- These infrastructure gaps are influencing both new farmer entry and existing farm expansion decisions.

**Describe one success story:**

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

- Conduct the Introduction to Mariculture Workshop (Feb 11) and provide detailed follow-up notes and action items.
- Meet with Sealaska leadership contacts during SE Mid-Session Summit to establish direct engagement pathways.
- Reconnect with Shaan Seet leadership during in-person visit (week of Feb 16) to assess next steps for mariculture facility development.
- Continue cooler room coordination discussions with Tlingit & Haida representatives and stakeholders.
- Engage new contacts gathered through workshop and conference registration to support potential 2026 lease applicants.
- Expand targeted outreach to Tribal environmental staff and economic development personnel to identify prospective growers.

11:57

LTE 56



**Coffman Cove Community**  
**Discussion, NO CENSORSHIP**



Maranda Myers · Jan 12 · 🌐

Sharing this opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about ocean farming and mariculture in Southeast Alaska!

Registration closes this Saturday, sign up here:  
[<https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop>]  
(<https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop>)



**Tlingit & Haida**

Jan 2 · 🌐

**An Introduction to Mariculture in South East Alaska**

The Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Tribes and Alaska Sea Grant are partnering to host an all-day introductory mariculture workshop **in Juneau on February 11, 2026.**

Participants will learn an overview of mariculture in the state through tours of local shellfish and seaweed hatchery/processing facilities, conversations with local and indigenous farmers, hands-on farm gear activities, and tastings of locally grown products. In addition to commonly

11:56

LTE 56



**Greater Thorne Bay**

Maranda Myers · Jan 7 · 🌐



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**Tlingit & Haida**

Jan 2 · 🌐

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11:56

LTE 57



Wrangell Area News and Info |  
Alaska



Maranda Myers · Jan 7 · 🌐

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Registration closes this Saturday, sign up here:

[<https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop>]  
([https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExNWlqNThUeWd5bm55cVlwUHNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR4iwU5BzK94CI5mQ3Hm7xGSWAmGliIEAxojt-BqMQtEWEFkeBbPo8SE6IDEKQ\\_aem\\_Ocaly9wOVQiorZZWPTvN-Q](https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExNWlqNThUeWd5bm55cVlwUHNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR4iwU5BzK94CI5mQ3Hm7xGSWAmGliIEAxojt-BqMQtEWEFkeBbPo8SE6IDEKQ_aem_Ocaly9wOVQiorZZWPTvN-Q))



Tlingit & Haida

Jan 2 · 🌐

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**Juneau on February 11, 2026.**

11:56

LTE 57



Yakutat Area News and Info |  
Alaska



Maranda Myers · Jan 7 · 🌐

Sharing this opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about ocean farming and mariculture in Southeast Alaska!

Registration closes this Saturday, sign up here:

[<https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop>]  
([https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExNWlqNThUeWd5bm55cVlwUHNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR4iwU5BzK94CI5mQ3Hm7xGSWAmGliIEAxojt-BqMQtEWEFkeBbPo8SE6IDEKQ\\_aem\\_Ocaly9wOVQiorZZWPTvN-Q](https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExNWlqNThUeWd5bm55cVlwUHNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR4iwU5BzK94CI5mQ3Hm7xGSWAmGliIEAxojt-BqMQtEWEFkeBbPo8SE6IDEKQ_aem_Ocaly9wOVQiorZZWPTvN-Q))



Tlingit & Haida

Jan 2 · 🌐

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The Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Tribes and Alaska Sea Grant are partnering to host an all-day introductory mariculture workshop in

**Juneau on February 11, 2026.**

11:55

📶 LTE 57



**Sitka Chatters ~ Public**

Maranda Myers · Jan 7 · 🌐



Sharing this opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about ocean farming and mariculture in Southeast Alaska!

Registration closes this Saturday, sign up here:

[<https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop>]  
([https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExNWlqNThUeWd5bm55cVlwUHNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR4iwU5BzK94CI5mQ3Hm7xGSWAmGliEAxojt-BqMQtEWEFkeBbPo8SE6IDEKQ\\_aem\\_Ocaly9wOVQiorZZWPTvN-Q](https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExNWlqNThUeWd5bm55cVlwUHNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR4iwU5BzK94CI5mQ3Hm7xGSWAmGliEAxojt-BqMQtEWEFkeBbPo8SE6IDEKQ_aem_Ocaly9wOVQiorZZWPTvN-Q))



**Tlingit & Haida**

Jan 2 · 🌐

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11:55

LTE 57



**Sitka Chatters ~ Public**

Maranda Myers · Jan 7 · 🌐



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**Tlingit & Haida**

Jan 2 · 🌐

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11:54

LTE 57

< Q maranda in Tenakee Springs Comm...

