

ALASKA MAR CULTURE CLUSTER



Presentation to

NADO ATC

EQUITY IN AGRICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE

NEW ORLEANS

OCTOBER 2024



ABOUT SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

- Southeast Conference was incorporated in 1958, primarily to advocate for the creation of the Alaska Marine Highway System.
- After that success, stayed together to continue to advocate for issues that are key to the southeast region as a whole.
- Looks for consensus for the betterment of the region, which is almost the size of Indiana, with 35 communities and 19 Tribes.
- Members from nearly every community, chamber of commerce, and economic development organization in the region.
- Conduct economic planning through CEDS process and implement CEDS, providing technical assistance and project development support.
- Southeast Conference is the federally designated Regional Economic Development District and the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization.





Transportation

Maritime

Visitors

Timber

Energy

Mining

Seafood

***Promoting
strong economies, sustainable
communities, and a healthy
environment in Southeast
Alaska.***

ALASKA
MAR  **CULTURE**  **RE**
CLUSTER

US Economic Development Administration (EDA)
Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant

Accelerating a viable and sustainable mariculture industry for the long-term benefits of Alaska's economy, environment, and underserved communities



**SOUTHEAST
CONFERENCE**

MARICULTURE IS...



Enhancement, restoration and farming of shellfish and seaweeds.

WHY MARICULTURE?

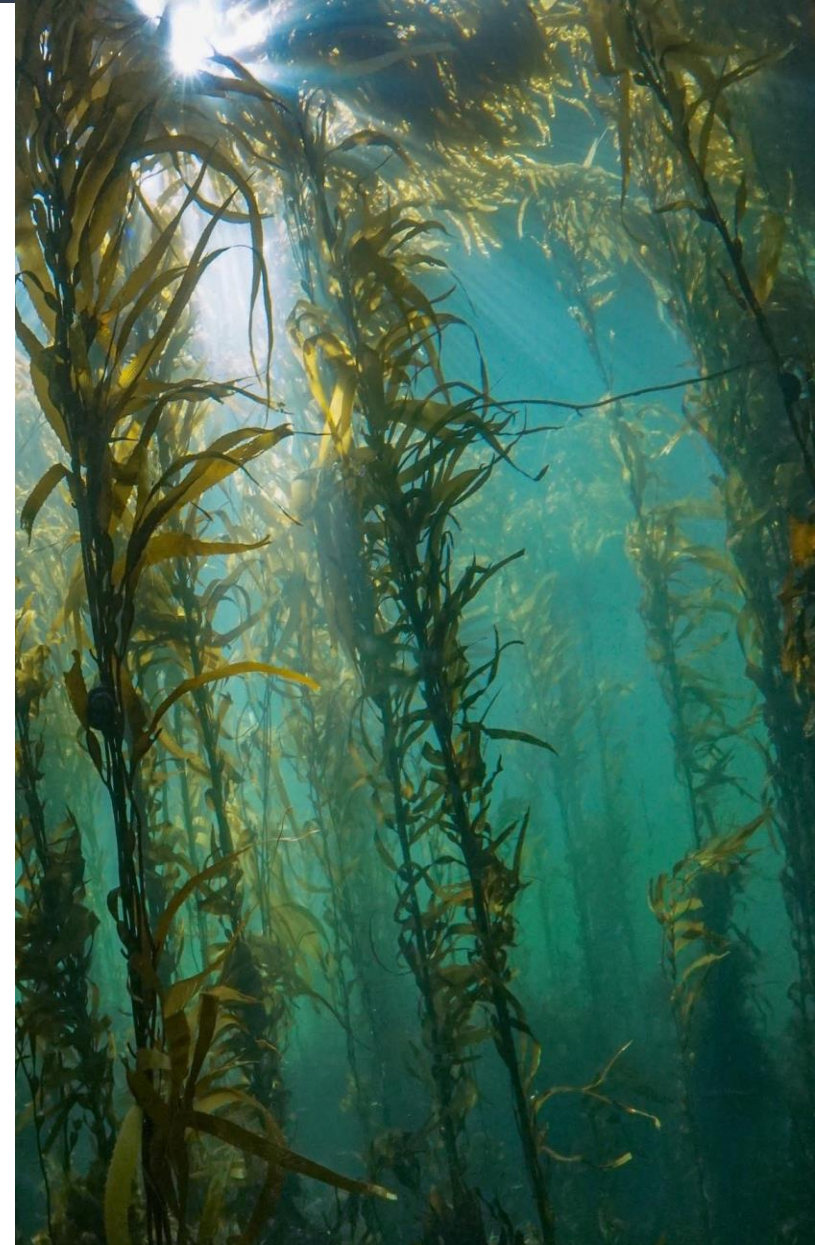
Mariculture = Opportunities & Benefits for Alaskans


economic, industrial, environmental, cultural, and food security



Seagrove Kelp Company harvesting near Craig, Alaska

MARICULTURE'S MOMENT



A map of the United States with state boundaries. The state of Alaska is highlighted in a solid orange color. The word "ALASKA" is printed in white capital letters across the center of the state. In the Southeastern United States, specifically in the Florida panhandle and northern Florida, there are several small green dots scattered across the region. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the map, containing text.

