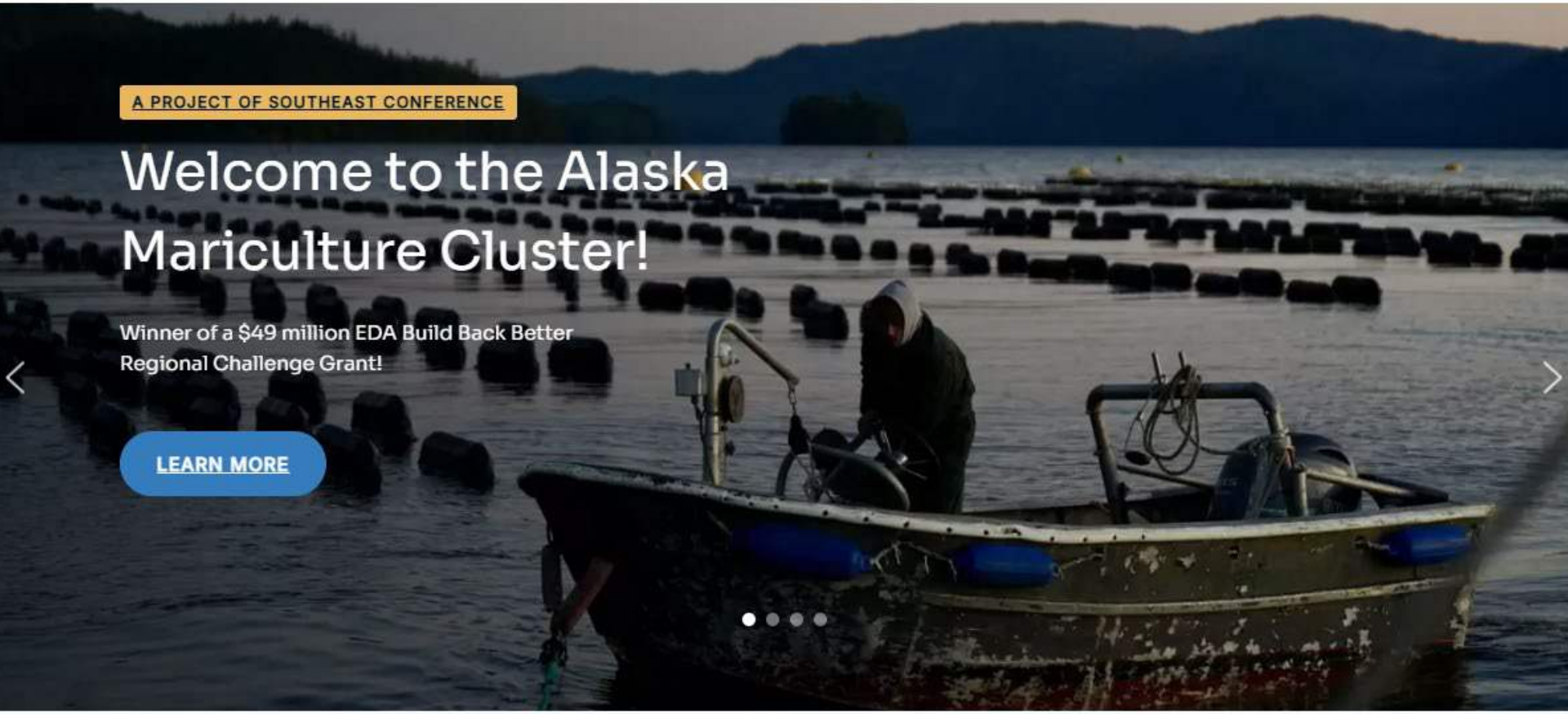
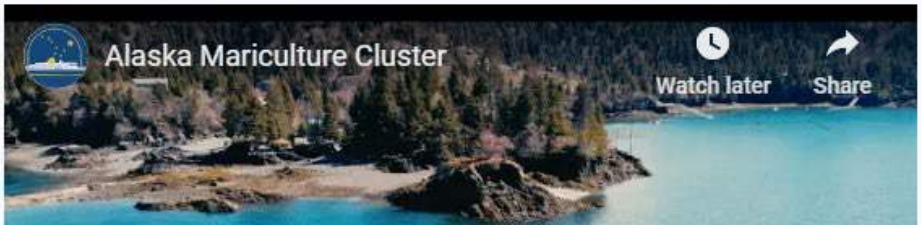


About the Alaska Mariculture Cluster

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC), led by Southeast Conference, is a coalition that includes members of Alaska's mariculture industry, tribal organizations, regulatory agencies, university system, Economic Development Districts, trade organizations, and others. In September 2022, the U.S. Economic Development Administration awarded

