

Julie Sande
Commissioner

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Department of Commerce,
Community, and
Economic Development

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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New USDA Office of Seafood Expands Investment Opportunity for Alaska Industry

Thursday, April 16 (Juneau, AK) — The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) applauded the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s announcement of a new Office of Seafood, a first-of-its-kind effort to strengthen support for the nation’s seafood industry.

“I applaud this decision and want to thank Secretary Rollins, Secretary Burgum, Secretary Lutnick and our congressional delegation for recognizing the critical importance of American seafood,” said Commissioner Julie Sande. “Alaska produces the majority of the nation’s seafood under the most sustainable wild harvest system in the world—yet for too long, we have not been responsive enough to unfair global trade practices that disadvantage our fishermen and processors.”

“This new office is an important step toward leveling the playing field. By improving coordination across federal programs and strengthening trade and market access, we can reduce barriers to capital, infrastructure, and export opportunities—ensuring Alaska seafood remains competitive and continues to lead globally.”

Alaska’s seafood industry supports approximately 15,000 jobs across more than 120 communities and accounts for over 60 percent of U.S. seafood harvests, representing roughly 2.5 percent of global wild seafood production. As one of the state’s top exports, valued at more than \$2.5 billion in 2024, the industry is foundational to both Alaska’s economy and the nation’s food security.

“Establishing an office of seafood within the USDA has been a collective vision of the U.S. seafood industry for many years,” said Jeremy Woodrow, executive director of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. “Just like our country’s farmers, America’s fishermen feed the world. Establishing this office will provide greater access to USDA programs and alignment with NOAA to ensure that our fishermen and seafood industry continue to thrive well into the future.”

The new Office of Seafood is expected to streamline access to federal resources, including grants, loans, infrastructure funding, workforce development, marketing and export assistance, and disaster response, helping unlock new investment and long-term growth across Alaska’s seafood economy.

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About DCCED:

The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's mission is to promote a healthy economy, strong communities and protect consumers in Alaska. Through its divisions, agencies and programs, the department supports economic growth, investment and opportunity across Alaska.

Media Contact:

Alexandra Vrabec | Public Information Officer

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

(907) 465-2580