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### Tenakee Springs Community Forum



Maranda Myers · Jan 7 · 🌐

Sharing this opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about ocean farming and mariculture in Southeast Alaska!

Registration closes this Saturday, sign up here:

[<https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop>]  
([https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExNWIqNThUeWd5bm55cVlwUHNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR4iwU5BzK94CI5mQ3Hm7xGSWA mGliEAxojt-BqMQtEWEFkeBbPo8SE6IDEKQ\\_aem\\_Ocaly9wOVQiorZZWPTvN-Q](https://tinyurl.com/SoutheastMaricultureWorkshop?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExNWIqNThUeWd5bm55cVlwUHNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR4iwU5BzK94CI5mQ3Hm7xGSWA mGliEAxojt-BqMQtEWEFkeBbPo8SE6IDEKQ_aem_Ocaly9wOVQiorZZWPTvN-Q))



### Tlingit & Haida

Jan 2 · 🌐

#### An Introduction to Mariculture in South East Alaska

The Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida more

## Angoon Community Career Fair – January 15, 2026



3RD ANNUAL! 

**2026 Angoon Community Career Fair**

LEARN ABOUT JOBS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
FROM AROUND SOUTHEAST ALASKA

**January 15th,  
at the Angoon High  
School Commons Room  
Open to the Public!**

THERE WILL BE DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLES!

Questions? reach out to Eric Benedict  
**Email:** AngoonAYS@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 917 656 7509

 **Please share widely!**

- **Status:** Trip and associated meetings were canceled.
- **Reason:** Per guidance from Southeast Conference (SEC), attending this event was deemed not an effective use of liaison travel time and funds. Following this direction, I made the decision to cancel all planned tabling and community meetings for this event. This cancellation reflects a decision by SEC, not a reflection of the liaison role or the quality of outreach efforts.

# AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

Due the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month

Region	Host Organization	Reporting Month / Year	Submission Date
Southeast	Ecotrust	February 2025	2/13/2026

## Administrative & Ongoing Tasks

How many total hours were spent this month working on Administrative & Ongoing Task: **9**

### 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.

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

Missed Friday 27 Meeting (either a liaison or other that was hosted that Friday), I was on PTO this day.

## 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: **16**

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:

#### **Sealaska Heritage Institute**

*February 10 (1–3 PM)* – Met with Rosita Worl to introduce my role as AMA Liaison and discuss opportunities for Tribal-focused mariculture programming. Shared details on the Intro to Mariculture Workshop, which she expressed interest in having SHI staff attend. We also discussed past and current Tribal and Tribal corporation involvement in mariculture, including Sealaska's interests, and pathways for engaging Tribal citizens more directly. I was introduced to Krissa and Molly (program managers at SHI). Krissa attended the Intro to Mariculture workshop, and we plan to reconnect afterward to explore future collaboration opportunities. I also took their flyer to share more with farmers about their SHI STEAM Internship as farmers would be great hosts for the program.

### **Wrangell Cooperative Association, Petersburg Borough, Petersburg Indian Association, City & Borough of Wrangell**

Continued outreach via email and phone; no confirmed responses received to date. Cold outreach remains a challenge, and in-person engagement continues to be the most effective approach for establishing initial connections. I was not able to find anyone with Wrangell or Petersburg at the Mid Session Summit as well.

### **Craig & Ketchikan Infrastructure Contacts**

Met in person with Shaan-Seet during the week of February 16 to assess renewed interest in mariculture facility development. Continued correspondence with Southeast Conference (SEC) sharing the potential if funding pathways for infrastructure development were available.

Additionally, met with the Mayor of Craig to discuss mariculture facility opportunities. A follow-up email was sent on February 13, 2026, connecting the Mayor, SEC, and myself to coordinate a future meeting. No meeting has been scheduled at this time.

### **Farmers**

As a new Alaska Shellfish Growers Association board member, I feel well connected to oyster farmers and their concerns across the region and State. This role has allowed me to consistently share relevant updates, opportunities, and industry news in a timely manner each month which has been great.

However, I have experienced a gap in connection with kelp and seaweed farmers in my region. To address this, I began more intentional outreach while in Juneau, including connecting with Jonny at Seaquester to support relationship-building, better understand the interests and needs of seaweed farmers, and stay engaged with broader industry efforts. This outreach also aimed to identify ways my role as a liaison can provide meaningful support to their operations and business development. Engagement included meetings and correspondence on February 3, February 12 (in-person), March 10, and March 17.

Discussions focused on current challenges and opportunities within the mariculture sector, particularly for seaweed farmers, as well as identifying gaps in available support. As part of this effort, I shared a list of relevant funding opportunities based on my experience as a farmer. This was intended to support Seaquester's work and broader industry development, especially given the limited funding resources currently available through AMC and AMA to directly assist farmers in growing or expanding their operations.

