

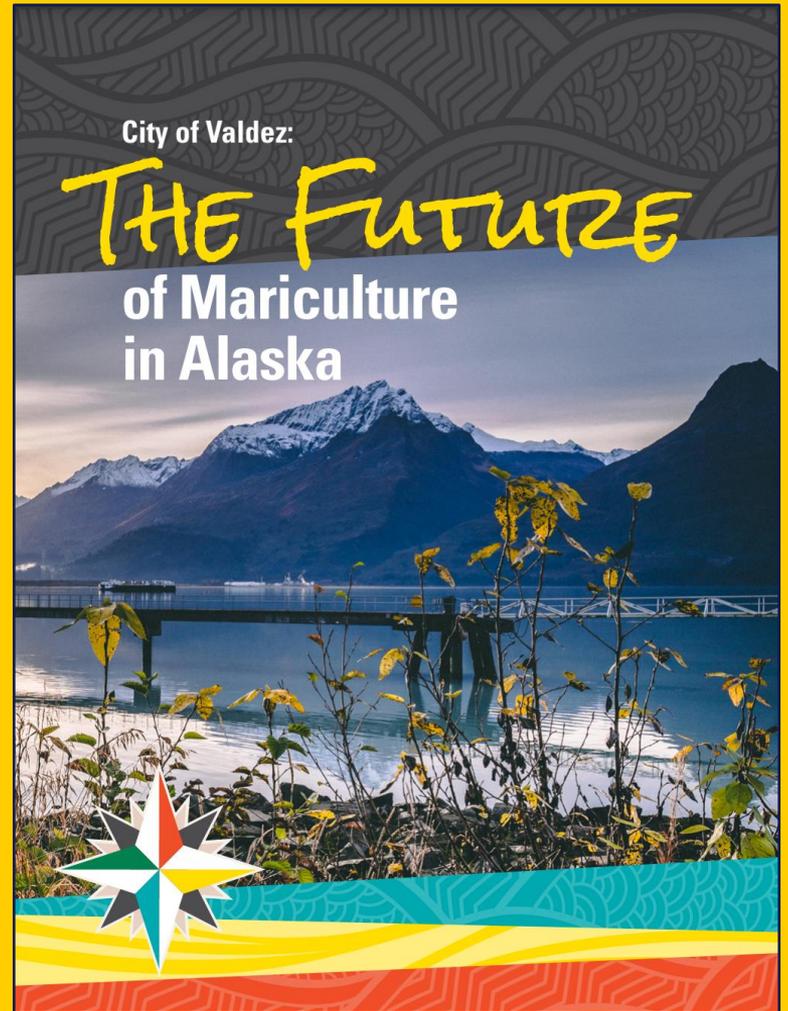
ABEC Report to COV

Review of 2023

Tommy Sheridan
Associate Director
December 11, 2023

Outline

- ABEC intro
- 2021 highlights
- 2022 highlights
- 2023 highlights
- Services detailed
- Looking forward



UAF ABEC

- Alaska Blue Economy Center, est. 2019
- Stimulate external funding in support of AK blue economy
- Support entrepreneurialism and economic diversification in AK
- Facilitate internal coordination @ UAF and external engagement
- Mariculture, fisheries, energy, marine observing and technology, and training



2021 highlights

- 9/21 AMC and NOAA AOA beginnings
- AMC Phase 1 application (10/21)
- AFDF/industry VDZ visit (10/21)
- PME and publication work (11/21)
- AMC Phase 1 win = \$500K to AMC (12/21)
- NOAA AOA commencement (*eventual NOAA AOA AK designation in '22*)



2022 highlights

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS Alaska News • Politics • Opinions • Talk to us • LOG IN/LOG OUT

