



COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO ALASKA'S FOOD SYSTEMS

FEBRUARY 10, 2026
ALASKA LEGISLATURE
HOUSE TRIBAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE



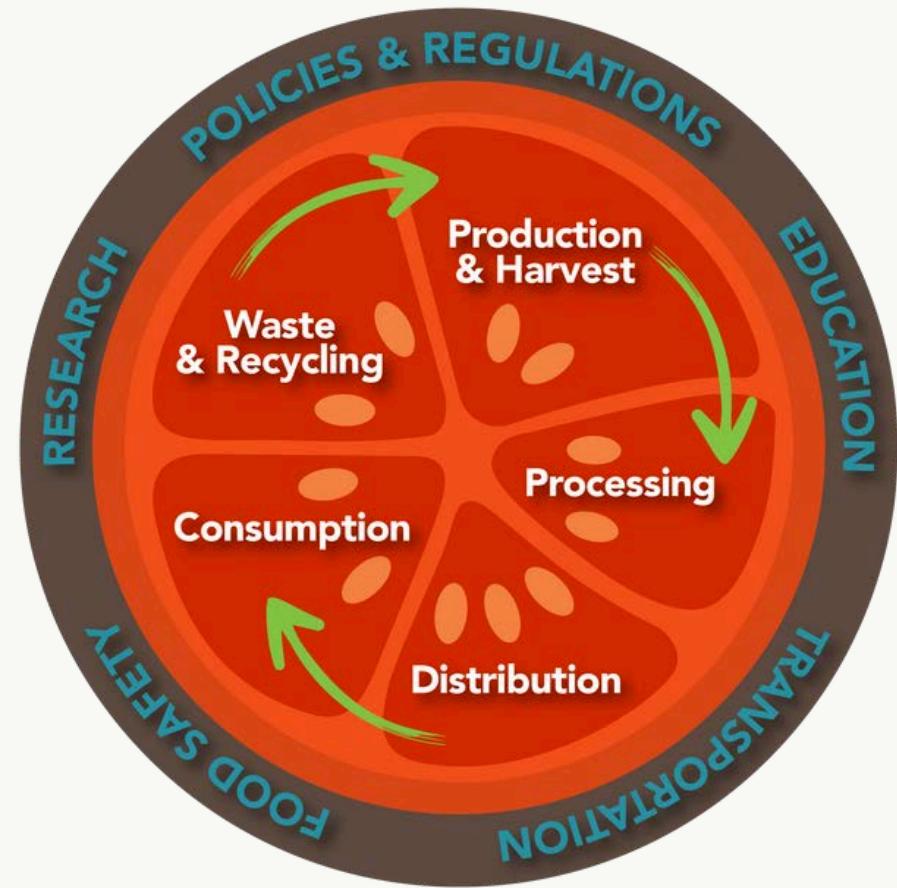
OUR MISSION IS TO CONNECT, ADVOCATE, AND INFORM TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SYSTEMS FOR ALL ALASKANS.

CONNECT: We engage with Alaskans to gather input to strengthen our food systems and create spaces for collaboration.

ADVOCATE: We develop policy and investment recommendations and share them with decision makers at the local, state, federal, and Tribal levels.

INFORM: We conduct food systems research, share information, resources, opportunities, and challenges with all food stakeholders (everyone who eats!)





OUR FOOD, OUR PEOPLE, OUR FUTURE.

We envision healthy, secure, culturally relevant, and abundant food systems that feed all Alaskans.

AFPC is open to anyone interested in improving Alaska's food systems – agencies and individuals representing federal and state agencies, Tribal entities, schools, university programs, farmers, fisheries, and food systems businesses.

AFPC STAFF

Robbi Mixon
Executive Director



Rachel Lord
*Programs &
Advocacy/Policy*



Sundance Visser
*Operations &
Finance*



Ellen Olack
Programs Manager



GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Elizabeth Dubovsky**, Strategy Director, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, Anchorage
- **Amy Foote**, Director of Indigenous Cuisine & Executive Chef, Nana Management Services, Eagle River
- **Tikaan Galbreath**, Chief Operating Officer, First Alaskans Institute, Anchorage
- **Glenna Gannon**, Assistant Professor of Sustainable Food Systems, UAF, Fairbanks
- **Kyle Hill**, President, Alaska Commercial Company, Anchorage
- **Zeynep Kilic**, Co-owner, Turkish Delight; Retired Professor of Food Studies & Sociology, UAA, Anchorage
- **Tanya King**, Chair, Anchorage
- **Jason Lessard**, Executive Director, Alaska Mariculture Alliance, Anchorage
- **Marisa McKasson**, Assistant Professor of Extension, UAF, Anchorage
- **Rachael Miller**, Chief Advocacy Officer, Food Bank of Alaska; Associate Business Professor, APU, Anchorage
- **Milena Sevigny**, Chief of Staff & Community Relations Manager, LifeMed Alaska, Wasilla
- **Evie Witten**, Principal, Regeneration North; Co-owner, Ebb Tide Ocean Farm, Anchorage