### **Additional Outreach Efforts**

Shared workshop information across 18 Southeast Alaska community Facebook groups and informal communication networks (e.g., POW Chatter, Sitka Chatters, Yakutat Area News & Info) to increase awareness and participation.

Due to limited response from Tribal governments and municipalities through direct outreach, these informal networks have been an important tool for reaching community members. Establishing connections in communities where I do not have existing relationships (e.g., Juneau, Angoon, Wrangell, Petersburg) continues to be a challenge.

I have sought support through Southeast Conference and the Southeast Alaska Sustainable Partnership network to facilitate introductions; however, this has not yet resulted in confirmed meetings. I am still requiring this assistance to form these relationships as cold calling and emails over and over every week are getting me nowhere.

### **Challenges**

- Limited response from cold outreach to Tribal and municipal leadership despite consistent follow-up (email and phone every 1-3 weeks).
- Lack of established relationships in several key communities, making initial engagement difficult without introductions.
- Limited programmatic resources or funding opportunities to offer communities at this time, which can reduce engagement interest, considering if this is even a good time to be reaching out to communities every other week with no resources to assist them seems questionable.
- Reliance on partner organizations for introductions has not yet resulted in consistent connections.

### **Next Steps**

- Prioritize in-person engagement opportunities at regional meetings, conferences, and community events to strengthen relationships and build trust across communities.
- Continue working with Tribal environmental and economic development staff to identify appropriate internal points of contact and facilitate introductions for more effective coordination.
- Be intentional about spacing follow-up communications to avoid over-contacting unresponsive offices.
- Maintain and build upon existing partnerships, including continued collaboration with Tlingit & Haida and Alaska Sea Grant to deliver Introductory Mariculture Workshops throughout the region.
- Utilize a mix of outreach methods, both formal and informal, to ensure broader community awareness and accessibility of information.
- Reconnect with individuals who shared contact information during recent travel and begin developing a monthly email listserv to share updates, opportunities, and resources related to Southeast Alaska mariculture.

### **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: 16**

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

## **Intro to Mariculture Workshop Summary**

In February, a one-day workshop was held to introduce Southeast Tribal citizens to mariculture, focusing on oyster and kelp farming, as well as research on culturally important species including pinto abalone and red ribbon seaweed. The workshop covered species introductions, site leasing, farm setup, cultivation methods, marketing, and industry opportunities and challenges. Participants toured mariculture-related facilities, including cultivation labs, a Floating Upweller System (FLUPSY), and a seafood processing facility, and concluded with a hands-on oyster shucking and tasting session.

Seventeen participants attended from communities including Ketchikan, Hydaburg, Kasaan, Kake, Yakutat, Craig, Sitka, and Juneau. Twelve participants identified as Alaska Native or Indigenous. They expressed strong interest in learning about mariculture opportunities, bringing knowledge back to their communities, exploring participation in the industry, and supporting food sovereignty.

### **Key Themes and Outcomes:**

- Need for greater Tribal representation and leadership in mariculture discussions
- Interest in increased opportunities for knowledge sharing, training, and mentorship
- Importance of Tribal engagement in state mariculture permitting processes
- Exploration of non-commercial applications of mariculture, including food security, cultural revitalization, and environmental restoration
- Concerns regarding protecting wild genetics, invasive species risks, seaweed health, and pinto abalone populations

Overall, the event went really great and had some great feedback and outcomes already. The follow-up required for this kind of training can be tedious, but I have high hopes for a few new and upcoming farmers and am really excited about the opportunities that Native Conservancy has to offer them through their Sea Coast Trust. Dune and Keolani were able to come and share more with the group in person at the brewery at the end of the day of the event.

I wish there were more opportunities for liaisons to share what the AMA/AMC has to offer, but there are currently no funding opportunities available for those wanting to get into the industry. I have been using my own knowledge as a farmer and sharing the opportunities I personally used to get into the industry, like funding outlets through AgWest and USDA. That is all I can do at the moment, many current funding avenues do not exist at the moment within the AMA, and the Farmer Knowledge Exchange through Alaska Sea Grant requires participants to already be involved in the industry.

Even so, I am still excited about what individuals learned and gained from this training. Although it could have been longer, I remain genuinely excited about these new and upcoming farmers and community members learning more about mariculture in their region and the opportunities available to them.

### **Media Coverage:**

The workshop was featured by KTOO Public Media in the article [“Mariculture workshop in Juneau highlights growth potential for Alaska oyster farms”](#). Coverage highlighted the growing interest in mariculture among Alaska Native communities and regional participants. Southeast Alaska Mariculture Liaison and oyster farmer shared experience operating a small family-run oyster farm, discussed tools such as FLUPSYs, and emphasized the importance of supporting Indigenous

participation in the industry and strengthening Tribal consultation in the state mariculture leasing process.

