



## Invest in the new blue economy



UA is actively working on expanding opportunities in mariculture.

### Mariculture, North Pacific Fisheries, Arctic and Pacific North Ocean Sciences \$7.0M

Alaska's coastline is longer than all other 49 states combined, and roughly two-thirds of the nation's fishery is harvested from Alaskan waters. Within the state, the combined seafood and fishery industries are the largest private employer. At the same time, environmental factors threaten continued success of wild harvest. A new industry is emerging, seaweed and shellfish farming, called mariculture. UA is actively working on expanding opportunities in mariculture. Mariculture can become the economic driver for the state as the field is only in its infancy. There are applications for pharmaceuticals, food additives, and food stability. The Governor's Mariculture Task Force set a goal to grow a \$100 million industry in 20 years, with university training and research and development being critical to reaching this goal. UAF and UAS coordinate with state and federal agencies in fisheries, mariculture, and ocean sciences making UA a leader in these arenas. Investment will increase Alaska's market share in a global economy.

### Investment Priorities

- Funding (\$5.0M) would support efforts to build capacity in Decision Support for Production Scale Development (including graduate workforce research and partnerships) to:
  - build workforce capacity in Fisheries/Mariculture for reducing harmful algal blooms pervasive in Alaska;
  - develop a decision support tool for stakeholders to assess economic feasibility of production-scale hatchery supported mariculture in Alaska;
  - establish foundational genetic infrastructure for seaweed farming in South Central Alaska;
  - develop applications for kelp mariculture;
  - evaluate climate and local environmental factors on economic impacts to fishery dependent communities; and
  - engage and strengthen connections with coastal and Indigenous communities to answer relevant research questions and train the workforce.
- Funding (\$1.75M) would be used for maricultural and undergraduate fisheries in southeast Alaska.
- Funding (\$0.25M) will support the Institute of Social & Economic Research (ISER) research studying the Economic Shock and Workforce Development in Commercial Fisheries. Project will provide a better understanding of how shocks in commercial fisheries impact community employment and youth educational outcomes.