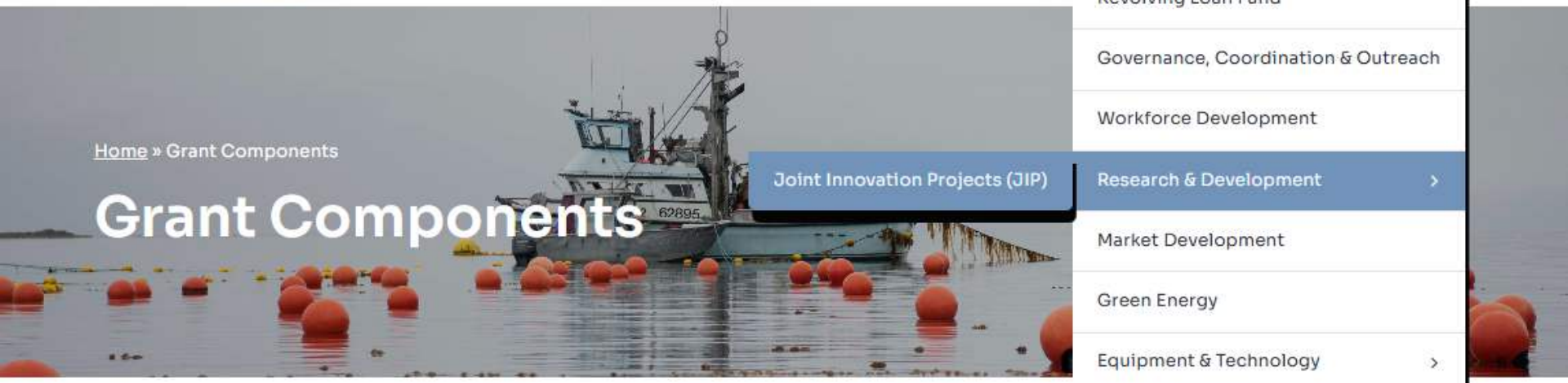


Mariculture Opportunity in Alaska

Mariculture refers to marine shellfish and seaweed products and their farming, processing, and sales. Finfish farming is prohibited by law in Alaska.

Alaska has many strengths that make it an ideal environment for mariculture: clean and abundant waters, skills and abilities of coastal Alaskans maritime experience, culture knowledge of indigenous Alaskans, and existing seafood industry and infrastructure. The state has research and development capacity at the University and industry levels, as well as a sophisticated seafood marketing organization that effectively reaches consumers all over the nation and the world. The regulatory process and agencies are accessible, and the state legislature has been supportive with regulation and funding programs.

Seagrove Kelp Farm, Doyle Bay



Grant Components

Introduction

Alaska has many strengths that make it an ideal environment for mariculture: clean and abundant waters, skills and abilities of coastal Alaskans maritime experience, culture knowledge of indigenous Alaskans, and existing seafood industry and infrastructure. The state has research and development capacity at the University and industry levels, as well as a sophisticated seafood marketing organization that effectively reaches consumers all over the nation and the world. The regulatory process and agencies are accessible, and the Legislature has been supportive, including funding $5 million for a new mariculture matching grant program.

Along with these strengths come challenges.

The eight (8) grant components of the Alaska Mariculture Cluster are designed to address barriers to developing a mariculture industry with a heartbeat of equity and sustainability.

Requests For Proposals (RFPs)

RFP announcements and updates are communicated through the AMC newsletter. Please sign up here for the latest updates.

Grant Components

Select All

Status

Active

Awarded Entities

Select All

Mariculture Equipment Rounds #2 & #3

Status: Active
Date of Issue: 1/22/2025
Closing Date: 4/7/2025
Grant Component: Equipment & Technology
Awarded to:

Learn More

Mariculture Marine Safety Resource Development

Status: Active
Date of Issue: 1/14/2025
Closing Date: 2/14/2025
Grant Component: Workforce Development
Awarded to: Pending

Learn More

Farmer Knowledge Exchange Grant Program 2025

Status: Active
Date of Issue: 1/09/2025

Alaska Mariculture Cluster News

Grant Components

Select All

Lead Entities

Select All

Project Unveils Nutritional Label For Alaska-Grown Pacific Oysters

February 6, 2025

The Alaska Shellfish Growers Association (ASGA), a nonprofit organization representing shellfish farmers and those interested in developing shellfish aquaculture in Alaska, oversaw a nutritional ...

Seaweed Population Genetics Program Overview

February 6, 2025

The Seaweed Population Genetics program, led by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADFG) Gene Conservation Laboratory, is conducting advanced genetic research on ...

AMC Theory Of Change & Evaluation Survey

February 4, 2025

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) is a four-year grant-funded project aiming to stimulate Alaska's mariculture industry through strategic investments that de-risk the sector and ...

Kelp Processing: Technical Report On

UAF Hosts Mariculture Ideation Session In

Report: 2024 Alaska Mariculture Industry

Search AMC News

Grant Components

Select All

Lead Entities

Select All

Report: 2024 Alaska Mariculture Industry Overview

November 21, 2024

Lead Entities: McKinley Research Group

Grant Component: Equipment & Technology

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC) contracted with McKinley Research Group and the Pacific Shellfish Institute to provide AMC and the broader mariculture industry with current information about topics including oyster and seaweed harvest, farm utilization, seed supply and quality, and growing techniques. This is the first of three annual reports produced as part of AMC's Mariculture Industry Tracking project.