CHALLENGES TO HEALTHY AND SECURE FOOD SYSTEMS

95%

of our food is
IMPORTED
.....
EXPORTING

\$2B

in food dollars/year



IN ALASKA:

*Subsistence
and
personal use*

HARVESTS
ARE WORTH

\$900
MILLION
ANNUALLY

1 IN 5
Alaskan kids face chronic
HUNGER

82% of Alaskan communities are
not reachable by road,
complicating the logistics
of moving food

**HUNGER IS A PREVALENT ISSUE IN ALASKA.
MOST PURCHASED FOOD IS IMPORTED.
A LACK OF DATA AND CROSS-SECTOR COORDINATION
MAKES FINDING SOLUTIONS CHALLENGING.**

WHAT WE DO

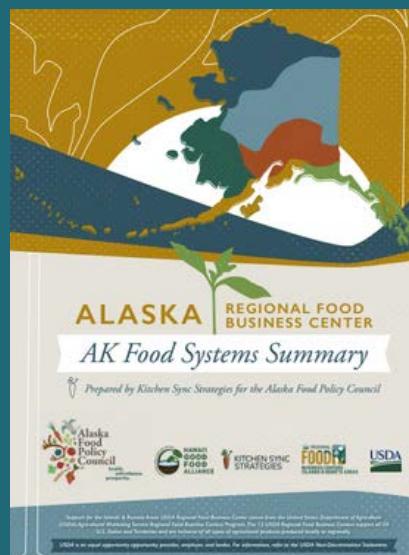
Research and reports, as tools for decision makers, organizations, food systems planning, and evaluation

Events & trainings for capacity building, listening, educating, supporting/amplifying partner opportunities

Communications to share information & opportunities across sectors and geographies

The website features several sections:

- Leafy Greens in Remote Alaska:** StoryMap showing leafy greens travel from the Lower 48 to remote Alaska.
- Alaska GROWN:** Web Map of Alaska Farmers Markets.
- Dashboard:** USDA Alaska Grant Awards from 2001-2025.
- Application:** Distribution Network Timeline.
- Web Map:** MAT-SU BOROUGH LAND USE.
- Web Map:** Major Grocery Stores.
- Application:** Find My Farmers Market.



FOOD SECURITY WEEK

A LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES ON OUR FOOD SYSTEM: FOOD PRODUCTION, FOOD ACCESS, AND FOOD WASTE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH | 12:00PM
LOCATION: CAPITOL ROOM 106

IMPROVING FOOD ACCESS IN ALASKA

Join speakers from the Alaska Food Coalition for a Lunch and Learn about improving food access in Alaska, highlighting successes and discussing opportunities.

Sponsored by the office of Rep. Talerico

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH | 12:00PM
LOCATION: CAPITOL ROOM 205

INNOVATIVE EFFORTS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Join speakers from the Alaska Food Policy Council for a Lunch and Learn about reducing food waste in Alaska.

Co-sponsored by the offices of Sen. Giessel & Sen. Bishop

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH | 12:00PM
LOCATION: CAPITOL ROOM 106

FOOD PRODUCTION SUCCESSES IN ALASKA

Join speakers from the Alaska Farmland Trust for a Lunch and Learn on agriculture production and growth in the farming industry over the past five years.

Sponsored by the office of Rep. Tarr

In collaboration with:

Events:

- USDA LAMP Grant Preparation – Virtual Technical Assistance! (copy)
- Alaska Food Policy Council - Statewide

Filters:

- Category: Funding (8) Events (6) Job (1)
- Topic: Full Time (2) Part Time (1)
- Location: Statewide (11) Anchorage (2) Kodiak (1) Southeast Alaska (1)

USDA LAMP Grant Preparation – Virtual Technical Assistance!