**Upcoming Events/Travel:**

- Alaska Mariculture Conference, Anchorage: Scheduled for March 2026.
- Craig POW Whalefest: Liaison to table at the event from April 3–6, 2026; invite accepted January 13, 2026.

**Task 1. C**

Travel to meetings and conferences + other outreach.

**How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. C: 17**

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

**Juneau, February 9–13, 2026**

- Completed workshop planning and logistics for the *Introduction to Mariculture Workshop*.
- Met with Sealaska Heritage Institute leadership and conducted in-person meetings where possible, despite most tribal representatives attending NCAI.
- Coordinated follow-up conversations via email to continue discussions on potential mariculture facility development between SEC and the City of Craig Mayor.
- Introduced myself and my position to Kake Mayor and offered to present to their council, email sent with no response back.
- Attended the Southeast Mid-Session Summit as a presenter and host for the mariculture workshop.

**Juneau, February 17–21, 2026**

- Attended and presented at the *Guardians Gathering*.
- Delivered a 45-minute presentation covering Southeast Alaska mariculture, including:
  - Role of the Liaison, how I can support you and your community in mariculture.
  - Overview of mariculture and species grown in the State and just our region
  - Current locations of mariculture operations
  - State Aquatic Leasing process and how it works for submitting applications
  - How communities can map and plan forward using the Guardians Network app
- Created and presented a 38-slide deck to support the session. Reviewed maps that I have done previously with Craig Tribal Association with the group as an example.

**Travel Challenges**

- ATCEM attendance was canceled following guidance from AMA, despite being a high-value opportunity to engage Southeast Tribal representatives in-person. This limitation reduced potential outreach engagement.

**Planned Travel & Budget Summary Unfinalized Draft as of March 10, 2026:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juneau, AK — <del>Intro to Mariculture Workshop &amp; SE Mid-Session Summit</del>	Feb 9–13, 2026	\$3,549
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juneau, AK — Guardians Gathering	Feb 17–21, 2026	\$2,799
<input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage, AK – Alaska Mariculture Conference	Mar 8–14, 2026	\$2,357
<input type="checkbox"/> Sitka, AK	May	\$1,950
<input type="checkbox"/> Wrangell & Petersburg Community Visits	TBD	\$2,565
<input type="checkbox"/> Kake, AK – Community Visit	TBD	\$2,142
<input type="checkbox"/> Angoon, AK – Community Visit Reschedule (Community Fair Visit Cancelled)	Jan 13-16, 2026 (Reschedule)	\$2,621
<b>Total Travel Budget</b>		<b>\$17,983</b>

### Task 1. D

Engage in miscellaneous outreach & engagement tasks.

**How many total hours were spent this month working on Task 1. D: 17**

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

**Southeast Mariculture Focus Group (Feb 4):** Coordinated a discussion to evaluate Alaska Mariculture Cluster grant opportunities and gather input from regional stakeholders on potential funding priorities.

**Follow-up with New and Emerging Farmers:** Continued outreach after the Intro to Mariculture Workshop. This included sending follow-up emails from Tlingit & Haida, Alaska Sea Grant, and the mariculture liaison, sharing funding, training, and mariculture opportunities. A post-workshop survey was sent to gather feedback on content, format, and participant experience. Responses were overwhelmingly positive, with participants noting the workshop could have been longer to cover more material. Planning is underway for a March meeting to discuss the next workshop and review survey insights.

**Jonny, Seaquaster Farm (Feb 12):** In-person meeting at Coppa to discuss funding support for infrastructure being developed in partnership with Goldbelt for a downtown Juneau mariculture facility. Engagement included ongoing correspondence on Feb 3, Feb 12, Mar 10, and Mar 17, including sharing a list of funding opportunities based on personal experience as a farmer, since current AMC and AMA programs lack resources to fully support farmers.

**Lila Hobbs, PEW (Feb 12):** Met to discuss Southeast mariculture development and potential support PEW could provide around seaweed initiatives. Plans to reconnect at the Mariculture Conference.

**Cooler Room at Alaska Seaplanes – Klawock:** Multiple farmers from Prince of Wales Island reached out for support and information regarding delays with the cooler room project. After initial research did not indicate funding or a clear timeline, I contacted Dan Lesh and Charlie Herrington at Southeast Conference (SEC) to gather accurate project details.

- **Correspondence:**

- *Jan 26, 2026:* Emailed Dan and Charlie requesting updates and clarification, noting that farmers had asked about the cooler and shipments from POW were beginning.
- *Dan Lesh (SEC) Response:* Provided a link to the AMC Mariculture Equipment Program and Airtable database listing all equipment projects. Noted that progress on this project has been slow and suggested that encouragement from stakeholders could help advance it.
- *Charlie Herrington (SEC) Response:* Confirmed he could mention the slow progress to Noah Meyer.
- After not hearing back from SEC or Tlingit & Haida representatives, I reached out directly to Noah Meyer, requesting connections to Ralph and Karli to help move the conversation forward.