Read Full Report

Search AMC News

Grant Components

Select All

Lead Entities

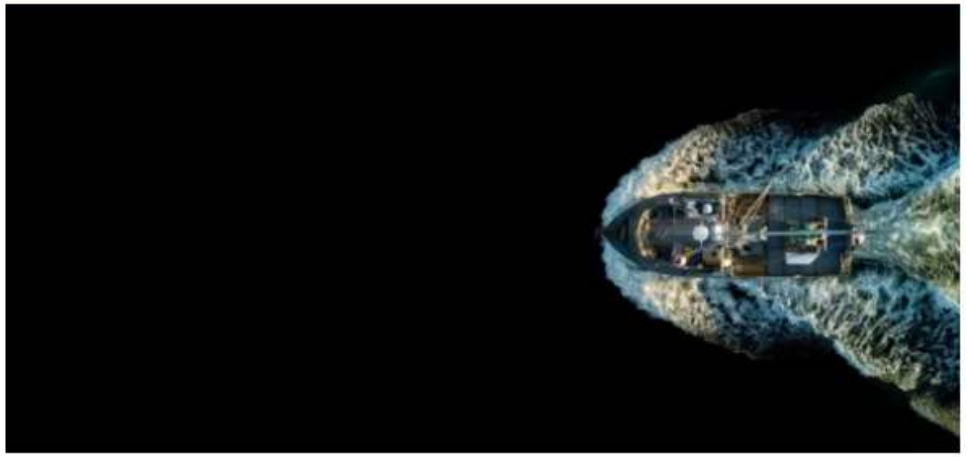
Select All

AFDF Announces Second Cohort for Joint Innovations Projects (JIP)

July 25, 2024

Lead Entities: Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation

Grant Component: Research & Development

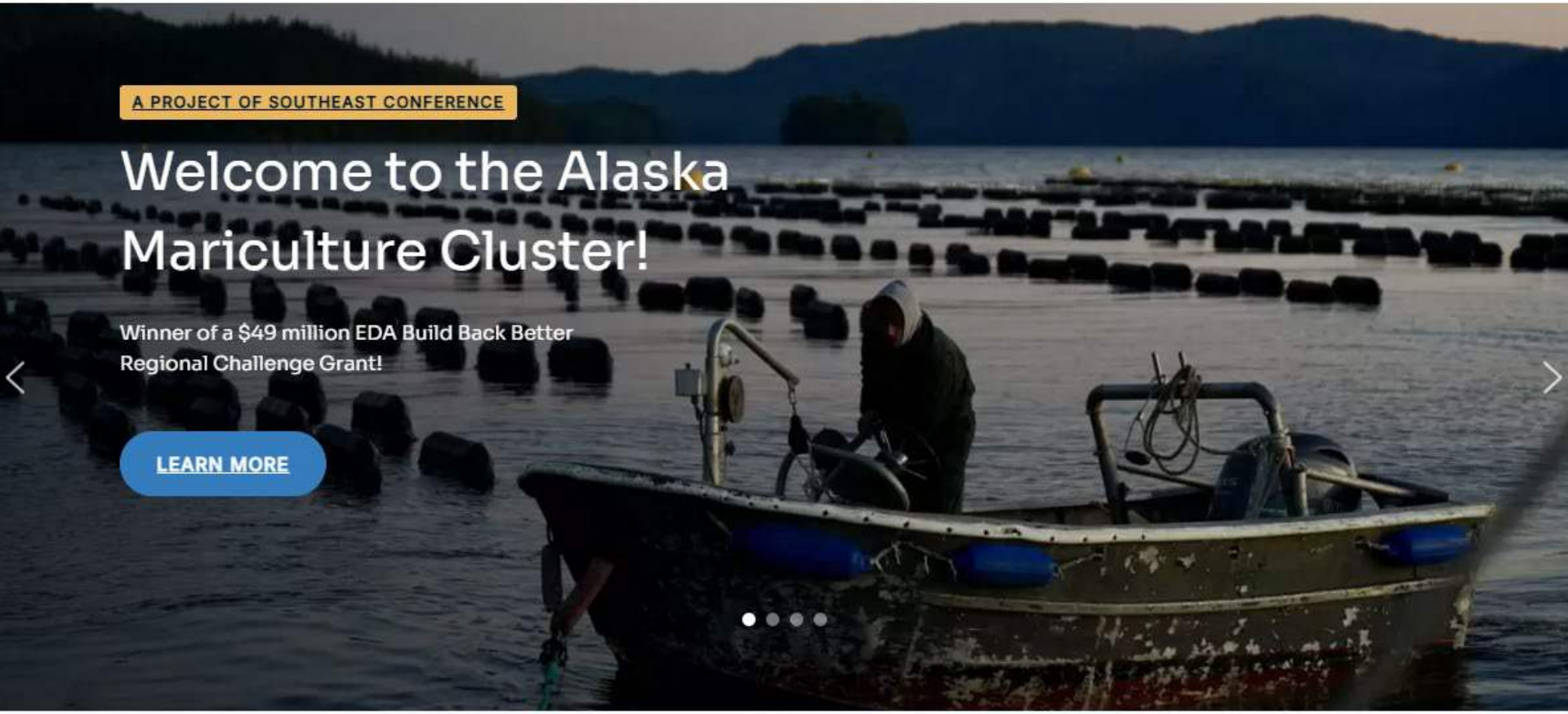


With funding from the Alaska Mariculture Cluster, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) has announced a second cohort of applied research and development projects for the Joint Innovations Project (JIP) program. These joint projects form strategic private sector partnerships and are designed to accelerate innovation, address barriers to growth, and stand up Alaska's emerging mariculture industry.

