

AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

Month/Year: _____ Region: _____

AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

Due the 10th of each month

Region	Host Organization	Reporting Month / Year	Submission Date
Kodiak Archipelago	KALI	April 2026	4/12/2026

Administrative & Ongoing Tasks

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

Lexa - 10 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:

Lexa was able to make all the AMA weekly meetings and cluster 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 = 8 hours

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

Lexa attended the Kodiak Workforce forum on April 28th. The meeting focused on developing workforce capacity for Kodiak's growing mariculture sector. The meeting was hosted by the Kodiak Economic Development Corporation. In attendance were workforce planning personnel from the University of Alaska, Kodiak Island Borough School District, and Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, Southeast Conference.

Lexa met with Dan Lesh and gave him a tour of the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science center.

Lexa met with Dan Lesh, Kodiak Ocean Growers, Koniag, the Kodiak Economic Development Corporation, and Sun'aq tribal staff regarding the KP3 project. Lexa will offer her support in the form of business planning and updating spreadsheets to help determine the best equipment to purchase under this funding for Sun'aq and the Kodiak Ocean Growers.

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 April

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.

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- 45 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 procuring another kelp lease. They will finish their oyster lease (in final 30-day appeal period) and will then add a second parcel to that lease as the kelp lease through a lease amendment. They are working on a plan and procuring funding for the oyster farm gear and hope to outplant oysters as early as fall of 2026. Lexa helped Ouzinkie staff with questions received from the USACE regarding their letter of permission request. This included detailed explanations of gear configuration, planned working hours, and diagrams of the farm not in the Joint Agency Lease Application. She provided the standard mitigation measures accepted by the USFWS and NOAA on other leases in the region for their review and to submit to USACE.

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 purchased FlipFarm gear from New Zealand which should be here mid-summer. They plan to outplant oysters this fall. They outplanted some kelp in early April and will utilize any kelp grown in the local Alutiiq Grown farm. Lexa is working on a plan with community development coordinator Alex Troxell to train Old Harbor Native Corporation staff on oyster basket construction and operation of the gear later this summer. They will likely have the opportunity to visit an operating oyster farm in Kodiak and job shadow for the day.

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.

Tangirnaq Native Village Farm Application Assistance Request- Tangirnaq Native Village vice president and executive director Gwen Sargent reached out to KALI for assistance developing a plan and application for multiple kelp farm sites near Kodiak. Lexa and KALI staff worked to generate a plan for assisting them in this process. For a meeting on April 3rd and put together an information package that included the Joint Agency Lease Application for state leases; the paperwork for USACE LOPs; table from ADNR with lease process and lease fee structure; past KALI PowerPoint presentations on kelp farming; the Alaska Aquaculture Permitting Portal; as well as links to state agency managers for specific questions related to permitting regulations (ADFG = Flip Pryor and Michelle Morris; ADNR = Karen Cougan) and the Kodiak Ocean Growers cooperative. They notified KALI that they will not be moving forward with a lease application this year as they do not have the staff to manage the lease application or farm currently. They are also interested in exploring oyster 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:

Lexa- 23 hours

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

mariculture:

Alaska Sea Grant-Melissa Good

Lexa worked with ASG to secure a letter of support for projects that will continue KALIs support of Kodiak regional mariculture beyond the Build Back Better funding. This included assistance with training, product development, business planning, and access to the dulse seaweed cultivation manual to plan and execute a dulse cultivation system in a rural community.

Kodiak Economic Development Corporation

Lexa worked in the meeting April 28th to address questions pertaining to the mariculture sector's needs for trained help and filled out online polls. She engaged with Kodiak City Council members and answered their questions about workforce development needs in this sector and possible high school internship programs.

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- 2 hours

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

Reminded KOG about farmer exchange grant opportunities through Alaska Sea Grant.

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. Kodiak Ocean Growers continues to search for alternate markets ahead of a mid-May harvest deadline.

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 "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 financially for farmers. We request assistance from the AMA to achieve greater understanding between regulators and farmers to develop regulations that support rather than hinder ecologically responsible mariculture development. Is there an update for the status of these conversations with NMFS, 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 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.
4. Work on the transition plan and continued mariculture support after the AMA liaison program sunsets in September.