- **February Updates:**

- I updated Katie Bode and Jimmy with Tamasso that meetings with Tlingit & Haida representatives were scheduled to provide a clearer timeline for the cooler.
- Katie Bode (ASGA) observed frequent deliveries of Full Circle boxes at the Seaplanes facility, highlighting high local demand for a cooler. The Alaska Oyster Coop offered support to help advance the project.
- I also offered direct support, noting that my dad helped build the new addition at Island Air and that I live in Klawock, so I could help get the cooler placed sooner to reduce shipping hurdles for farmers. I was told my assistance was not needed at the time.

- **Ongoing Engagement:** I continue to check in every few weeks to track progress and keep farmers informed. Farmers now plan to connect with partners in person at the Mariculture Conference.

## **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: 16**

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

#### **Resource Coordination & Information Sharing**

Shared my mariculture resource log (including funding opportunities, permitting resources, loans, equipment, infrastructure contacts, and regulatory links) with Sean and other interested liaisons on January 23, 2026, to support cross-regional alignment and strengthen farmer assistance capacity. I have continued to share these resources with new and emerging farmers as opportunities arise, including at both the Tlingit and Haida Guaridans Gathering and Introduction to Mariculture Workshop..

#### **Infrastructure & Facility Conversations**

Re-engaged conversations regarding mariculture infrastructure development in Ketchikan and Craig (Shaan Seet), including discussion of funding pathways, prior Southeast Conference (SEC) deliverables, and potential next steps. Coordinated follow-up with the City of Craig Mayor to assess renewed interest and clarify funding feasibility with Southeast Conference.

#### **Funding & Equipment Landscape**

Confirmed that Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) equipment funding has been fully allocated, with no additional RFPs anticipated under that funding stream. Identified that future infrastructure or equipment funding will likely require matching funds or alternative funding pathways.

It is worth noting that the current lack of funding opportunities through AMA and AMC makes it challenging to conduct meaningful outreach to Tribes and municipalities who are interested in entering the mariculture industry. Without clear funding pathways to share, it limits the ability to move conversations forward beyond initial interest.

To help bridge this gap, I have been sharing funding avenues that I have personally used as a farmer, including AgWest and USDA opportunities, with new and emerging farmers. This has included direct support to individuals such as Jonny with Sequester Farm, as well as others who have expressed interest in entering the industry.

#### **Farmer Pipeline Observations**

New farmer inquiries remain limited since I have been in this position. Current industry participants appear to be in a stabilization phase due to infrastructure constraints, funding availability, and broader market conditions. Outreach efforts continue to focus on ensuring communities are aware of available resources should interest arise, even as funding limitations remain a key barrier.

## 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: 16**

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

In January, I worked closely with Alaska Sea Grant staff on the development and coordination of the Introduction to Mariculture training scheduled for February 11 in Juneau. This January effort reflects the success of several months of prior planning, relationship-building, and collaborative development to bring this concept to life.

The training was developed in response to gaps identified by Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska regarding the lack of introductory mariculture education and workforce entry points in Southeast Alaska. Through ongoing conversations and regional engagement, it became clear that Southeast lacked a foundational, accessible training tailored to community members, Tribal citizens, and prospective growers.

My role included collaborative planning, helping shape training content to ensure regional relevance, coordinating outreach, and supporting inter-organizational communication. This work strengthens partnerships, increases alignment across agencies, and builds workforce and industry capacity in Southeast Alaska's mariculture sector.

## 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: 16**

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

- **Workshop & Event Participants:**

- Intro to Mariculture Workshop (Feb 11, Juneau) – 17 participants from Ketchikan, Hydaburg, Kasaan, Kake, Yakutat, Craig, Sitka, and Juneau; 12 identified as Alaska Native or Indigenous. Shared event and funding information, including upcoming trainings and workshops.
- Guardians Gathering (Feb 17–21, Juneau) – Presented on Southeast Alaska mariculture, shared funding and participation guidance.

- **Farmers / Industry Contacts:**

- Jonny, Sequester Farm
- Other Prince of Wales Island farmers
- Alaska Shellfish Growers Association

- **Tribal & Organizational Contacts:**

- Sealaska Heritage Institute (Rosita Worl, Krissa, Molly)
- Shaan-Seet
- City of Craig Mayor
- Tlingit & Haida representatives
- Katie Bode, Jimmy with Tamasso

- Lila Hobbs, PEW
- **Other Outreach:**
  - Shared workshop and event information across 18 Southeast Alaska Facebook/community groups (POW Chatter, Sitka Chatters, Yakutat Area News & Info) to increase awareness and participation.
  - Follow-up with Southeast Conference (Dan Lesh, Charlie Herrington) to clarify cooler room project timelines and funding pathways.