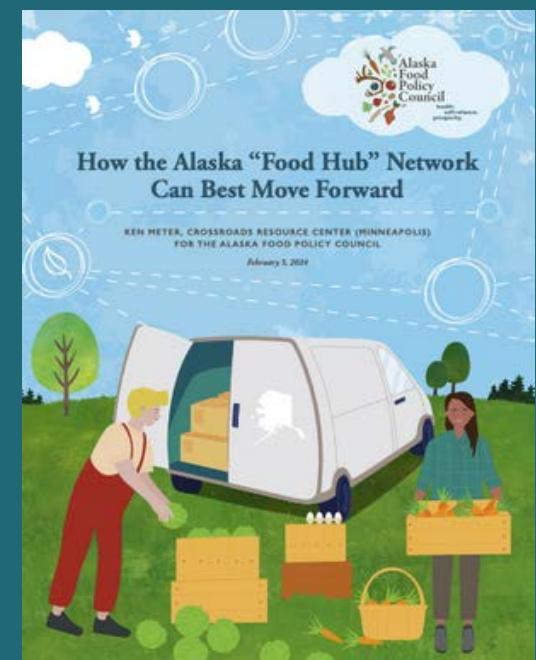
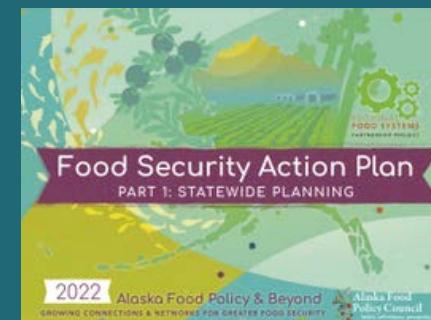
Alaska Food Policy Council - Statewide

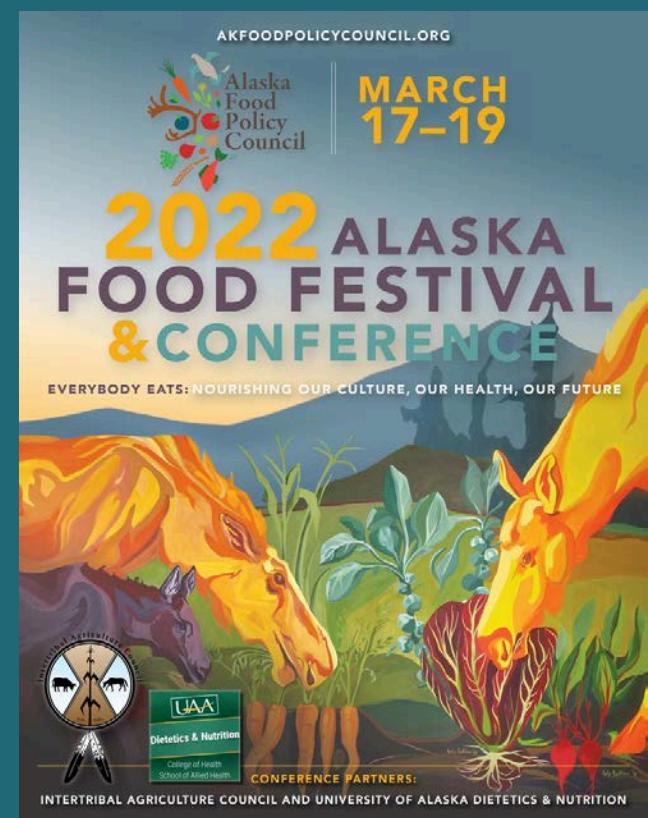
Cooperative Coordinator

Kodiak Ocean Growers Cooperative • Kodiak

June 6 & 13, 10 AM - 12 PM

KODIAK OCEAN GROWERS







The Alaska Food Systems Network aims to deepen connections, foster communication, and cultivate collaboration of food system organizations through:

- Facilitating monthly statewide working groups on various food systems topics
- Hosting quarterly virtual meet-ups with guest speakers
- Providing technical assistance resources and opportunities



Indigenous Foods Working Group



- 55 working group members statewide
- Working Group Discussions included:
 - State and Federal policy issues
 - Public comment periods on subsistence and resource development
 - Disaster preparedness & relief efforts
 - SNAP, FDPIR, and more programs
- Conference sessions have included:
 - Alaska Native Reindeer Husbandry
 - Meat Production for Protein Security (Intertribal Agriculture Council Panel)
 - American Indian Foods Showcase
 - The Feast Table: Developing an Indigenous Research Methodology
 - Chef Flora's cooking demo
 - Clam Gardens: Exploring Traditional Ecological Knowledge
 - An Introduction to Alaska Tribes Extension

Indigenous Foods Working Group Goals

Advocacy



Networking Opportunities



Food System Assessment & Planning



Indigenous Foods Resources

Alaska Resources:

- Alaska Village Initiatives – AG Alaska
- Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska: ICC Alaska
- ICC Food Sovereignty and Food Security Reports/Resources List
- ICC Report- FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF-GOVERNANCE: INUIT ROLE IN MANAGING ARCTIC MARINE RESOURCES
- ICC – ALASKAN INUIT FOOD SECURITY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:

USDA RESOURCES:

FNS has various resources to assist CNP operators in determining how traditional Indigenous foods may contribute toward a reimbursable meal:

- Bringing Tribal Foods and Traditions into Cafeterias, Classrooms, and Gardens
- Child Nutrition Recipe Box
- Community Food Systems in Native Communities – Incorporating Traditional Foods in Child Nutrition Program Menus
- Crediting of Child Nutrition Programs and Traditional Indigenous Foods Memo



**Food Security
and Sovereignty**

IN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES

**Recommendations for Improving Language and Inclusivity
in Food and Agriculture Programming**

VIEW OR DOWNLOAD FULL REPORT BY VISITING:

UAF.EDU/CES/DISTRICTS/TRIBES/TRIBAL-FOOD-SOVEREIGNTY-SECURITY.PHP

  **Alaska Tribes
Extension Program**

 **COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE**
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

 **Alaska Food
Policy
Council**
health.
self-reliance.
prosperity.





Advocacy Working Group

- 58 working group members statewide
- Monthly meetings for discussion, updates, Q&A, connection, and feedback on advocacy & policy around the state and in DC
- Advocacy trainings/ education through regular blog series
- Tracking and relationship building at the state and federal levels

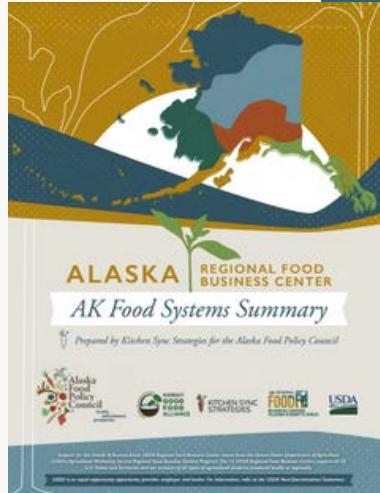
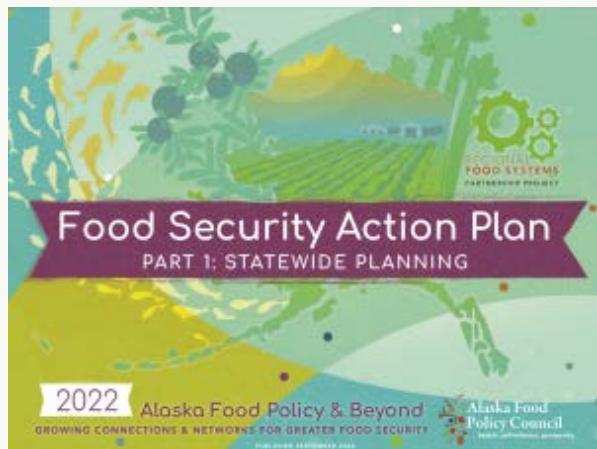