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	May 2026	6/03/2026

Administrative & Ongoing Tasks

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

Lexa - 10 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:

Lexa was able to make all the AMA weekly meetings and the AMA board meeting. 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 = 21 hours

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

Lexa began planning and offered participation in numerous events during the upcoming Kodiak Kelp Fest June 16-20, 2026. Please see the attached draft schedule for more information. Lexa will host taste testing of kelp products, give a talk at the kelp Science night, and help participants in the seaweed scavenger hunt.

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 May.

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 May included: none

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- 30 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 procuring another kelp lease. They will finish their oyster lease (in final 30-day appeal period) and will then add a second parcel to that lease as the kelp lease through a lease amendment. They are working on a plan and procuring funding for the oyster farm gear and hope to outplant oysters as early as fall of 2026. Lexa is standing by to help with completion of either the ADNR Lease or the USACE LOP. The ADNR Lease should be finalized by the end of June 2026.

Old Harbor Alliance/Old Harbor Native Corporation

Lexa continued to support the Old Harbor Community kelp and oyster farm. They have purchased FlipFarm gear from New Zealand which should be here mid-summer. They plan to outplant oysters this fall. They outplanted some kelp in early April and will utilize any kelp grown in the local Alutiiq Grown farm. Lexa is working on a plan with community development coordinator Alex Troxell to train Old Harbor Native Corporation staff on oyster basket construction and operation of the gear later this summer. They will likely have the opportunity to visit an operating oyster farm in Kodiak and job shadow for the day.

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.

Tangirnaq Native Village Farm Application Assistance Request- Tangirnaq Native Village (TNV) Vice president and Executive Director Gwen Sargent reached out to KALI for assistance developing a plan and application for multiple kelp farm sites near Kodiak in April. They have notified KALI that they will not be moving forward with a lease application this year as they do not have the staff to manage the lease application or farm currently. KALI continues to include TNV in Alutiiq Grown and other gatherings and correspondence with a goal of helping them build capacity and prepare for future efforts to procure a lease and move into mariculture opportunities.

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- 17 hours

List any staff, job title, and organization you assisted this month and describe their relationship to mariculture:**Alaska Sea Grant-Melissa Good, mariculture specialist**

Lexa worked with ASG to plan the upcoming Kodiak Kelp Fest June 16-20, 2026.

Prince William Sound Science Center-Angie Korabik, Mariculture Postdoctoral Researcher Lexa worked with Angie to plan the upcoming Kodiak Kelp Fest June 16-20, 2026.

May 15th Jon Kurland, Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region and Dr. Robert Foy, Science and Research Director for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Lexa hosted them on a tour of a local kelp farm, she reiterated the growing importance of kelp and oyster mariculture in the region and the increasing role of rural communities in the sector. She answered questions about industry scale past, present, and future.

May 19th NOAA Alaska Protected Resources Division: David Gann - Marine Mammal Specialist and Sadie Wright - Protected Species Biologist along with Alicia Bishop - Alaska Regional Aquaculture Coordinator Hosted regulatory specialists on a tour of a local oyster farm. They were able to gain first-hand experience and knowledge on oyster farm gear configuration and potential impacts to federally protected species. Both David and Sadie review and advise on USACE LOPs in the region. Alicia is ensuring that they have the experience and knowledge they need to advise on these permit requests and associated informal ESA consultations.

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- 2 hours

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

Reminded KOG about farmer exchange grant opportunities through Alaska Sea Grant.

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.

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:

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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.
4. Work on the transition plan and continued mariculture support after the AMA liaison program sunsets in September.
5. Kodiak Kelp Fest!