## Additional Questions

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

- **Lack of available resources and funding opportunities:**

Many communities have expressed hesitation to engage in industry due to the absence of clear funding pathways, technical assistance, or programmatic support. There is a recurring question of what actual funding resources are available before committing time to further discussions. Some individuals have questioned the purpose of ongoing outreach when there are no immediate opportunities or next steps to offer. Repeated contact without clear outcomes has, in some cases, led to reduced responsiveness.
- **Barriers to entry and participation in mariculture:**

Community members continue to express concerns about permitting complexity, startup costs, which make participation in mariculture feel inaccessible.
- **Concerns regarding transparency and equity in funding distribution:**

Feedback from at least one farmer outside of Southeast Alaska raised concerns about how funding has been distributed, including the perception that entities without active farms or leases in the water may have received funding over established operations (farms specifically in Southeast Alaska). This has led to questions about eligibility criteria, decision-making processes, and fairness.
- **General lack of trust and need for improved communication:**

Across multiple interactions, there is an underlying need for clearer communication, increased transparency, and more consistent engagement from supporting organizations to build trust with communities and farmers.
- Several Tribal representatives expressed interest in mariculture but indicated that capacity constraints and competing priorities limit immediate action.
- Infrastructure limitations remain one of the most significant barriers to mariculture expansion in Southeast Alaska.
  - **Kelp Sector:** Many rural Southeast communities lack processing infrastructure for kelp, creating uncertainty around post-harvest handling, product stabilization, and market readiness. Without local drying, freezing, or value-added capacity, prospective growers are hesitant to enter production due to the risk of not having reliable pathways

to market.

- **Shellfish Sector:** Oyster farmers on Prince of Wales Island have expressed ongoing challenges related to cold storage and air freight logistics. Limited or inconsistent access to refrigerated storage at airports complicates product transport to Lower 48 markets. Farms not directly aligned with established airline freight channels face additional logistical hurdles, increasing cost and reducing competitiveness.

Several growers also shared that, despite recent mariculture-focused funding investments, there have been minimal improvements to on-the-ground logistics constraints affecting shellfish transport. While significant effort has been directed toward marketing Alaska oysters to Lower 48 buyers, farmers emphasized that strengthening cold-chain infrastructure and reliable freight pathways may need to be prioritized in parallel to ensure product quality and consistency upon arrival.

Addressing transportation and storage bottlenecks may significantly enhance the effectiveness of marketing efforts and improve long-term competitiveness for Southeast producers.

These infrastructure gaps are influencing both new farmer entry and existing farm expansion decisions.

**Describe one success story:**

The Introduction to Mariculture Workshop was a really great success, like I mentioned throughout this report. I'm excited to see more workshops like this happening over the next couple of months! I hope these trainings are sparking interest and inspiring new and upcoming farmers in Southeast to jump in and join us.

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

- Conduct the Introduction to Mariculture Workshop (Feb 11) and provide detailed follow-up notes and action items.
- Meet with Sealaska leadership contacts during SE Mid-Session Summit to establish direct engagement pathways.
- Reconnect with Shaan Seet leadership during in-person visit (week of Feb 16) to assess next steps for mariculture facility development.
- Continue cooler room coordination discussions with Tlingit & Haida representatives and stakeholders.
- Engage new contacts gathered through workshop and conference registration to support potential 2026 lease applicants.
- Expand targeted outreach to Tribal environmental staff and economic development personnel to identify prospective growers.



Impaired reception of KAUK (91.7), KRNN(102.7), and KXLL(100.7)

[Business](#) | [Fisheries](#) | [Science & Tech](#) | [Southeast](#)

## Mariculture workshop in Juneau highlights growth potential for Alaska oyster farms

February 17, 2026 by Alix Soliman, KTOO



*Thousands of young Pacific oysters grow in bins within the floating upweller system, or FLUPSY. (Photo by Alix Soliman/KTOO)*


*Listen to this story:*



At the end of a dock in Auke Bay, an oyster farmer lifted a creaky hatch door on an unassuming floating platform. Inside were bins holding thousands of young oysters, called spat.

The platform is called a floating upweller system, or FLUPSY, and it's one way oyster





**Phytoplankton Monitoring & Harvest Area Closures**

where are ocean farms located?



### Phytoplankton Monitoring & Harvest Area Closures

where are ocean farms located?

EXIT

TANDB...