JIP Round 2: Full Project Descriptions

The second cohort, totaling $1.34 million in funding, is comprised of hatcheries, nurseries, aquatic farmers, and processors. Each of their projects will fall under one of the following categories:

- Innovations in seaweed farming
- Innovations in processing (oysters or seaweed)
- Innovations in mooring system technology, design and/or deployment
- Boosting oyster growth at nurseries or farms
- Shellfish enhancement
- De-risking farming through site suitability analysis and/or monitoring



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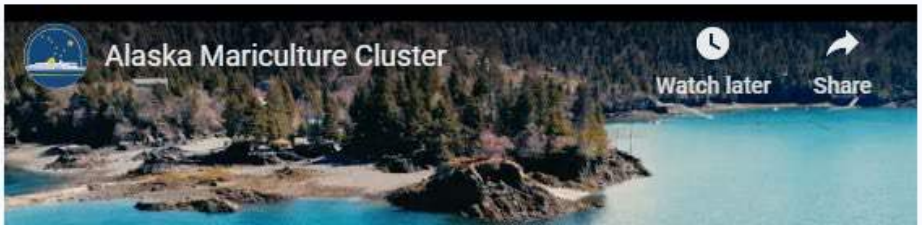
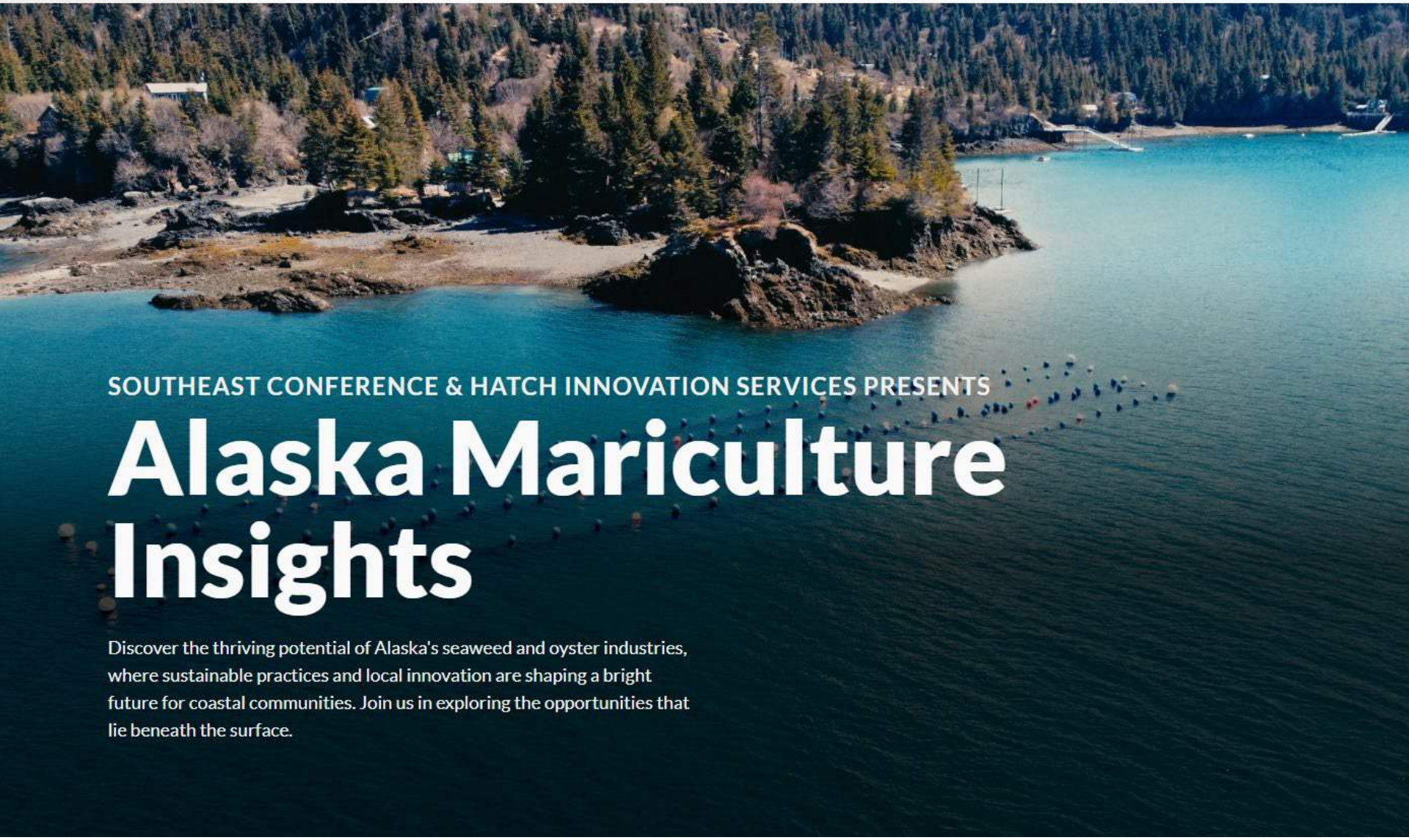




SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE & HATCH INNOVATION SERVICES PRESENTS

Alaska Mariculture Insights

Discover the thriving potential of Alaska's seaweed and oyster industries, where sustainable practices and local innovation are shaping a bright future for coastal communities. Join us in exploring the opportunities that lie beneath the surface.