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

AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

Month/Year: _____ Region: _____

AMA LIAISON MONTHLY REPORT

Due the 10th of each month

Region	Host Organization	Reporting Month / Year	Submission Date
Kodiak Archipelago	KALI	June 2026	7/03/2026

Administrative & Ongoing Tasks

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

Lexa - 12 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:

Lexa was able to make all the AMA weekly meetings. Lexa participates in KALI weekly coordination meetings.
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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 = 32 hours

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

Kodiak Kelp Fest – June 16-20th, 2026

As the Alaska Mariculture Alliance Liaison Lexa Meyer participated in multiple outreach events during the six-day Kodiak Kelp Fest, an annual community celebration focused on mariculture education, advocacy, and public engagement. Organized through partnerships among Alaska Sea Grant, Kodiak Ocean Growers, local businesses, and community members, Kelp Fest brings together growers, researchers, educators, and the public to increase awareness of Alaska's expanding mariculture industry and its opportunities for coastal communities.

During *Science and Cider Night*, Meyer presented an overview of the kelp life cycle, nursery production, and how these early stages of cultivation are critical to successful kelp farming operations. She also featured a table demonstration of kelp spore release with bull kelp. Spores could be viewed on a video screen attached to a microscope. At the Kodiak Island Brewery *Kelp Product Showcase*, KALI offered value-added seaweed products for the public to sample, including Deckhand Dumplings made with locally harvested cod and farmed kelp and Seaside Ranch dressing featuring dulse seaweed. These product demonstrations highlighted the versatility of Alaska-grown seaweed and encouraged conversations about the economic potential of locally produced mariculture products.

Meyer also assisted with the Kelp Fest beach *Seaweed Scavenger Hunt*, helping participants identify common intertidal seaweed species while discussing their ecological roles and their importance to Alaska's developing mariculture industry. Through these educational presentations, product demonstrations, and hands-on activities, KALI expanded community awareness of mariculture, promoted locally produced seaweed products, fostered connections between growers and the public, and supported the long-term development of a resilient and sustainable mariculture sector in Alaska.

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 June.

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.

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- 34 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 procuring another kelp lease. They will finish their oyster lease (in final 30-day appeal period) and will then add a second parcel to that lease as the kelp lease through a lease amendment. They are working on a plan and procuring funding for the oyster farm gear and hope to outplant oysters as early as fall of 2026. Lexa is standing by to help with completion of either the ADNRR Lease or the USACE LOP. The ADNRR Lease is still pending. Lexa checked in twice during the month of June to see if the city needed any assistance with completing the lease.

Old Harbor Alliance/Old Harbor Native Corporation

Lexa continued to support the Old Harbor Community kelp and oyster farm. They have purchased FlipFarm gear from New Zealand which has shipped and will be here by the end of July. They plan to outplant oysters this fall. They outplanted some kelp in early April and will utilize any kelp grown in the local Alutiiq Grown farm. Lexa is working on a plan with community development coordinator Alex Troxell to train Old Harbor Native Corporation staff on oyster basket construction and operation of the gear later this summer. They will likely visit an operating oyster farm in Kodiak and job shadow for the day. Lexa plans to go to Old Harbor in September and assist with the outplanting of ~200,000 juvenile oysters and deploy Flip Farm Gear.

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. She assisted with clarification on the status of the FLUPSY purchase and legal representation changes that Southeast Conference had been dealing with that had stalled the progress of the purchase.

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:

Alaska Sea Grant-Melissa Good, mariculture specialist

Lexa worked with ASG to plan the upcoming Kodiak Kelp Fest June 16-20, 2026.

Prince William Sound Science Center-Angie Korabik, Mariculture Postdoctoral Researcher

Lexa worked with Angie to plan the upcoming Kodiak Kelp Fest June 16-20, 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- 1 hour

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

Reminded KOG about farmer exchange grant opportunities through Alaska Sea Grant.

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.

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.

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. Schedule site visits to each community in the archipelago that KALI is supporting into the mariculture industry to offer in-person technical assistance and to meet with and exchange information with Tribal and municipal leadership.
2. Follow up with permits, ensure that the leases are finalized and ADFG issues farming permits.
3. 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.
4. Continue to work with federal and state agencies and the AMA to expedite the permitting and permit renewal process for marine farms.
5. Work on the transition plan and continued mariculture support after the AMA liaison program sunsets in September.

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

The Kodiak Kelfest was a wonderful event but, unfortunately, Lexa was so busy working she forgot to take photos. She has reached out to Sea Grant to see if they can share some, and we will forward to AMA in a separate email.