**1st Year Internship Program**

**NOW HIRING OYSTER FARM SUMMER INTERNSHIP**

- Location: Knoxville, TN
- Duration: June-May - Sept 2025 (approx 10-14 hrs/week minimum)
- Duties: Plant, tend, bag oysters, assist with farm operations and sales
- Who can apply: All are welcome, soft skills given to participants. High school and college grads, interested in aquaculture or oysters.
- Apply by March 20, 2025

SCAN TO APPLY AND LEARN MORE!

[www.oysterfarm.com](http://www.oysterfarm.com)

**where are ocean farms located?**

Map showing the locations of various ocean farms across the United States, with a focus on the coastal regions.



**MARANDA HAMME**  
Regional Mariculture Catalyst  
Ecotrek & Southeastern Coastal Partners  
shinakushellfish@gmail.com

where are ocean farms located?



**2026 Seacoast Indigenous Guardians Network (SIGN) Gathering**

**Dates: February 17-20, 2026**

**Location: Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall, Juneau**

**February 19, 2026 - Day 3: Training**

Time	Session	Speaker/Lead
8:30am	Breakfast	
9:00am-9:15am	Icebreaker	Karli Tyance Hassell
9:15am-10:15am	Cultural Tourism	Jeremy Timothy, Tristan Douville, Zia NoiseCat
10:15am-10:30am	Break	
10:30am-12pm	Traditional Food Security Demonstration	TFS Team
12-1:30pm	Lunch	Catered by Smokehouse (Jamie)
1:30-2:30pm	Subsistence Policy Training	Heather Bauscher (Sitka Conservation Society)
2:30pm-3pm	Break	
3:00pm-3:45pm	Southeast Alaska Mariculture	Maranda Hamme
3:30pm-4pm	Federal subsistence management program review	Tony Christianson, Brandon Ware, Karli Tyance Hassell
6pm	Dinner Off-campus dinner-The Hangar	

**February 20, 2026 – Day 4: Training & Partnership Updates**

Time	Session	Speaker/Lead
8:30am	Breakfast	
9:00am-9:15am	Icebreaker	Tony Christianson
9:15am-10:15am	Tongass Forest Planning - Cultural Tree Plan and Inventory	Arielle Halpern
10:15am-10:30am	Break	
10:30am-12pm	Cultural protocol in government-to-government relationships	Will Ware
12-1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30-2:00pm	Ocean Conservancy	Mike Levine, Austen Erickson
2:00pm-2:30pm	Marine Mammal Monitoring	Ana Velasquez
2:30pm-3pm	Break	
3pm-4pm	Wrap Up	Ralph Wolfe, Brandon Ware, Karli Tyance Hassell
	Dinner on your own	



Re: Liaison Southeast January Report

Summarize ☺ ⏪ ⏩ ↻



Maranda Hamme <mhamme@ecotrust.org>

Monday, March 9, 2026 at 11:48 AM

To: Molly Dischner; Jon Bonkoski; Cc: Jason Lessard AMA

To protect your privacy, some external images in this message were not downloaded.

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Go to Settings

Hi Molly,

Thank you for the follow up and apologies for my delayed response as I was out of the office.

I do want to note that attending ATCEM does align with the goals of the liaison travel funds, and should have been prioritized more by AMA and SEC. The conference is one of the few events where representatives from many Southeast Tribes are present in one place, making it a key opportunity for outreach in my role.

I did go ahead and cancel my travel and meetings for ATCEM in Anchorage following this guidance. However, I would have appreciated this feedback earlier, as I had already shared during last month's Southeast Chat that I would be in Anchorage and available to meet in person with Southeast Tribal representatives. I'll be sure to update the SE Tribes during this month's Southeast Chat for why I will not be attending anymore.

Additionally, when I traveled to Juneau for the Southeast Mid-Session Summit, I had intended to meet with several Tribal government representatives while there. Unfortunately, I later learned the Summit overlapped with NCAI in Washington, DC, which meant that most Tribal leadership from Southeast Alaska was attending NCAI instead. As a result, the outreach opportunities I had planned during that trip were not available.

Because my role is specifically focused on outreach to Tribes and city governments, conferences like ATCEM are some of the most effective opportunities to connect with Southeast communities. I would even go as far to say more effective than the Southeast Mid-Session Summit would have been. Limitations on travel or late changes to approved plans significantly affect my ability to carry out outreach and engagement with Tribes and local governments.

I want to ensure it is clear that these constraints directly impact the level of engagement I am able to conduct in this role. This is solely due to the decisions made by the AMA and SEC, and not my position as I am doing everything in my power to ensure this outreach is conducted correctly and with SE communities interest at heart first.

I will also be sure to reflect this context in my February report so there is a clear record of how these travel decisions affected outreach opportunities and engagement with Southeast Tribes and communities. Any clearer directives would be appreciated moving forward as well, so I can plan accordingly.