Map of permitted oyster and/or seaweed hatchery sites in Alaska

Use the map tool to zoom in or hover over points to discover more details

Map: Hatch Innovation Services • Source: ADFG • Created with Datawrapper

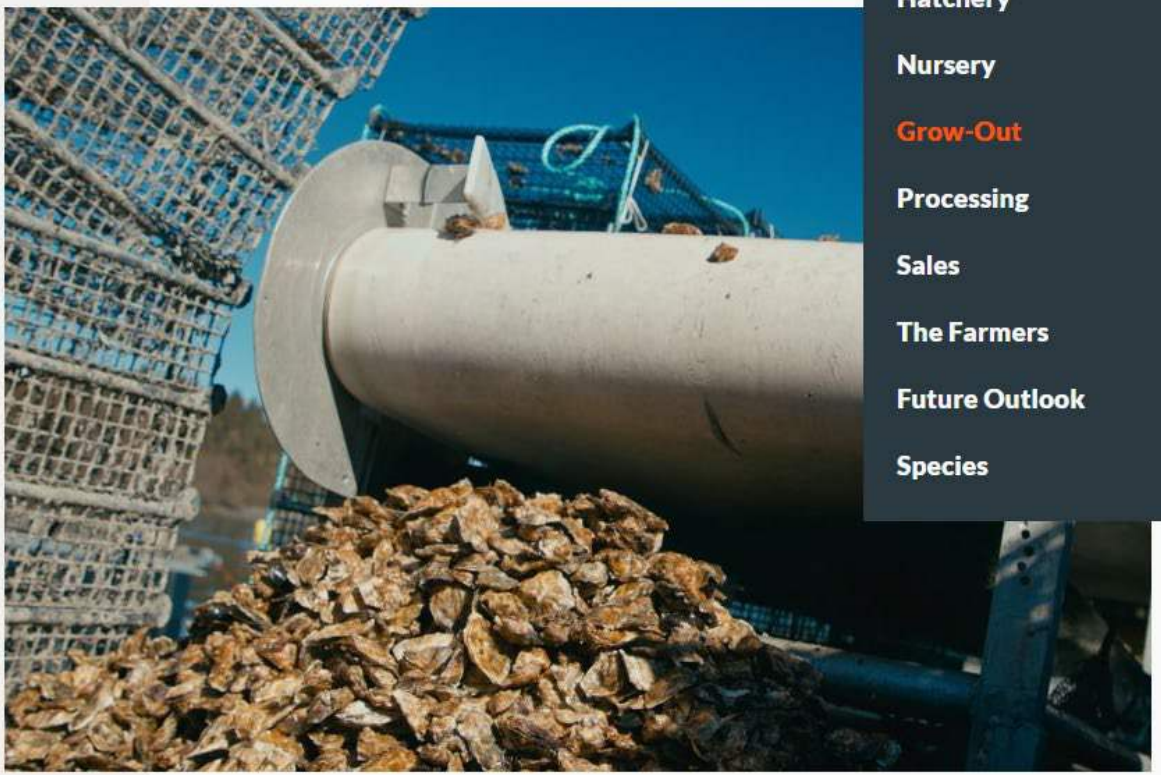
When producing, harvesting, or buying spat (oyster larvae) to be introduced to the farm, seed quality is crucial, as it will significantly influence the quality of the final product. Three shellfish hatcheries are permitted to operate in the state: OceansAlaska, Katchemak Shellfish Mariculture Association (KSMA), and Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery (APSH). There is also one additional permit for NOAA Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute Hatchery in Juneau.

Barnacle's hot sauce, which is made from bull kelp

> *"So it's not a gimmick, it is mostly kelp, which is part of our marketing. Putting kelp into foods that are familiar, and people know how to eat, is a big part of our strategy."*
>
> Lia Heifetz, Founder & CEO

Oyster meat content, shelf life, and shell attributes are
challenging to deal with separately. Final product quali
practices applied from the hatchery stage onward, with
densities and handling frequency.

r the farm or
mes quickly.



Manual sorting following mechanical grading and tumbling for best-performing oyster selection.

Custom-made on-site hand
cultivation lines, with

Alaskan mariculture: a lifeline for The Last Frontier

HATCHERIES | POST-HARVEST | OYSTERS 1 January 2025

Kachemak Shellfish Growers: sowing the seeds of success

Sean Crosby gives a behind-the-scenes look at the Kachemak Shellfish Growers' oyster hatchery in Homer, Alaska – an operation that's helping to fuel the state's mariculture boom.

NOVEMBER 2024

HUSBANDRY | SUSTAINABILITY | OYSTERS 25 November 2024

The future of Alaska: the Alutiiq Pride perspective

Jeff Hetrick, director of the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute, a tribally managed marine research facility in Seward, Southeast Alaska, offers insights into the potential offered by the state's growing mariculture sector, and the pitfalls it needs to overcome.

