

Alaska Fisheries Business Resilience

initiative by

Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Project Overview

Environmental change is impacting Alaskan coastal communities at a rate that is challenging the ability of resource-dependent businesses to adapt. This project uses business self assessment tools tailored for Alaskan fisheries-dependent businesses. Our aim is to help coastal communities develop the resources and skills necessary to reduce the risks from a changing environment. The project strengthens Alaskan coastal businesses through training and products focused on sound business practices and knowledgeable workforce development through the education of the next generation of fishermen. This project is made possible with our partners at Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Alaska Sea Grant, and University of Alaska.

Fisheries Resilience Index

The Alaska Fisheries Resilience Index (FRI) is a business self assessment tool developed with input from fishermen and industry leaders. It is a simple and inexpensive method of anticipating if individual fishing businesses and regional fisheries industries are prepared to maintain operations in the face of environmental change and disasters. Resiliency indicators were written in the form of a “yes” or “no” questions that can be answered using existing business and local industry conditions. Using those indicators, the FRI was organized into broad categories: business and operations planning, disaster preparedness, marketing, workforce, federal, state and local resources, and resource access and knowledge. The process of completing the FRI is intended to be an in-person activity bringing together various divisions of a local business to discuss the questions and determine the answer. This process creates dialogue across important issues and joint solutions to challenges the business may face and documents the strengths of current industry best practices. The FRI also includes Alaska specific resources including tools and training for businesses to improve their resiliency score. The business self assessment tool is a straightforward way to help Alaskan fishery businesses be increasingly resilient to change in a constantly fluctuating industry.

Benefits of the Index

- Business succession planning
- Loan applications
- Disaster preparedness
- Emergency planning



Engaging Businesses

- Commercial Fishermen
- Charter Fishermen
- Shellfish Growers
- Aquaculture Associations
- Fisheries Advocates



Fisheries Economic Resilience

Business Impacts

56,800 workers are directly employed by Alaska's seafood industry, including 26,500 Alaska residents

Seafood directly employs more workers than any other industry in Alaska, and is the second-largest overall job creator in the state next to the oil/gas industry (including multiplier effects).



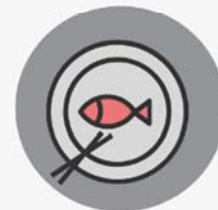
Warmer ocean temperatures have made it harder for boats to efficiently chill seawater in order to keep their catch cool.

"I researched and invested in an expensive but more efficient chiller system"- Prince William Sound Salmon Seiner

"If you're not at the table you're on the menu."

-Kodiak Salmon Seiner

Being a part of Alaska's fisheries industry involves more than catching fish, you must also be an advocate for your business to mitigate economic and political risks.



To have a successful fishing business you must adapt to many ever changing variables. Fisheries is a combination of economics, politics and biology.

"You can't be a successful fisherman if you're not resilient."
-Bristol Bay Setnetter

"We had to adapt or significantly reduce the productivity of our site" -Bristol Bay Setnetter

The combination of less sea ice and more frequent storms is eroding Alaskan coasts. Shore based fishermen have started to use all terrain vehicles to work their sites on the eroded beaches.



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