School Nutrition Working Group

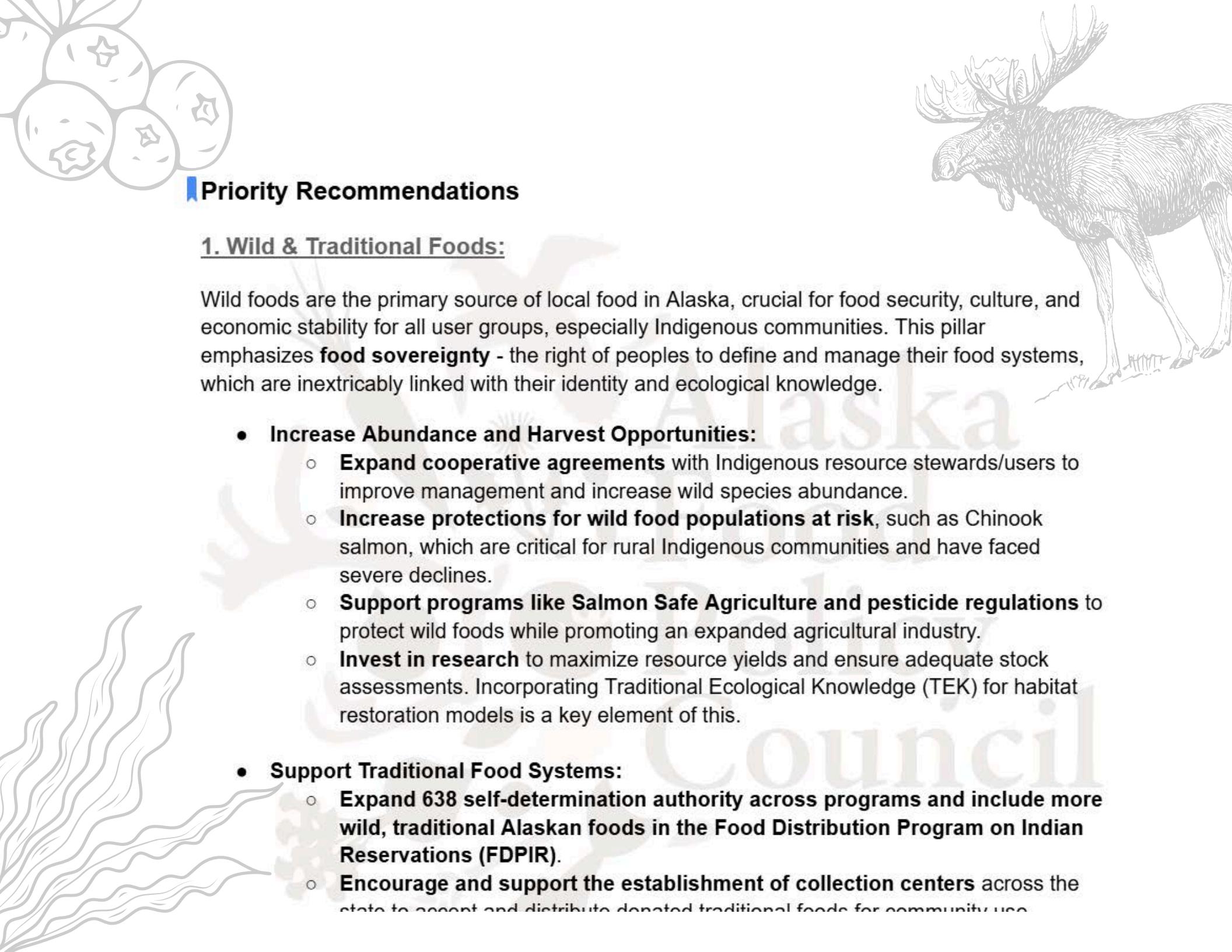
- 46 working group members statewide
- Topics include: Fish to Schools, Community Eligibility Provision, Procurement, and more

Food Policy Framework for Alaska

NEW!



- Wild & Traditional Foods
- Agriculture & Local Production
- Processing & Value-Added Foods
- Distribution & Infrastructure
- Access & Healthy Communities
- Circular Food Systems/Food Waste
- Overarching Support
 - Policy, research, workforce, capital



Priority Recommendations

1. Wild & Traditional Foods:

Wild foods are the primary source of local food in Alaska, crucial for food security, culture, and economic stability for all user groups, especially Indigenous communities. This pillar emphasizes **food sovereignty** - the right of peoples to define and manage their food systems, which are inextricably linked with their identity and ecological knowledge.

- **Increase Abundance and Harvest Opportunities:**
 - **Expand cooperative agreements** with Indigenous resource stewards/users to improve management and increase wild species abundance.
 - **Increase protections for wild food populations at risk**, such as Chinook salmon, which are critical for rural Indigenous communities and have faced severe declines.
 - **Support programs like Salmon Safe Agriculture and pesticide regulations** to protect wild foods while promoting an expanded agricultural industry.
 - **Invest in research** to maximize resource yields and ensure adequate stock assessments. Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) for habitat restoration models is a key element of this.
- **Support Traditional Food Systems:**
 - **Expand 638 self-determination authority across programs and include more wild, traditional Alaskan foods in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).**
 - **Encourage and support the establishment of collection centers** across the state to accept and distribute donated traditional foods for community use.

Policy Theme	Guiding Question	Does this policy...?
Wild & Traditional Foods	Does it protect and strengthen traditional food systems and wild food access?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Agriculture & Local Production	Does it expand Alaska's ability to grow food locally?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Processing & Value-Added	Does it increase capacity to process food in-state, keeping value here?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Distribution & Infrastructure	Does it improve storage, transportation, and supply chains across regions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Access & Healthy Communities	Does it increase access to healthy food for all Alaskans, especially children, elders, veterans, and low-income families?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Circular Food Systems	Does it reduce waste and turn food byproducts into resources?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Policy, Workforce & Research Supports	Does it invest in workforce, governance, and data needed to sustain food systems?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

A strong food security policy touches multiple themes, not just one sector.