The Alaska Mariculture Cluster Coalition is 1 of 21 Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) Phase 2 awardees selected from a pool of 60 finalists and 529 applications from across the United States and its territories. The 21 projects aim to create good-paying jobs, catalyze emerging industries, and prepare our workforce for the future bold investments needed into our nation's local economies.

Partnerships, Planning & Preparedness

+

Opportunity

= Success



Project Descriptions

RLF (Revolving Loan Fund)

- Start-up Capital
- Broader Collateral Definitions
- Gap Financing
- Technical Assistance (Native Conservancy)

Governance, Coordination & Outreach

- Governance Body
- Communications & Engagement Plan/Implementation
- Regional Outreach Liaisons

Workforce Development

- New Curriculum & Certificate Programs at UAS, UAA, & UAF
- Hands-on Training
- Oyster & Seaweed Training Manuals
- Knowledge Exchange

Research & Development

- Seaweed Tissue Analysis
- Product Development R&D
- Joint Innovation Projects
- Annual Conference
- Carbon Sequestration R&D

Marketing

- B2B & B2C Market Research
- Development of Buyer's Guides & Other Assets
- Marketing Program Implementation

Green Energy

- Long-Term Green Energy Plan
- Collect Energy Data
- Create Analysis & Recommendations
- "Best Practices" Guide

Equipment & Technology

- Feasibility Studies
- Processing & Hatcheries Equipment Purchases
- PSP Lab Equipment for ADEC
- Seed Supply, Site Selection, & Monitoring

Project #2 Governance, Coordination and Outreach

Southeast Conference, KPEDD, PWSEDD, SWAMC, AMA



- This component addresses the need for governance, coordination and outreach relating to the resources of the BBRC as well as public engagement and education relating to the developing industry
- A Governance Body is overseeing the equitable and sustainable distribution of BBRC resources and serve as a platform to receive and incorporate community feedback relating to the grant and general mariculture development

**THE AMC'S GOVERNANCE
BODY WILL ALLOW TIME
FOR CONVERSATIONS,
TRUST BUILDING AND
APPROPRIATE PLANNING
WITHIN UNDERSERVED
POPULATIONS AND
COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE
THE EQUITABLE
DISTRIBUTION OF THE
BENEFITS OF MARICULTURE
THROUGHOUT COASTAL
ALASKA.**



ALASKA MARICULTURE CLUSTER Governing Body

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE



ROBERT VENABLES
Executive Director

TLINGIT & HADIA



RICHARD PETERSON
President

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

AGENCY PARTNERS

SOUTHWEST ALASKA

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE



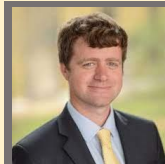
Rhonda Wayner
Interim Executive Director

KONIAG NATNE CORPORATION



Shauna Hegna
President

THE ALEUT CORPORATION



CHASE BERENSON
President

KENAI & PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

PWS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



KRISTIN CARPENTER
Executive Director

KENAI PENINSULA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



Cassidy Cameron
Executive Director

CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION



Greg Rankas
President

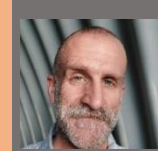
AGENCY PARTNERS

ALASKA FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

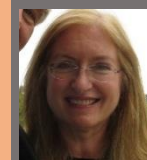


JULIE DECKER
Executive Director

ALASKA MARICULTURE ALLIANCE



JASON LESSARD
Executive Director



HEATHER MCCARTY
Board President



THEA THOMAS
Board Member

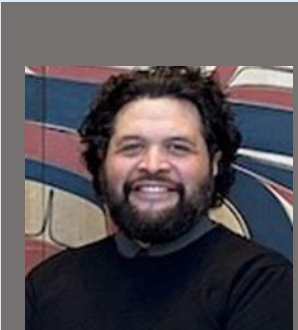


MARKOS SCHEER
AMA Member

Tribal Mariculture Liaisons

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

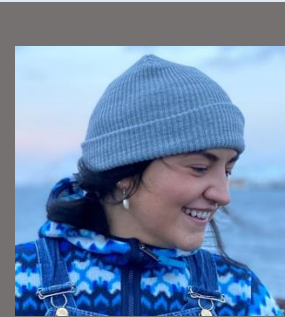
SPRUCE ROOT, INC.



