



WE THRIVE TOGETHER

Supporting a Resilient Future
for Alaska Seafood



A blue and white fishing boat named "OWYHEE" is shown from a side profile, sailing on a dark blue sea. The boat has a white cabin with several portholes and a blue hull. A crane is visible on the deck. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains covered in snow under a cloudy sky. Three decorative blue wavy lines are in the top left corner.

SEAFOOD BENEFITS ALL OF ALASKA.

Taking responsibility together and investing in a shared vision for our future can move us beyond surviving to thriving – sustaining people, economies and healthy ecosystems for generations.

A stylized white line-art logo of a fish, facing right, enclosed within a circular frame. The fish's body is composed of several curved lines, and its tail is a simple forked shape. The logo is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the dark blue background.

Alaska relies on seafood in many ways.

Communities that depend on Alaska seafood for food security and an economic base have an intimate connection to the Alaska seafood industry. The health of the community, fisheries and industry are interdependent. If one isn't thriving, neither are the others.

We are facing many new challenges that seem to be increasing in frequency and number. In these challenging times, it's vital to share perspectives and values in the interest of lifting all of Alaska.

We support shared solutions that strengthen Alaska, because we all depend on healthy, sustainable ecosystems.



Fisheries are essential to the fabric of communities.

Fishing, in all its forms, is a way of life in Alaska.

Families and communities across Alaska have fished for generations. Fishing shapes culture, communities, jobs, and infrastructure all over Alaska.

Today, commercial fishing is key to sustaining all of this. It:

- supports thousands of families and small businesses across Alaska who in turn bolster the local economy and create viable coastal communities
- enables families to live and stay in remote communities sustaining their cultures of subsistence, sport, and commercial fishing
- generates revenue for the State of Alaska and fishing communities
- generates revenue that enables Alaska's Community Development Quota program to benefit 28,000 residents of 65 western Alaska communities with millions of grant dollars funding schools, roads, and other public infrastructure



As the fisheries go, so goes Alaska.

Ecosystems are changing in a way we don't yet fully understand.

Climate change is warming Alaska twice as fast as the rest of the United States. It is introducing unprecedented uncertainty for everyone and affecting fisheries in different ways.

As Alaska, the U.S. and the world confront growing uncertainty, we must maintain sustainable seafood harvests while solving problems for communities and people. These efforts will allow for healthier fisheries, stronger local and state economies and a path forward for all communities dependent on fish.

The commercial fishing industry continues to progress, and it is committed to doing better through science, research and sustainable practices.



Seafood is a cornerstone of Alaska's economy.

Alaska's seafood industry is the largest direct private-sector employer in the state and integral to the Alaska and U.S. economies.¹

The industry accounts for:

- total economic activity in Alaska of \$5.7 billion
- total labor income of \$2.2 billion
- 62,200 people directly employed

Local community revenue comes from:

- local fish taxes
- sharing of a portion of fish taxes paid to the state
- the inshore processing sector, through property, sales and other taxes

As an example, communities with processing plants in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands region receive between 30 and 90 percent of their revenues from taxes on seafood landings.

Fisheries like Alaska pollock, salmon and cod support thousands of jobs and generate millions in tax revenue for Alaska and local communities, including providing economic development and social programs in 65 western Alaska villages through the Community Development Quota program.

Anyone who flies commercially in coastal Alaska benefits from lower air fares – and the existence of commercial routes – because of the volume of passengers contributed by the seafood industry. Alaskans benefit from lower shipping and fuel rates, because of the seafood industry's usage.

¹ The Economic Value of Alaska's Seafood Industry, McKinley Research Group, January 2022, prepared for Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.



Making the Alaska seafood sector more resilient is a shared priority.

The Alaska seafood sector does not compete on a level playing field with seafood producers from other countries, or even other food producers in the U.S. Taking steps to equalize opportunity and competitiveness will benefit all of Alaska.

Steps include:

- equal access to USDA programs
- increased government seafood purchasing
- trade reciprocity and market access to support Alaska seafood exports and improve our competitiveness in the U.S. and globally
- elevating the status of seafood in federal government policy similar to other proteins



Food security matters to us all.

With warming waters and ocean acidification, Alaskans are experiencing unprecedented uncertainty.

Communities in the Yukon and Kuskokwim region have experienced devastating collapses of Chinook and more recently chum salmon, impacting traditional ways of life.

Change is occurring in marine and in-river ecosystems, and sustaining food security and traditional ways of life is crucial.

We all need to act in the interest of communities and fisheries.



Climate change demands even stronger solutions.

Harvesting wild seafood is inherently complex, with constantly changing factors exacerbated by a changing and warming marine ecosystem.

We work with fishery managers, scientists, academics, and industry members to improve the health and sustainability of our marine resources. We are also investing in innovation and continued research to ensure we all make informed decisions and appropriate changes as our environment evolves.

Informed responses and policy solutions that balance the needs of all Alaska's people and ecosystems are essential.

We need solutions that allow fishing to adapt in response to varied conditions year to year. To advance robust public policy, we support the roles of:

- local experience
- traditional knowledge
- science and research
- independent data collection
- accountability measures



Reducing bycatch and controlling interception continue to be critical priorities.

No one likes bycatch. It's a challenge that requires continual investment and mitigation. The fishing industry is intensely focused on reducing bycatch while still providing a national supply of seafood and has made significant improvements. Strong bycatch reduction programs are in place with high accountability and oversight, and these efforts are working.

Examples of industry investment include:

- millions of dollars in excluders and gear technology
- decades of funding for research, filling important technological and data gaps
- adaptive measures for salmon avoidance, including continuous bycatch and intercept information to fleet and closing fishing areas in real time to avoid salmon

Much information already exists to support sound decision making, and we need to improve our knowledge, faster, to drive responses to our rapidly changing climate and ecosystems. The inability to address the primary marine ecosystem factors affecting Bering Sea crab and western Alaska salmon declines does not lessen the motivation or need to continue to address bycatch.

The fishing industry has been funding important research for decades because it's crucial that we have data to ensure our practices support a healthy, resilient marine environment. State and federal governments also have an important role to play.