Questions to Ask Yourself

When considering food-related policy or funding decisions, ask:

1. Big Picture

- Am I addressing food security as a whole, or only focusing on one sector (e.g., agriculture, processing, access)?
- Could this decision unintentionally undermine other parts of the food system?

2. Access & Healthy Communities

- Does this policy expand food access for vulnerable groups (children, rural residents, Alaska Natives, elders)?
- Who benefits most? Who is left out?

3. Resilience & Sustainability

- Does this strengthen Alaska's long-term ability to feed itself, even in times of disruption?
- Does it promote sustainable stewardship of land, water, and wildlife?

4. Economic Development

- Does this policy keep more food dollars in Alaska's economy (e.g., support in-state food processing, farm-to-institution purchasing, or local jobs)?
- Does it balance economic growth with food security for all?

5. Feasibility & Pathways

- Is this a realistic step forward in the (short-, medium-, or long-term)?
- What barriers exist for (funding, capacity, administrative)? How can they be addressed over time?

ADVOCATE & INFORM

- **On The Menu-** weekly Alaska legislative updates
- **Bill Tracker**
- **Policy Priorities & Recommendations**
(informed by AFPC activities & Governing Board)
- **Advocacy Blogs and Policy Briefs**, on state and federal issues, explaining implications for Alaskans, advocacy training
- **Annual Food Security Week** in Juneau
- **National Anti-Hunger Conference**, May
- **Advocacy & Student Nutrition Working Groups**
- **Amplifying Partners' Work**

[www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/advocate/
state-policy/](http://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/advocate/state-policy/)





Each year, Feeding America releases updated data on hunger across America. On May 14, 2025 they released their updated Food Insecurity Report for the nation with data from 2023.

[EXPLORE THE DATA IN FEEDING AMERICA'S INTERACTIVE MAP.](#)

2023 data for Alaska paints a troubling picture, with hunger rising across the board.

- Nearly 15% of Alaskans, 106,080 people, are food insecure – this is a nearly 12% increase in Alaskans facing hunger in the past year.
- 31,030 children are food insecure – that's almost 18% of Alaskan kids, and 3% more kids than were hungry in 2022.
- 11,566 elders are food insecure, over 7% of our elder population.

TOPIC	BILL NUMBER	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS (1/21/2026)	SPONSOR	CO-SPONSORS	COMMITTEE REFERRALS	COMPANION BILL
Fisheries, Subsistence	HB 125	Membership of the Board of Fisheries	amends the membership of the Board of Fisheries to specify members have sector representation, including subsistence	Passed House: Senate CR&A	Rep. Jimmie	Foster, Kopp, Burke, Dibert, Story, Galvin, Carrick	CR&A, RES	
Food Access/Anti-Hunger	SB 13	Summer EBT	directs the state to adopt the Summer EBT program with USDA for summertime food assistance for school kids whose families meet income guidelines	FIN	Sen. Dunbar		EDC, FIN	HB 154
Food Access/Anti-Hunger	HB 154	Summer EBT	directs the state to adopt the Summer EBT program with USDA for summertime food assistance for school kids whose families meet income guidelines	HSS	Rep. Mears	Fields, Dibert	HSS, FIN	SB 13
Food Access/Anti-Hunger	SB 186	Removing soft drinks from SNAP	SNAP restrictions - prohibiting soft drinks	HSS	Wielechowski	Cronk	HSS, CRA	

AFPC Policy Brief



Healthy School Meals for All in Alaska & HB 12

Overview

AFPC strongly supports free school meals for all students, recognizing the numerous benefits associated with food security in schools. Providing free meals can alleviate food insecurity, reduce financial strain on families, and create a more equitable learning environment for all students. This brief outlines key considerations regarding healthy school meals for all students, the broader context of school meal programs in Alaska, and the opportunity presented with House Bill 12.

House Bill 12 (HB 12), titled *'An Act relating to free breakfast and lunch in public schools'*, proposes an amendment to Alaska Statute Title 14, Chapter 17, mandating that the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) provide sufficient funding for school districts to offer free meals to all students who request them. The bill also requires DEED to maximize available federal assistance for school meal programs.

Background



"A large body of research provides evidence that better nourished children perform better in school."