Business/Economy

Biden administration awards \$49 million to boost Alaska mariculture industry

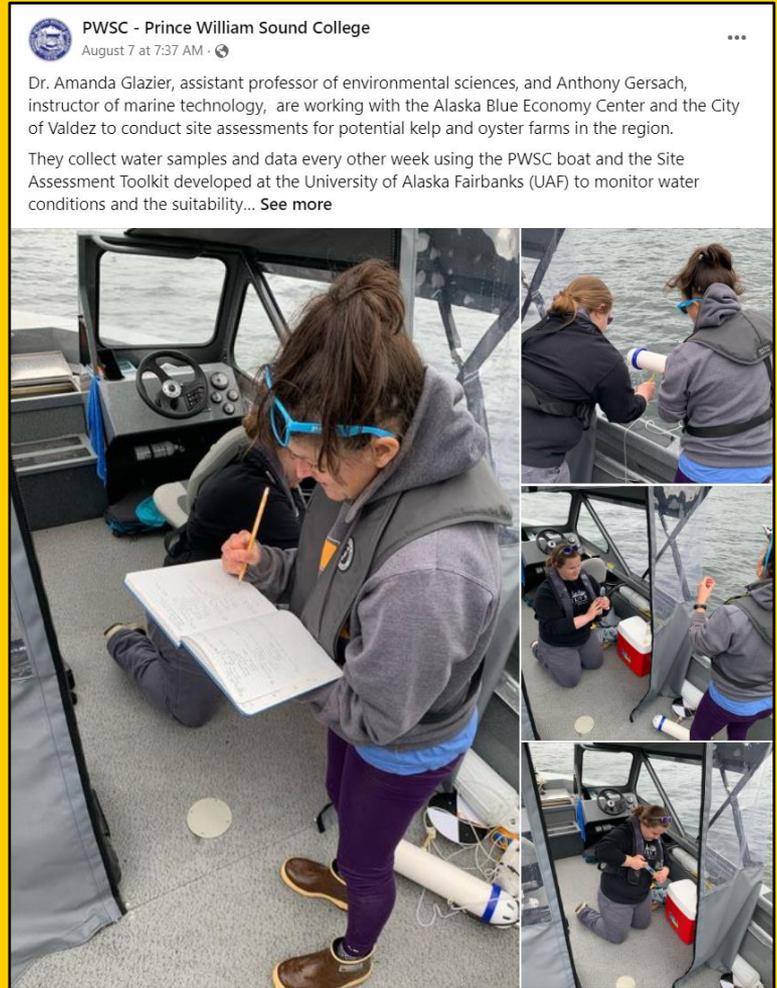
By Riley Rogerson
Updated: September 7, 2022
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ALASKA MARICULTURE CLUSTER

- AMC work spring '22
- Sheridan working with ABEC, COV, and MRG
- AMC \$49M win 8/22
- PWSC rec'd \$1.6M+
- Alan Sorum AMC liaison
- COV engages with ABEC
- Sheridan joins ABEC 11/22

2023 highlights

- Continued relationship dev.'t
- Pivot to sampling program, T3
- Commenced sampling 4/23 →
- T3 visit to Valdez 6/23
- NOAA AK AOA designation!
- UAF/T3 = \$115K match investment ('24)



AMA



ALASKA
MARICULTURE
ALLIANCE

- AMA founded 11/21
- *Mission is “to develop and support a robust and sustainable mariculture industry for the long-term benefit of Alaska’s economy, environment and communities”*
- Mariculture: “the production, enhancement, utilization and promotion of marine shellfish and aquatic plants cultivated in Alaska”
- Sheridan on founding BOD
- COV Talbott on Governance Comm.

<https://www.alaskamariculturecluster.org/>

- AMC one of 21 EDA Build Back Better awardees out of 60 finalists and 529 Phase I applications @ \$49M
- Workforce Development funding (\$10.5M) relevant to PWSC/UAF
- Equipment & Tech. (\$26M) promising for Valdez/PWS applications
- 2 proposals submitted in 2023 (1 failed, 1 pending), more to come in 2024
- AMC would not have been possible without COV support and leadership
- **THANK YOU!**

Connecting research to industry

- ABEC working closely with PWSC
- ABEC member of UA Mariculture Workforce Development Committee
- Contributor to “Alaska Mariculture Workforce Plan”
- Frequent engagement with local industry, esp. VFDA, PPSF, SBS



UAF, Valdez form partnership to boost blue economy

The city of Valdez has partnered with the University of Alaska Fairbanks' [Alaska Blue Economy Center](#) to support the city's interests in mariculture development and the broader blue economy.