REGENERATIVE AQUACULTURE | PROCESSING | SEAWEED / MACROALGAE 18 November 2024

Don't fret Alaska, kelp is on its way

Kelp culture is still in its infancy in Alaska, but Evie Witten of the Kachemak Kelp Hub has plenty of ideas to unlock the market potential of the world's fastest-growing seaweed.

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS | PEOPLE | OYSTERS 11 November 2024

Building a family oyster farm in Alaska

Greg Bates of Alaska Shellfish Farms recounts how he and his family have managed to grow their oyster business over the course of 17 years.

SUSTAINABILITY | REGENERATIVE AQUACULTURE | SEAWEED / MACROALGAE 28 October 2024

Kodiak's kelp farms are set to expand

The kelp farms of Kodiak are now ready to expand, if buyers - and the necessary processing infrastructure to serve them - emerge on time.

FISHERIES | HATCHERIES | SEAWEED / MACROALGAE 21 October 2024

Mothers of Millions: how fishers can venture into mariculture

How can fishers dabble in mariculture? Two ladies in Alaska show us how to enjoy the best of both worlds.

ENVIRONMENT | PRODUCTION SYSTEMS | OYSTERS 7 October 2024

Can mariculture regenerate the economy and ecology of Prince of Wales Island?

Oyster and kelp farming are offering fresh opportunities for the scattered inhabitants of Prince of Wales Island, and those at the sharp end of the industry believe that mariculture could help to secure a sustainable economic future for Southeast Alaska.

SEPTEMBER 2024

REGENERATIVE AQUACULTURE | INVESTMENT | OYSTERS 30 September 2024

How $49 million is revitalising Alaska's indigenous mariculture

A new $49 million grant aims to reinvigorate the Alaskan mariculture scene, prioritising native and traditionally underserved communities

INNOVATIONS & APPROACH

The Harvest Buddy in action
Credit: Alaska Ocean Farms

The cultivation line is hydraulically pulled up to the top of the chute and then automatically separated from the line by a mechanized cutting device.

A commonly used technique for stabilizing seaweed is blast freezing, which is widely available in Alaska. The seaweed is placed in plastic trays and then in blast freezers, commonly used for fish processing. The seaweed can be frozen whole or after grinding.

Shredded and frozen seaweed stored in plastic tray

Frozen seaweed ready to be sold

"Our farm and this handling process is 100% organic certified."

Vertical culture off a floating platform

Flip cage systems

The OysterGro system for on water cultivation, which is based on strings of small floating cages, each holding 3,000 Oysters in six bags. This is favored by Seagrove, which operates in Doyle Bay, on the west side of Prince of Wales Island.