Take care and looking forward to seeing you all this week!  
Maranda

Maranda Hamme | Mariculture Catalyst | Ecotrust  
1140 SE 7th Ave, Suite 150, Portland, OR 97214  
(907) 401.1852 | Pronouns: she/her  
Office hours: M-F / 9am - 5pm

From: Molly Dischner <mdischner@alaskamariculture.org>  
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 3:34 PM  
To: Maranda Hamme <mhamme@ecotrust.org>, Jon Bonkoski <jbonkoski@ecotrust.org>  
Subject: Re: Liaison Southeast January Report

Hi Maranda,

I apologize for not making this clear right after our meeting, but the ATCEM trip listed in your report does not fit with the liaison program goals for travel funds.

I'm sorry I didn't make that clear immediately and that this is now very delayed feedback. SEC & AMA appreciated the other updates to your travel plan that we noted in this report, and are excited to see the outreach that comes from it!

I'm including Jon on this email since you're out of office and I wanted to make sure that this was relayed sooner rather than later. Please let me know if you have any questions!

-Molly

On Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 5:22 PM Maranda Hamme <mhamme@ecotrust.org> wrote:

Hi Molly,  
I hope you made it home safely and all is well! It was great meeting you!  
Here is my report for January, the outreach log will be fully up to date on Monday.

Thanks again for all your patience!! I truly appreciate you.

Take care and see you in a few weeks!!  
Maranda

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OcaEg\\$cl8vYjCPTmBGa6DRVPZAc60ZGF/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114641855708901422670&tpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OcaEg$cl8vYjCPTmBGa6DRVPZAc60ZGF/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114641855708901422670&tpof=true&sd=true)

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**Re: Mariculture Facility – Reconnecting on Next Steps for Craig**

 Summarize    



 **Dan Lesh** <Dan@seconference.org>

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 11:47 AM

To:  Maranda Hamme; Kasey Smith Mayor

Hi Casey and Maranda -

Thanks for the note and happy to meet, thanks for coordinating Maranda.

-Dan

---

**From:** Maranda Hamme <mhamme@ecotrust.org>

**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2026 9:22 AM

**To:** Kasey Smith Mayor <Mayor@craigak.com>

**Cc:** Dan Lesh <Dan@seconference.org>

**Subject:** Mariculture Facility – Reconnecting on Next Steps for Craig

Hi Mayor Kacey,

It was great connecting with you this week. I wanted to follow up regarding renewed interest in picking back up the mariculture facility concept in Craig.

Based on recent conversations with Southeast Conference and Dan Lesh, there is openness to reconnect and discuss next steps, even though their direct equipment funding has been fully allocated. They are willing to join a call to help talk through pathways forward, including potential funding avenues, technical assistance, and what would be needed to re-engage partners such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding prior wetlands considerations.

If this is something the City of Craig and Shaan Seet would like to explore again, I'm happy to help organize a call and move the conversation forward. In my capacity as the mariculture liaison, this is absolutely work I can assist with. Whether that's coordinating partners, identifying funding opportunities, or helping assess feasibility for a shared facility that could serve both mariculture farmers and local producers.

Please let me know if you'd like me to begin coordinating next steps.

Best,

Maranda

Sent from my iPhone

## Southeast Mariculture Liaison

### Mailing List Sign-Up

To keep coastal communities informed in mariculture development across Southeast Alaska, including funding opportunities, regulatory updates, events, and relevant regional information as it arises.

Name	Organization / Community	Email Address	Area of Interest (Optional)
Dorian Dundas	KIC	dorianD@kictribe.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oyster / Shellfish Farming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelp / Seaweed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permitting & Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding Opportunities
Lawrence ARMOUR	KCA	community@kca.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oyster / Shellfish Farming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelp / Seaweed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permitting & Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding Opportunities
Sean Johnson	Organized Village of Kake	guardian@kake-nsn.gov	<input type="checkbox"/> Oyster / Shellfish Farming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelp / Seaweed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permitting & Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding Opportunities
Brian Holter	CTA	epacoordinator@cta-tribe.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oyster / Shellfish Farming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelp / Seaweed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permitting & Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding Opportunities
George Nix	O.V. Kasan	FacSecurityManager@kasan.org	<input type="checkbox"/> Oyster / Shellfish Farming <input type="checkbox"/> Kelp / Seaweed <input type="checkbox"/> Permitting & Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Funding Opportunities
Frank Nix	OV Kasan	ChurchAdmin@kasan.org	<input type="checkbox"/> Oyster / Shellfish Farming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelp / Seaweed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permitting & Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding Opportunities
Kim Armendaric	SCS	Kim@SitkaWild.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oyster / Shellfish Farming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelp / Seaweed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permitting & Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funding Opportunities
Cody Carle	HCA	hca.ca@hca.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oyster / Shellfish Farming