



# ALASKA MARITIME WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**ALASKA'S MARITIME SECTOR EMPLOYS OVER 70,000 PEOPLE;  
FROM OUR LARGEST CITIES TO OUR SMALLEST VILLAGES.**

**60%** of the nation's seafood is harvested and processed in Alaska. Our state is highly dependent on maritime shipping for imports of food and other goods, and for exports of oil, seafood, and minerals. Alaska's economy is also dependent on water transport, bringing visitors on cruise ships, running halibut charters, traveling on Alaska's Marine Highway, or supporting subsistence hunting and fishing. In short, nearly all

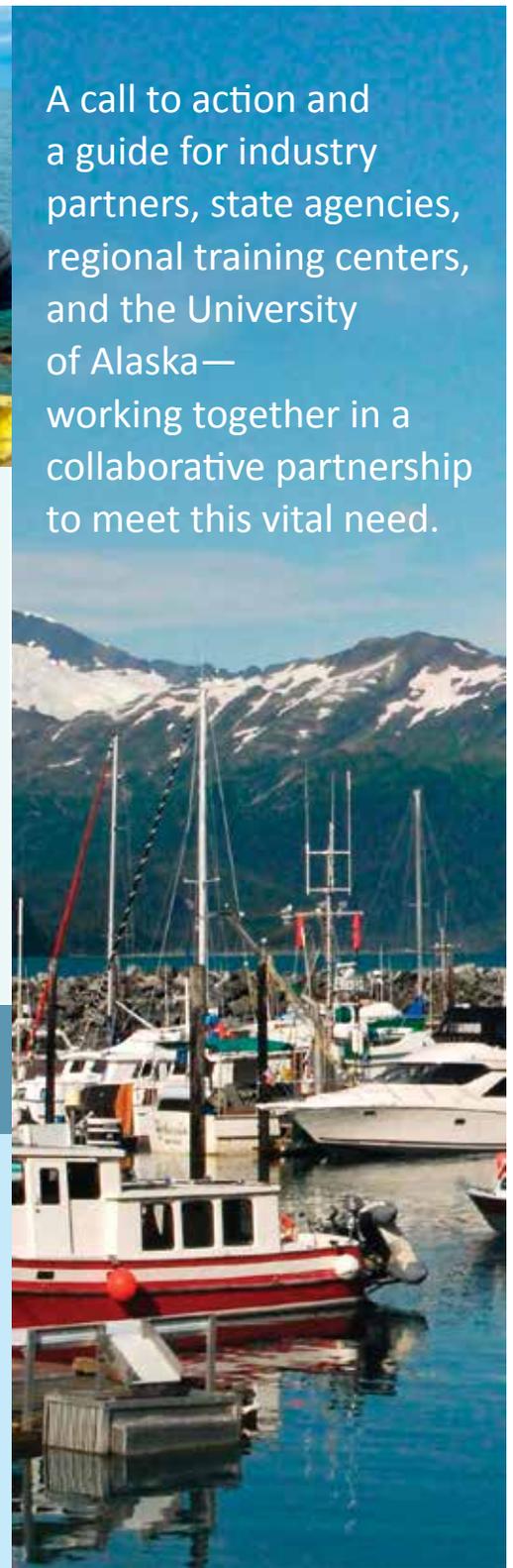
Alaskans depend in one way or the other on our maritime economy. The maritime sector represents Alaska's largest private employer. However, employers often find it difficult to recruit Alaskans with needed skills and they note that the workforce is getting older. Alaska needs to educate the next generation of skilled workers who can meet the needs of the dynamic maritime sector.

A call to action and a guide for industry partners, state agencies, regional training centers, and the University of Alaska—working together in a collaborative partnership to meet this vital need.

**Plan Goals:** To sustain and enhance the economy of Alaska and its communities.



- ◆ Developing a responsive workforce that enables the maritime sector to remain a substantial contributor to the state;
- ◆ Guiding Alaska's workforce to discover and prepare for the wide range of employment opportunities in the maritime sector, and
- ◆ Increasing the number of Alaskans working in skilled maritime occupations.



Read the full report:  
[www.alaska.edu/fsmi](http://www.alaska.edu/fsmi)



The **Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan** charts a course toward a skilled Alaskan workforce for the future.

**For more info or to get involved, contact:**  
[AKmaritimejobs@alaska.edu](mailto:AKmaritimejobs@alaska.edu) or call (907) 786-1171



The Plan draws on industry data to identify 23 maritime occupational groups — the Top Jobs — where employment needs and opportunities are the greatest. As new information becomes available and the Plan is implemented, this list of occupations will grow and change.

**Strategies:** The Plan focuses on five overall strategies to support Alaska's Maritime Workforce.



## ALASKA MARITIME WORKFORCE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Kris Norosz (Co-chair) *Icicle Seafoods, Inc.*
- Fred Villa (Co-chair) *University of Alaska Workforce Programs*
- Wanetta Ayers *Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development*
- Candice Bressler/Sheila Cameron *Alaska Department of Fish and Game*
- Jason Custer *City of Saxman*
- Julie Decker *United Fishermen of Alaska/ Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation*
- Russell Dick/Anthony Lindoff *Haa Aani, LLC*
- Rep. Bryce Edgmon/Tim Clark *Alaska State House of Representatives*
- Aggie Fouts *Western Alaska Community Development Association*
- Kurt Hallier *Conoco Phillips*
- Sen. Lyman Hoffman/Tim Grussendorf *Alaska State Senate*
- Oliver Holm *Kodiak Seafood Harvester*
- Glenn Haight/Joe Jacobson *Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development*
- Stephanie Madsen *At-sea Processors Association*
- Helen Merhkens *Alaska Department of Education and Early Development*
- Vince O'Shea *Pacific Seafood Processors Association*
- Steve Reifenstuhl *Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association*
- Jim Scholz *Samson Tug and Barge*
- Pearl Strub *Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation*
- Doug Ward *Vigor Alaska*
- Amy Wilson *Alaska Marine Highway System, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities*

- 1** Grow awareness of occupations and develop career pathways
- 2** Improve workforce readiness
- 3** Train Alaskans for maritime careers
- 4** Support recruitment and retention
- 5** Promote sustained industry engagement

## Top Jobs IN ALASKA'S MARITIME SECTOR



### SEAFOOD HARVESTERS

- Commercial Fishing Permit Holder and Crewmember
- Vessel Repair and Maintenance Service Provider
- Shellfish Farmer

### FISHERIES RESEARCH, ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

- Biometrician
- Fish and Wildlife Technician
- Fishery Biologist
- Fisheries Scientist
- Fish and Game Coordinator
- Fisheries Economist, Analyst and Management Specialist
- Fishery Management Specialist at NOAA Fisheries
- Hatchery Manager

### MARINE OCCUPATIONS AND SUPPORT INDUSTRIES

- Ship building/Multiskilled Maritime Workers
- Vessel Operations: Deckhand, Vessel Engineer, Captain
- Vessel Repair and Maintenance Service Provider

### SEAFOOD PROCESSORS

- Seafood Plant and Floating Processor Engineer
- Refrigeration Engineer and Technician
- Seafood Production Manager
- Electrician
- Can Machinist
- Quality Control and Assurance Manager and Technician
- Baader Technician
- Seafood Plant Manager
- Deckhand