Pritchard, D.E. (2013) *Nutrition and cognitive achievement: An evaluation of the School Breakfast Program*. *Journal of Public Economics*, Volume 124 pg 97-104

The *National School Lunch Program (NSLP)*, established in 1946 through the 1946 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, was created as a national security and economic growth program, designed to ensure children's health and well-being while supporting the domestic agricultural market (42 U.S.C. 1751 Sec 2). Over time, the program has expanded to include the *School Breakfast Program (SBP)*, providing



Regional Food Partnership Project:
**Collaboration, Knowledge
Co-creation, and Network
Weaving: Building Alaska
Food Systems with Mapping,
Data, and Value Chain
Coordination**



INFORM: What do you wish people knew about how food moves in Alaska? Best practices, case studies, white papers

CONNECT: We are holding space to promote coordination, which can be a persistent challenge for increasing efficiencies

ADVOCATE: We advocate with informed feedback on specific and actionable infrastructure and policy recommendations

Project Partners



UAA Institute of Social
and Economic Research
UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA ANCHORAGE



 **Dewberry®**

We draw on cross-sector expertise from around Alaska's food systems, including:

- Air carriers (big and small)
- Barges
- Ports
- Distributors
- Producers and food businesses
- Government agencies, state and federal
- Manufacturing experts
- Grocers
- School Districts
- Tribal Organizations
- Support Organizations
- And more...



Part One:

Build an Alaska Food Systems Atlas & Data Dashboards to establish a shared understanding of the current state of regional food security and food-related infrastructure in Alaska through the creation of a common operating picture, or centralized compilation of information.



Leafy Greens in Remote Alaska

The journey of lettuce



A Cow's Journey

A Story of Food, Community, and Connection Across the State



Alaska Farmers Markets

Farmers markets found state-wide



Major Grocery Stores

A map of all the major grocery stores in Alaska



Mat-Su Borough Land Use Change

Results from land use change analysis between 2013–2023



Distribution Network Timeline

View how leafy greens travel from the Lower 48 to Alaska



Find My Farmers Market

Find your closest local food



Alaska Food Policy Council Data Viewer

All of AFPC's datasets in one viewer



USDA Alaska Grant Awards

USDA Grant Awards from 2001–2025



Food Procurement Dashboard

Learn more about State of Alaska food purchasing records



Food Spoilage Dashboard

Discover food spoilage patterns across Alaska

Data



Food and Water

Alaska Infrastructure Dashboard – Food and Water

Explore statewide infrastructure supporting food systems and clean water access

External

Food Security Working Group



Building an Alaska-based community to support local food security & independence initiatives through a working series of Alaska's most critical challenges.

Alaska Food Security and Independence Task Force

External



Alaska Food Systems

This website is the main page for the Alaska Food Security program

External



Alaska Food Strategy Task Force

This website supplements the Alaska Food Strategy Task Force 2023 Report

External



Native Land Information System

Browse learning resources, information, and data

External



Alaska Grown Member Directory

Find Alaska Grown members by name, products or location

External



Indigenous Sentinels Network

Indigenous-led and community-driven environmental monitoring

External



Food and Agriculture Mapper and Explorer

Food systems data hub from dozens of publicly available datasets

External



Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap Tool

Food insecurity among the overall population in America

External



Tribal Conservation Districts in Alaska

TCDs combine local and traditional knowledge with technical resources to actively manage natural resources

External



Alaska Soil & Water Conservation District

Alaska is served by 12 Soil & Water Conservation Districts

External



United Way of Anchorage's 211.org

United Way of Anchorage's 211.org is Alaska's statewide, one-stop resource that connects people to local services like emergency food and shelter, education, treatment programs, senior support, child care and more



