



Alaska Seafood Industry Modernization Initiative
Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, 2024

Revitalizing Alaska's Fisheries: Seafood Industry Modernization Initiative

Alaska's Seafood Industry:

- Cornerstone of our state's economy
- Vital to the sustainability of our coastal communities for over a century
- Now facing significant challenges and recent crisis

AFDF's Response to Crisis:

- Unanimously adopted initiative by the AFDF Board, February 22, 2024
- Strategy to address current challenges and secure the future of Alaska's fisheries

Key Objective:

- Modernize Alaska's seafood industry for sustainable growth and resilience in a changing economic and environmental landscape.



Key Components of the Initiative

Large-Scale Economic Study

- Comprehensive statewide study to identify critical industry challenges.

Industry Collaboration

- Collaboration with stakeholders, researchers, and government agencies to drive innovation and problem-solving.

Workforce Development

- Investments in training programs to grow employment in coastal communities and stimulate economic growth.

Key Components of the Initiative

Technological Advancement

- Adoption of cutting-edge technologies for harvesting, processing, and distribution.
- AFDF Accelerator as a central component.

New Seafood Product Development

- Expansion of the Alaska Symphony of Seafood to foster global recognition of innovative Alaska seafood products.

Policy Advocacy

- Proactive engagement with policymakers to advocate for supportive policies and funding.



AFDF

```
graph TD; AFDF[AFDF] --- S1[Start-Up Accelerator Program]; AFDF --- S2[Alaska Symphony of Seafood]; AFDF --- S3[Mariculture Development Program]; AFDF --- S4[SeaThrive Program]; S1 --- S1_1[Blue Economy Innovation]; S1 --- S1_2[Vessel Energy Solutions]; S1 --- S1_3[Start-Up Advisory Support]; S1 --- S1_4[Entrepreneur Mentorship]; S1 --- S1_5[Research & Development]; S2 --- S2_1[Seattle WA Event]; S2 --- S2_2[Juneau AK Event]; S3 --- S3_1[Research & Development]; S3 --- S3_2[Joint Innovation Projects]; S3 --- S3_3[Economic Development]; S3 --- S3_4[AK Mariculture Conference]; S3 --- S3_5[Community Investment]; S4 --- S4_1[Sustainable Certifications]; S4 --- S4_2[Climate-Ready Fisheries]; S4 --- S4_3[Environmental Awareness]; S4 --- S4_4[Workforce Development]; S4 --- S4_5[Social Responsibility];
```

Start-Up Accelerator
Program

Alaska Symphony
of Seafood

Mariculture
Development
Program

SeaThrive
Program

Blue Economy Innovation
Vessel Energy Solutions
Start-Up Advisory Support

Entrepreneur Mentorship
Research & Development

Seattle WA Event

Juneau AK Event

Research & Development
Joint Innovation Projects
Economic Development

AK Mariculture Conference
Community Investment

Sustainable Certifications
Climate-Ready Fisheries
Environmental Awareness

Workforce Development
Social Responsibility

Progress Since February: Building Momentum

Large Scale Economic Study

- Collaborating with McKinley Research on a seafood processing business model and cost comparison study
- Draft report expected by May 2025

Technological Integration & Innovation

- Leveraging the Startup Accelerator to drive industry innovation
- Partnering with Washington Maritime Blue to expand our footprint

New Seafood Product Development

- Rebranding the Alaska Symphony of Seafood to expand its reach and support industry innovation, promoting new Alaska seafood products

Expected Outcomes of the Initiative

Increased Efficiency

- Streamlined operations, waste reduction, and higher yields/profitability for harvesters and processors.

Market Growth

- Expansion of Alaska seafood products leading to economic growth and job creation.

Industry Resiliency

- Enhanced adaptability to environmental and market changes, securing long-term viability for Alaska's coastal communities.

Path Forward Community Collaborations

- Our success depends on the collective efforts of all community partners.
- AFDF is dedicated to advancing the entire Alaska seafood industry, supporting growth across all regions of the state.
- Let's do this!