Recent successes include the [Alaska Mariculture Cluster](#) being awarded \$49 million through the Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant program, which benefited from instigation and support by the city and ABEC. At a Jan. 12 "meet-up" in Anchorage, AMC leadership recognized the city of Valdez as a key stakeholder in their process and expressed gratitude for the city's support.

As part of the AMC's work, Prince William Sound College, which is headquartered in Valdez, will collaborate with ABEC and other University of Alaska partners to create and implement a sustainable mariculture-related workforce development strategy. Related activities will include the development and implementation of hands-on training materials for kelp hatchery systems, farm operations, marine safety and food safety. Trainings and materials will focus on successfully engaging Alaska Native and traditionally underserved communities interested and active in the mariculture industry. The city and ABEC are committed to ensuring that Valdez Native Tribe and other Alaska Native stakeholders throughout PWS are adequately and equitably represented so that they and their needs are served.

PWSC and UA partners will connect with and learn from mariculture practitioners outside of Alaska and across all different mariculture disciplines. To achieve these results, PWSC has received AMC funding to support PWSC Assistant Professor Amanda Glazier with her work in this area, along with the new hire of a mariculture instructor, curriculum specialist, and other personnel as necessary.

"This is a very exciting time, with the mariculture industry growing so rapidly and all of the enthusiasm behind it," Glazier said. "With this rapid growth, though, comes an increasing need for workforce development. These and similar collaborations are key to ensuring a knowledgeable and skilled workforce that has been trained using hands-on methods."

In October 2021, the city of Valdez coordinated and hosted a two-day event sponsored by [Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation](#) with the goal of increasing the capacity of seaweed processing in Alaska. Local, state, tribal, university and seafood industry leaders engaged with international seaweed processing experts in a series of visits to local sites of relevance to mariculture development.

Of special interest to the international visitors was the Valdez Grain Terminal, with a total capacity of 522,000 bushels. Originally commissioned in the 1980s, informal appraisal of these facilities results in a total valuation of more than \$70 million were the facility to be constructed today. These facilities would be ideal to support and demonstrate seaweed storage and secondary processing while leveraging existing facilities and minimizing cost to funding agencies and partners.

"The port of Valdez is truly unique among Alaskan communities and has much to offer seafood and mariculture industry participants," said city of Valdez Ports and Harbors Director Jeremy Talbott, who also serves on the Board of Directors for the newly formed Alaska Mariculture Alliance.

The main operations for the port include the Valdez Container Terminal, a deep-sea general cargo and container terminal with a 21-acre marshaling yard, and the adjacent 3,000-acre Valdez Industrial Park, all of which is connected to the North American road system. Other notable facilities include a newly renovated harbor system, waterfront property ideal for seafood processing facilities, the John Thomas Kelsey Municipal Dock featuring a 600-foot wooden wharf that can accommodate cruise ships of up to 932 feet in length, and an adjacent plaza that serves both the cruise ship passengers and the community for special events. And perhaps its most famous feature is the Alyeska Marine Terminal, the southern terminus of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

In March 2022, the city and ABEC agreed to partner in their efforts to develop Valdez's assets and capacity to serve regional and statewide mariculture growth through the creation of the Prince William Sound Mariculture Hub. Founded in 2019, ABEC combines UAF's extensive research, instruction and public engagement related to Alaska's offshore and inland aquatic resources and ecosystems. ABEC was created to stimulate new external funding in fisheries, mariculture, energy, marine observing, technology and training. The Mariculture Hub will create an open platform that facilitates business development, investment, research, and public-private partnerships through a coordinated approach that combines industry, government and academia.



Photo by Jeff Fisher

From left, Prince William Sound College Assistant Professor Amanda Glazier, ABEC Associate Director Tommy Sheridan, PWSC Campus Director Dennis Humphrey, and ABEC Director Justin Stenberg discuss strategy for 2023 during a December 2022 visit to Valdez.