Leafy Greens in Remote Alaska

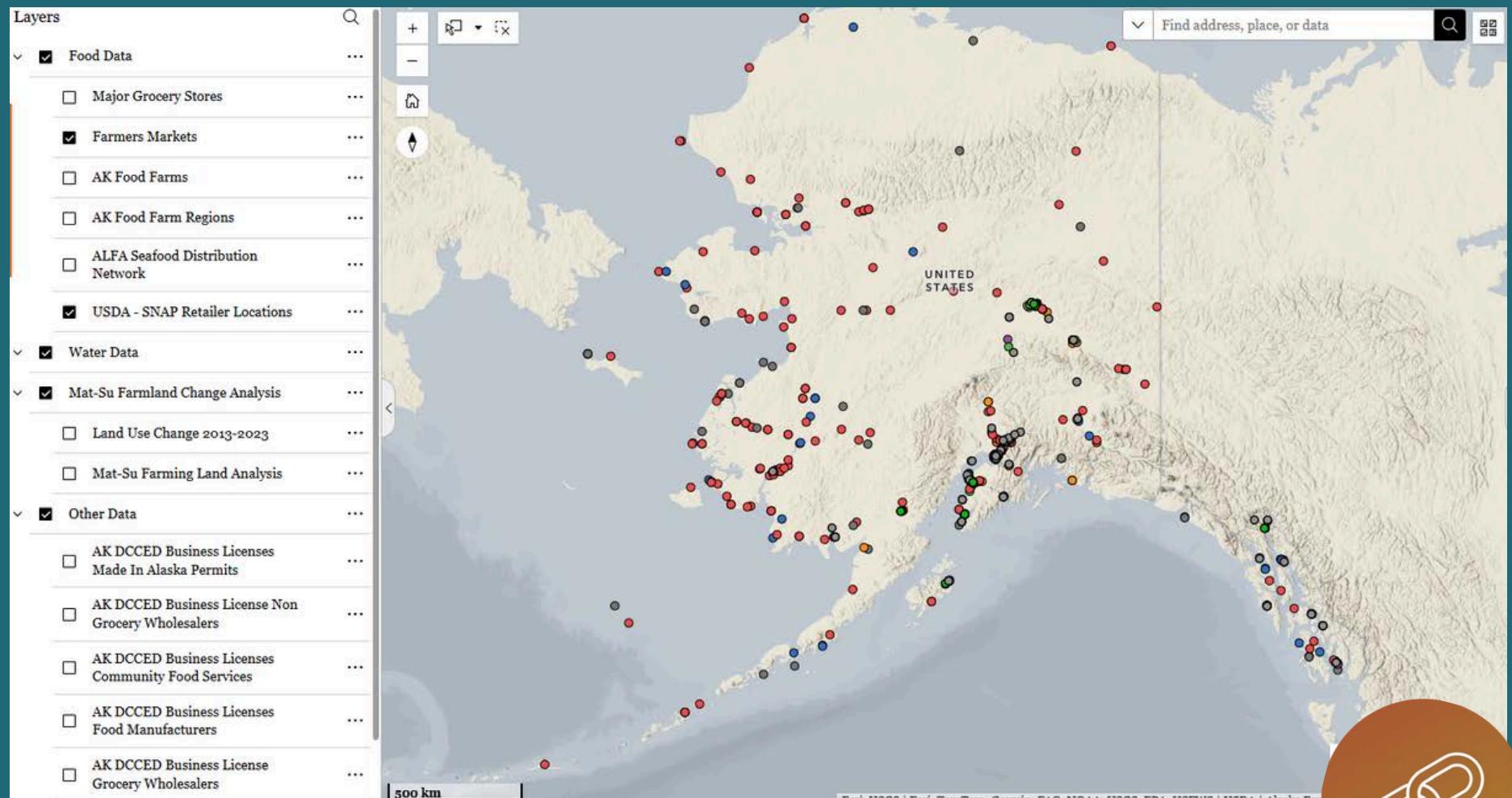
A Cow's Journey





Alaska Food Policy Council

Alaska Food Policy Council Data Viewer





Part Two:

Create and facilitate the Alaska Food Value Chain Coordination Council, a statewide advisory group working together to identify bottlenecks, share strategies, and develop solutions to improve the movement of food in and around Alaska..

Food Value Chain Resources



FREIGHT HACKS FOR ALASKA
MANUFACTURERS | AKMA ROUNDTABLE
REPLAY – OCTOBER 2025



MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS



ADOT ALASKA AVIATION DATABASE



FAA DON YOUNG ALASKA AVIATION SAFETY
INITIATIVE (DYAAI)



LEARN MORE



Dr. Mike Jones speaks about the Regional Food
Partnership Program at the 2025 Alaska Food
Festival and Conference.

The messy reality of feeding Alaska Article by Eva Holland

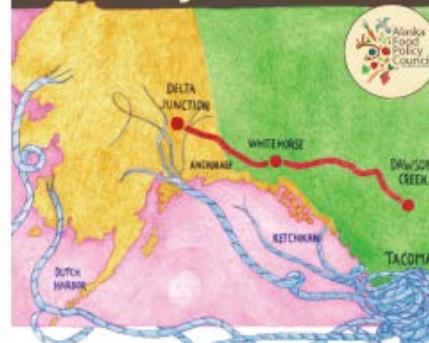


Image Credit: Itziar Barrios Granados/High Country News

LEARN MORE

ALASKA SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYSIS BASELINE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2023



LEARN MORE



**The next meeting is Monday, March 3
1:00-3:00pm, via Zoom**

How could the movement of food to and around your districts be improved?

What opportunities do you see for improved coordination, tools, relationships, and investments?

THANK YOU!

advocacy@alaskafoodpolicycouncil.org

director@alaskafoodpolicycouncil.org

www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org

907.756.3930