A close up of the O

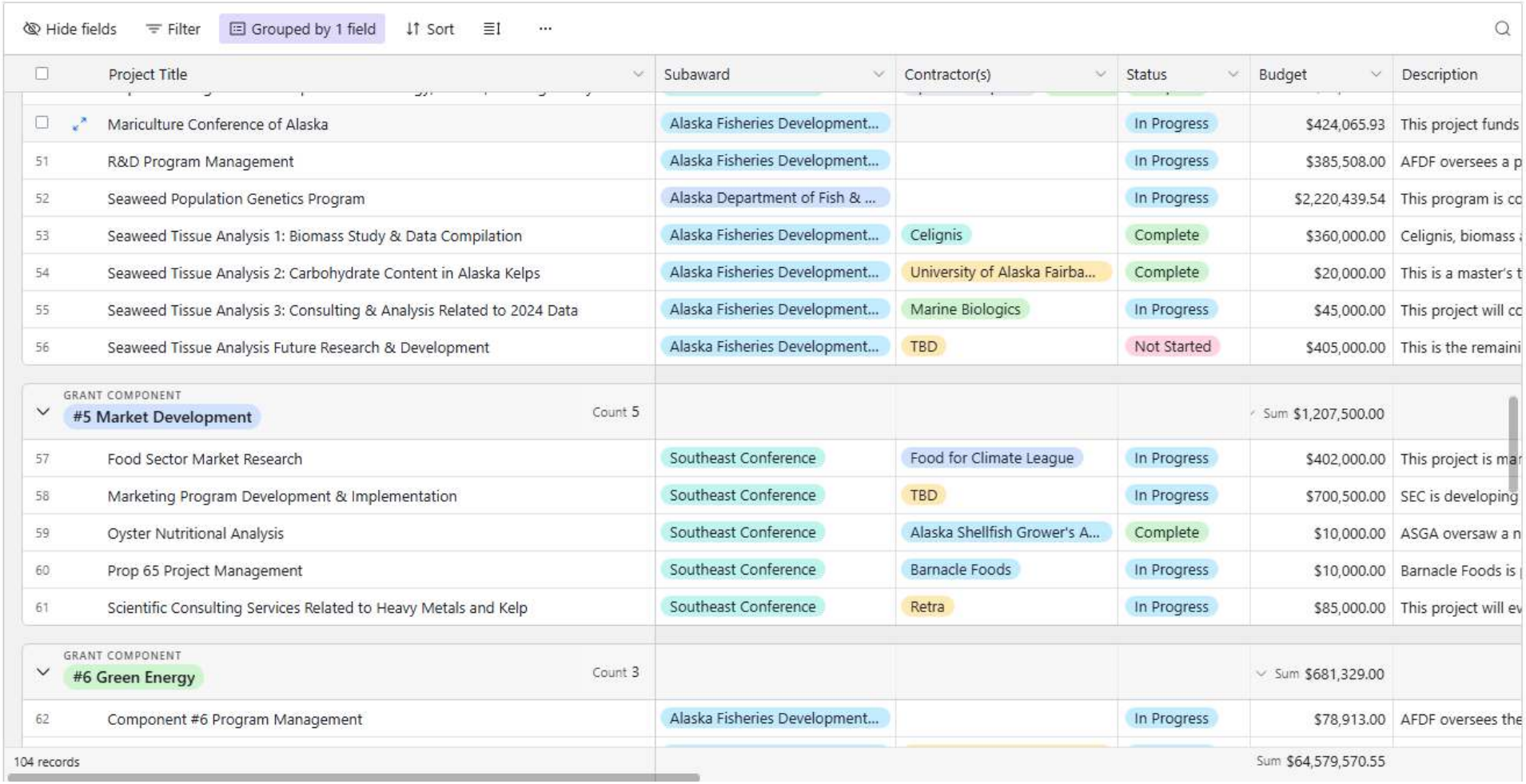
Alaska Mariculture Cluster Projects

Use this Airtable to review any AMC grand funded. You can search, filter, and group projects by subaward and/or contractor, status, budget, region, location, species, and more. Updates are made frequently. Email charlie@seconference.org with any questions.

Hide fields | Filter | Grouped by 1 field | Sort

	Project Title	Subaward	Contractor(s)	Status	Budget	Description
7	Governance Body & Outreach Management	Southeast Conference, Kenai Pe		In Progress	$1,992,709.00	AMA, KPEDD, PWS
8	Mariculture Communications Plan	Alaska Mariculture Alliance	Rising Tide Communications	In Progress	$120,000.00	AMA contracted w
9	Mariculture Liaisons Program	Alaska Mariculture Alliance	Ecotrust, Qawalangin Tribe o	In Progress	$1,440,000.00	The Liaison Progra
	GRANT COMPONENT #3 Workforce Development — Count 4				Sum $10,467,143.55	
10	Hands On Farm Training	Southeast Conference	TBD	Not Started	$520,000.00	Funding to further
11	PWSC Mariculture Workforce Development Programs	Prince William Sound College		In Progress	$1,607,089.00	Supported by the
12	UAF Mariculture Workforce Development Programs	University of Alaska Fairbanks		In Progress	$5,981,976.55	Supported by the
13	UAS Mariculture Workforce Development Programs	University of Alaska Southeast		In Progress	$2,358,078.00	Supported by the
	GRANT COMPONENT #4 Research & Development — Count 43				Sum $9,521,501.00	
14	Carbon Sequestration Market Development	Southeast Conference		Not Started	$607,932.55	
15	De-Risking Investments: Ocean and Wave Simulations & Analysis	Alaska Fisheries Development...	Kelson Marine	In Progress	$1,099,990.00	This project will cc
16	De-Risking Investments: Oyster Seed Transfer Size Study	Alaska Fisheries Development...	OceansAlaska	In Progress	$88,134.00	This project will st
17	JIP 1: Infrastructure & Seeding Methods for Bull Kelp Cultivation (1 of 2)	Alaska Fisheries Development...	Sea Quester Farms	In Progress	$98,958.00	Innovations in Sea
18	JIP 2: Infrastructure & Seeding Methods for Bull Kelp Cultivation (2 of 2)	Alaska Fisheries Development...	Sea Quester Farms	In Progress	$100,000.00	Innovations in Sea
19	JIP 3: Bull Kelp Buoyancy Assessment	Alaska Fisheries Development...	Native Village of Eyak	In Progress	$100,000.00	Innovations in Sea

104 records — Sum $64,579,570.55


Hide fields
Filter
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Sort
Project Title
Subaward
Contractor(s)
Status
Budget
Description
Mariculture Conference of Alaska
Alaska Fisheries Development...
In Progress
$424,065.93
This project funds
51 R&D Program Management
Alaska Fisheries Development...
In Progress
$385,508.00
AFDF oversees a p
52 Seaweed Population Genetics Program
Alaska Department of Fish & ...
In Progress
$2,220,439.54
This program is co
53 Seaweed Tissue Analysis 1: Biomass Study & Data Compilation
Alaska Fisheries Development...
Celignis
Complete
$360,000.00
Celignis, biomass
54 Seaweed Tissue Analysis 2: Carbohydrate Content in Alaska Kelps
Alaska Fisheries Development...
University of Alaska Fairba...
Complete
$20,000.00
This is a master's t
55 Seaweed Tissue Analysis 3: Consulting & Analysis Related to 2024 Data
Alaska Fisheries Development...
Marine Biologics
In Progress
$45,000.00
This project will co
56 Seaweed Tissue Analysis Future Research & Development
Alaska Fisheries Development...
TBD
Not Started
$405,000.00
This is the remaini
GRANT COMPONENT
#5 Market Development
Count 5
Sum $1,207,500.00
57 Food Sector Market Research
Southeast Conference
Food for Climate League
In Progress
$402,000.00
This project is ma
58 Marketing Program Development & Implementation
Southeast Conference
TBD
In Progress
$700,500.00
SEC is developing
59 Oyster Nutritional Analysis
Southeast Conference
Alaska Shellfish Grower's A...
Complete
$10,000.00
ASGA oversaw a n
60 Prop 65 Project Management
Southeast Conference
Barnacle Foods
In Progress
$10,000.00
Barnacle Foods is
61 Scientific Consulting Services Related to Heavy Metals and Kelp
Southeast Conference
Retra
In Progress
$85,000.00
This project will ev
GRANT COMPONENT
#6 Green Energy
Count 3
Sum $681,329.00
62 Component #6 Program Management
Alaska Fisheries Development...
In Progress
$78,913.00
AFDF oversees the
104 records
Sum $64,579,570.55