Regional engagement



Sheridan and Talbott

- Meaningful engagement in Valdez throughout the year
- March, April, June (x2), August, September
- Representation elsewhere (AFS FAI March, AMC CDV August)
- High-level advocacy at UAF/UA

Fund development

- \$2M AK Legislature
- ABEC MIRF (6 projects funded, inc. PWS)
- EPSCOR, COV, VNT (~\$1.4M)
- ARCTIC T3 match (\$115K)
- AMC feasibility study (\$150K, pending)
- AMC equipment purchase (Jan. 8)



Hatchery sampling project (Bowers)

T3 Alliance Overview

<https://t3alliance.org/>

We support STEM education to underserved populations to create hands-on authentic and relevant learning. Through the T3 Alliance, leadership opportunities inspire lifelong learners on a global scale by implementing the 3 pillars:



T3 program

- Teaching Through Technology (T3)
- Innovative STEM for HS students
- ABEC assisting with mariculture
- Summer 2023 “Team Ocean” in PWS
- Valdez June 5-8, hosted by PWSC
- ABEC T3 site establishment...
- ...T3 mariculture curriculum dev.
- ...T3 mariculture club establishment
- 2024 operational

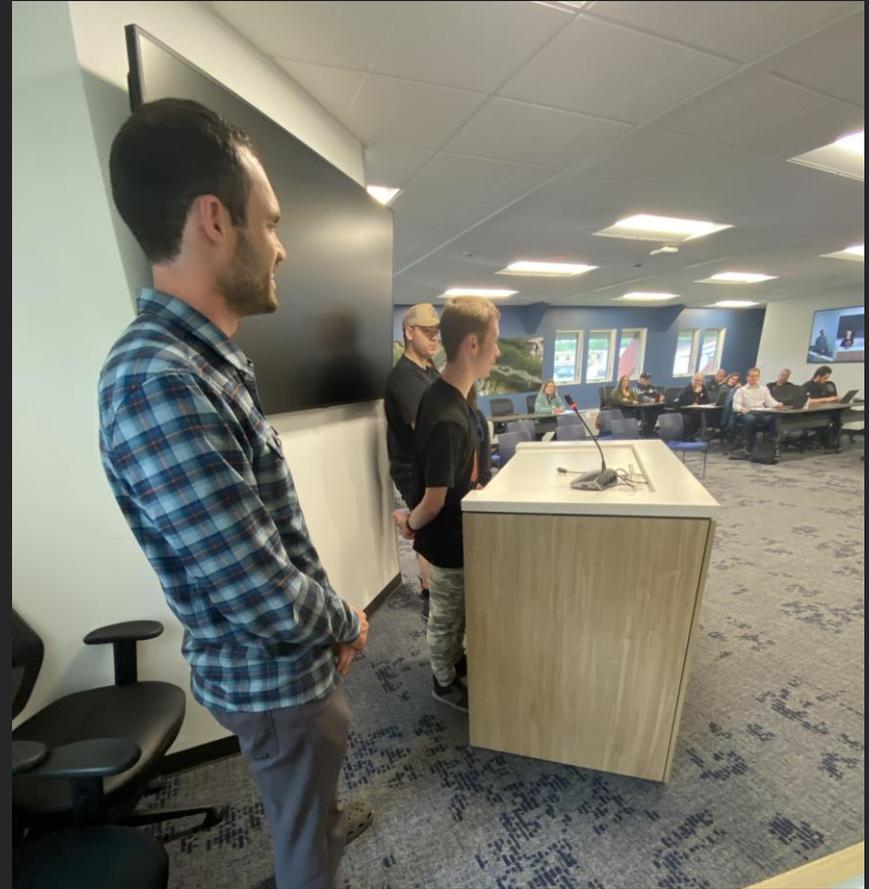


Team “Ocean” 2023

VNT research site visit with COV and ABEC staff



Silver Bay Seafoods tour and City Council introductions





Mariculture sampling in Valdez Harbor

Regional engagement



April sampling kickoff

- Meaningful engagement in Valdez throughout the year
- March, April, June (x2), August, September
- Representation elsewhere (AFS FAI March, AMC CDV August)
- High-level advocacy at UAF/UA



“Garden”/Park

- Sawmill Bay
- Jack Bay
- Galena Bay
- Inform site selection
- April application
- VNT collaboration
- PWSC local lead



- THANK YOU for the opportunity to serve City of Valdez!
- Bright future for mariculture in Valdez and PWS
- COV leadership is appreciated and impactful

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