Keolani Booth
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SOUTHWEST ALASKA

**QAWALANGIN TRIBE
OF UNALASKA**



**Shayla
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KODIAK

**KODIAK
ARCHIPELAGO
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE**



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PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

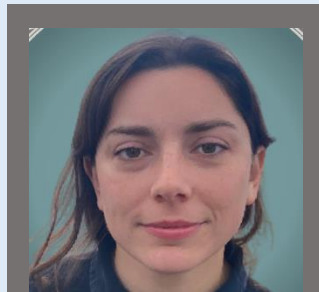
**CHUGACH REGIONAL
RESOURCES
COMMISSION**



Sean Den Adel
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KENAI PENINSULA

**CHUGACH REGIONAL
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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

50 STUDENTS

currently enrolled in UA's
BBB Mariculture Programs

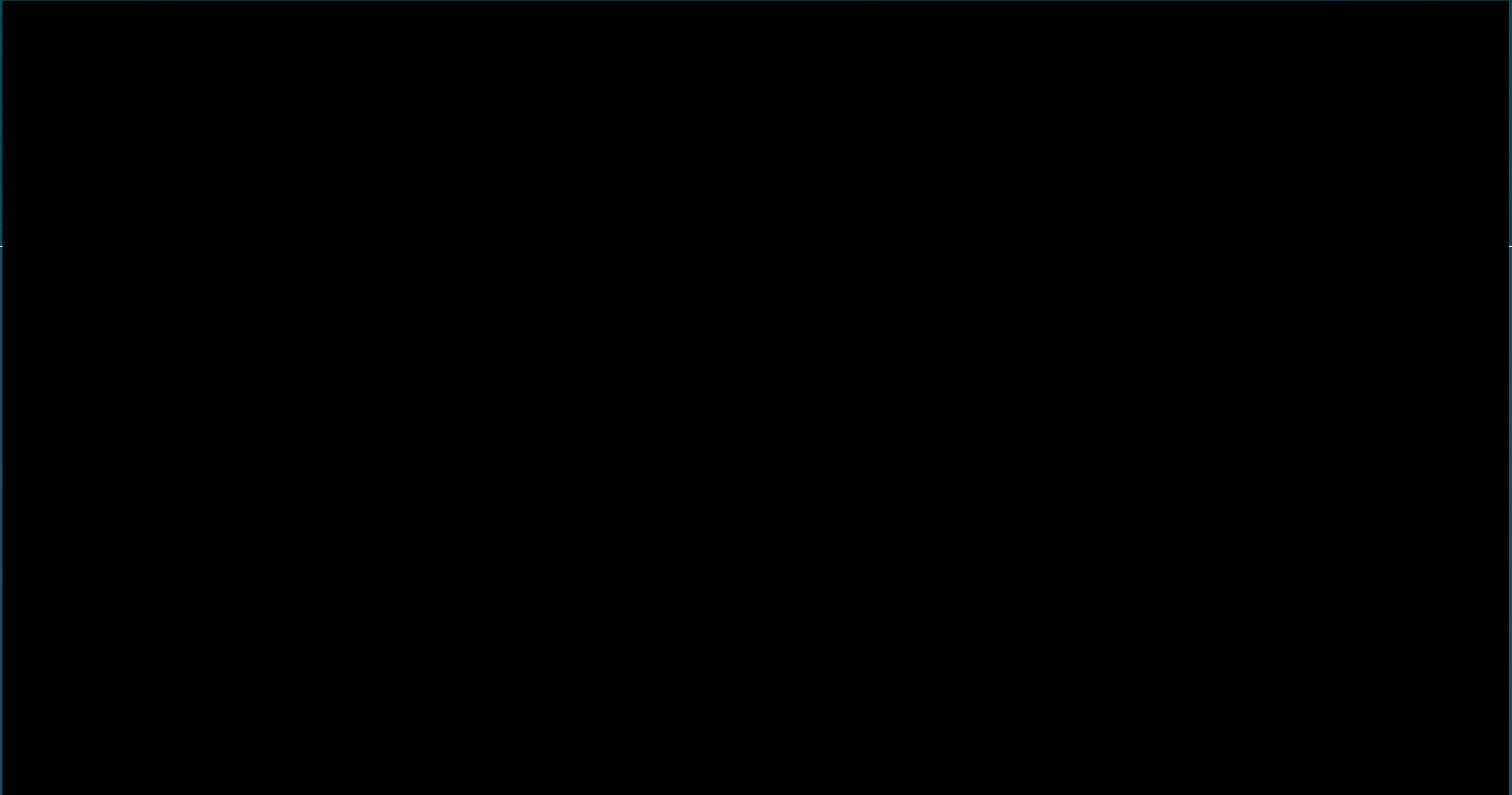
+12M

IN FUNDS SPENT
THROUGH
FISCAL YEAR 2024

<\$7M

New projects
AWARDED





ALASKA MARICULTURE

CLUSTER



Juliana Leggitt

AMC Project Manager

Juliana@seconference.org

Dan Lesh

SEC Deputy Director

Dan@seconference.org

Robert Venables

SEC Executive Director

Robert@seconference.org

Check for updates and join our mailing list:

www.alaskamariculturecluster.org