Hide fields | Filter | Grouped by 1 field | Sort

	Project Title	Subaward	Contractor(s)	Status	Budget	Description
66	Alaska Sea Grant Fellow	Southeast Conference	Alaska Sea Grant	In Progress	$65,000.00	Hatchery / Nurser
67	Economic Research: Tracking Alaska Mariculture Industry Growth	Southeast Conference	McKinley Research Group	In Progress	$105,000.00	MRG is providing
68	Feasibility Study #1: An Economic Assessment of Harvesting, Processing, and Pr...	Southeast Conference	Chugach Regional Resourc...	In Progress	$122,967.00	Study costs and a
69	Feasibility Study #2: Business Plan for Shared Mariculture & Seafood Processing...	Southeast Conference	Prince William Sound Econ...	In Progress	$105,000.00	Develop a busines
70	Feasibility Study #3: Mariculture Processing Hub	Southeast Conference	Kodiak Economic Develop...	In Progress	$150,000.00	Study the develop
71	Feasibility Study #4: Mobile Seaweed Processing and Dehydration	Southeast Conference	Native Conservancy	In Progress	$116,316.00	Study the econom
72	Feasibility Study #5: Modular Processing Facility & Mariculture Innovation Center	Southeast Conference	OceansAlaska, EC Phillips	In Progress	$150,000.00	Study feasibility o
73	Feasibility Study #6: Regional Kelp Biorefinery	Southeast Conference	Saltwater Inc.	In Progress	$94,286.66	Study the feasibili
74	Feasibility Study #7: Sea Otter Sound Cooperative Mariculture Center	Southeast Conference	Alaska Oyster Cooperative	In Progress	$145,000.00	Study the feasibili
75	Feasibility Study #8: Seaweed Processing and Dehydration	Southeast Conference	Organized Village of Kake	In Progress	$106,260.00	Study the econom
76	Feasibility Study #9: Shared-Use Mariculture Hub	Southeast Conference	Ketchikan Agricultural Prod...	In Progress	$93,781.30	Study and identify
77	Kelp Seed Quality Improvement	Southeast Conference	TBD	RFP Issued	$750,000.00	This RFP will fund
78	Mariculture Equipment 1: At-Sea Floating Processor	Native Conservancy		In Progress	$157,000.00	40' Blast Freezer,
79	Mariculture Equipment 1: Developing Primary Kelp Stabilization & Drying Capa...	Prince William Sound Econom...		In Progress	$510,000.00	Kelp dryer with au
80	Mariculture Equipment 1: Floating Hatchery Upgrades	OceansAlaska		In Progress	$159,000.00	40' Conex shippin
81	Mariculture Equipment 1: FLUPSY	Chenega Regional Developm...		In Progress	$80,000.00	Floating Upweller
82	Mariculture Equipment 1: FLUPSY	Larsen Bay Tribe		In Progress	$300,000.00	Floating Upweller

104 records

Sum $64,579,570.55

ALASKA MARICULTURE CLUSTER

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Southeast Conference

Southeast Conference (SEC) is the lead entity administering the Alaska Mariculture Cluster. Since its founding in 1958, SEC has been a driving force in regional economic and community development in Southeast Alaska. By working closely with municipal, Tribal, and business leaders, SEC is advancing key initiatives in mariculture, renewable energy, transportation, and infrastructure across the region.

Southeast Conference's mission is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, sustainable communities, and a healthy environment in Southeast Alaska. SEC has more than 185 member organizations & individuals. We have members from nearly every community, chamber of commerce, and economic development organization in the region. Our membership represents most municipalities, federally-recognized tribes, businesses, government agencies, organizations, and many individuals located or doing business in Southeast Alaska.

Southeast Conference's Website

Our Team

Stephanie Cameron
Chief Financial Officer
Bio

Chase Coleman
Project Coordinator
Bio

Charlie Herrington
Project Manager
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Cindy Jimenez
Project Coordinator
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Phoebe Koenig
Alaska Sea Grant Fellow
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Dan Lesh
Deputy Director
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Haley Terpenny
Mariculture Technician
Bio

Robert Venables
Executive Director
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Jamey Young
Revolving Loan Fund Officer
Bio