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.

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.

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

ALASKA MARITIME WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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.

For more info or to get involved, contact: AK.maritimejobs@alaska.edu or call (907) 786-1171

Read the full report: www.alaska.edu/fsmi

The Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan charts a course toward a skilled Alaskan workforce for the future.
Strategies: The Plan focuses on five overall strategies to support Alaska’s Maritime Workforce.

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

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.

ALASKA MARITIME WORKFORCE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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www.alaska.edu/fsmi