

About Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center



The mission of the UAF Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center is to increase the value of Alaska's fishing industry and marine resources through research, technological development, education and service.

Alaska's commercial fishing industry

Alaska accounts for more than 60% of the continental shelf area and more than half the shoreline of the entire United States. Alaska's share of wild fish harvested for human food is about 75% of the US total, worth upward of \$3.0 billion annually.

Created by the Alaska Legislature in 1981, Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (formerly FITC) works with the industry to develop new solutions to industry's problems. We direct our efforts in five areas: seafood harvesting technology, seafood processing technology, seafood quality and safety, contaminants, and collaborative ecosystems research.

Located in Kodiak, Alaska, at the center of Alaska's fishing industry, the KSMSC is housed in a 20,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility built on Near Island in 1991.

Promoting the sustainable use of Alaska fisheries through collaborative research, application, education and information transfer in areas of:

Seafood safety

- Safe handling and preservation techniques
- Spoilage: factors affecting shelf life and microbial growth
- Marine biotoxins: Harmful Algal Blooms, such as PSP and domoic acid

Seafood quality

- Nutritional content
- Effects of capture, handling and processing procedures
- Effects of changing ocean conditions

Bycatch reduction

- Gear and techniques to reduce capture of non-target species, including marine mammals

Product markets and development

- Novel and enhanced markets for underutilized species
- Non-consumptive uses: biodiesel, pharmaceuticals
- Adding value through post-processing enhancement
- Full utilization of seafood byproducts
- Technology transfer

Environmental concerns

- Offal discharge management
- Energy-efficient processing
- Competition between humans, commercial interests and protected species

Marine Advisory Program extension

More than 75% of Alaska's 731,000 residents live on the coastline. Marine Advisory Program scientists work within these communities to increase economic diversification and to conserve marine resources through access to technical assistance and training.

- Kodiak MAP Agent:
 - Economic development in the Kodiak Region: Julie Matweyou
- Statewide MAP Specialists:
 - Seafood Marketing: Quentin Fong
 - Seafood Technology Specialist: Chris Sannito

History:

After three decades as the **Fisheries Industrial Technology Center**, the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Kodiak facility was renamed the **Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center**. University of Alaska Board of Regents approved the change in December 2011 with the support of the SFOS dean, UAF chancellor and UA president.

The name change was recommended at the end of a program review conducted in 2011 and is intended to more fully describe the work being done at the center. The Fishery Industrial Technology Center was created in 1981 by the Alaska Legislature to provide research support for

Alaska's seafood industry. The program was one of several grouped together to create the UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences in 1987.

The Fishery Industrial Technology Center (FITC) was created in 1981 by the Alaska State Legislature. The enabling legislation is codified in Alaska Statutes, Title 16: Fish and Game, Chapter 52: Fishery Industrial Technology Center **AS 16.52.010-070**. Briefly, the legislation creates the Fishery Industrial Technology Center, in Kodiak, Alaska, as part of the University of Alaska.

The duties of the Fish Tech Center are enumerated as follows:

Create employment opportunities in the state's fishing industry and other benefits to the State by:

1. Providing training opportunities to citizens of the state on the most efficient and appropriate technologies for the harvesting, processing, and conservation of the fishery resources of the state;
2. Providing information and technical assistance on the adaptation of existing and new technologies to the users of the fishery resources of the state;
3. Providing research and development activities to adapt existing technologies to enhance the economic viability of the industry;
4. Providing research and development activities to create new technologies that will enhance the effectiveness of the industry, and provide economic benefits to state citizens; and
5. Encouraging joint projects between industry and government in order to use industrial experience and government programs to enhance the productivity of the industry.

The enabling legislation creating the Fishery Industrial Technology Center (FITC) provided for the establishment of a Fishery Industrial Technology Center Policy Council to guide and advise us on the kinds of problems facing coastal Communities and the Alaska Seafood Industry, and to review our programs. Our Policy Council meets twice yearly and reviews our Strategic Plan every 2 years, on alternate years our faculty reviews it. Goals that have been achieved are removed from the plan and new goals are discussed and then prioritized by each group in turn.

The Policy Council and the Faculty also prioritize the position descriptions for new hires. Using the opportunity of the UAF Reaccreditation Process and its Self-Assessment, our faculty just completed reviewing our strategic plan and our curriculum and our Policy Council accepted the changes.

Another important source of information for planning and appraisal of our efforts also comes from the UAF - School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Advisory Council. The strongly applied nature and equally strong service orientation to the programs at FITC stand in contrast with many other units within SFOS. Therefore, with the assistance of the SFOS Advisory Council, FITC brings its more applied focus to the basic research orientation of most of the units within SFOS.

The combination of a dedicated FITC Policy Council and an active SFOS Advisory Council reviewing our efforts, both in terms of planning and outcomes, greatly assists us in sharpening our focus for planning and improvement. However, it is important to note that our solicitation of input does not stop at this level. We are in frequent contact with a wide variety of enterprises across the state and the nation regarding fisheries and seafood issues.

Within Alaska we work closely with the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development, the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and others to identify the research, educational and service needs of Alaskans.