

# LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

29<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature  
LRS Report 17.046  
December 2, 2016



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## Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center

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*You asked for information about the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center, formerly known as the Fishery Industrial Technology Center. Specifically, you wished to know about its creation; you also had questions pertaining to the University of Alaska's authority over the Center.*

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### Brief History of the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center

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In 1981, Alaska established the Fishery Industrial Technology Center (FTIC) in Kodiak to enhance the technological competitiveness of Alaska's fishing industry. The enabling legislation for the FTIC was House Bill 262, sponsored by then-Representative Fred Zharoff, and enacted as Ch 44 SLA 1981.<sup>1</sup> The program was one of several grouped together in 1987 to create the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (SFOS). In 2011, the Kodiak Center was renamed the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (KSMSC).<sup>2</sup>

The purposes of the Center are enumerated in AS 16.020 as follows:

- 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;
- Providing information and technical assistance on the adaptation of existing and new technologies to the users of the fishery resources of the state;
- Providing research and development activities to adapt existing technologies to enhance the economic viability of the industry;
- 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
- Encouraging joint projects between industry and government in order to use industrial experience and government programs to enhance the productivity of the industry.

The creation of the KSMSC was a product of a long history of interest and effort. As early as 1974, the University of Alaska (UA) had proposed an Alaska Fisheries Education Program that would expand and enhance the existing program at the Fairbanks campus as well as expanding, throughout the UA statewide system, technical training on fisheries. One component envisioned was a program in Fishery Technology at the Kodiak Community College to provide formal and informal training in modern fishing methods, gear and vessel handling, seafood processing and plant operation, fishing business administration, and fisheries enforcement.

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<sup>1</sup>The enabling legislation is codified in Alaska Statutes at AS 16.52.010-070.

<sup>2</sup> The KSMSC website is located at <http://www.uaf.edu/cfos/about-us/locations/kodiak/about-ksmsc/>.

By 1980, the University of Alaska had achieved status as a Sea Grant College.<sup>3</sup> In December of that year, a conference entitled “Fisheries Education in Alaska: Creating a Program of Excellence” was sponsored by the Division of Policy Development and Planning in the Office of Governor Jay Hammond; the Alaska Department of Education; the Office of Commercial Fisheries Development in the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development; and the University of Alaska-Juneau. The conference was designed as a joint effort of industry and state government to identify specific advanced fisheries education needs in the state and to incorporate and adapt components of successful programs to address those needs for Alaskans. Presenters represented a majority of the most respected fisheries and seafood education programs in the United States as well as in other countries including Canada, Denmark, Great Britain, and Japan. The record of the proceedings contain recommendations on the development of a program for Alaska.<sup>4</sup>

In March 1981, Representative Zharoff introduced HB 262, an act establishing a fishery industrial technology center as part of the University of Alaska. Proponents of the measure envisioned that the Kodiak center would be designed to carry out training, research and development of fisheries and the fishing industry in Alaska.

As mentioned earlier, after three decades as the Fisheries Industrial Technology Center, the facility was renamed the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center. The 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 was intended to more fully describe the work being done at the Center.

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### Response from The University of Alaska to Questions Regarding KSMSC

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Below we list the questions (in bold) that we put to the University of Alaska, followed by the responses we received (verbatim).<sup>5</sup>

**Does the University of Alaska own the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center building, or is it owned by the State of Alaska?**

The (KSMSC) facility, previously known as the Fisheries Industry Technology Center (FITC), is a University owned facility.

**How many different buildings has the Center been housed in since it was established in 1981?**

The Center has been located on Near Island since 1991. Before 1991, administrative offices were housed in an office in downtown Kodiak. Laboratory space was located at the US Coast Guard base.

**How much state money has been appropriated to build the various phases of the Center?**

The facility was phase funded via capital appropriations with a combination of state and Exxon Valdez oil spill (EVOS) funding totaling \$10.8M (in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1994). However, of these appropriations, UAF transferred \$3M to the Kodiak Island Borough to build residential apartments that UAF manages for students and visitors and to contribute to the construction of the Near Island Research facility, a separate facility next door to KSMSC leased by NOAA Fisheries. The land that the

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<sup>3</sup> As Public Law 89-688, Congress passed the National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966, establishing Sea Grant Colleges within existing universities wishing to develop oceanic work across the nation. The program was inspired by the success of the Land Grant University model, which combined the resources of state universities with the needs of citizens. Designed to be a national network to sustain and enhance the vitality, value and wise use of the nation’s coastal resources, the program is administered and supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and implemented through 33 leading research universities.

<sup>4</sup> William W. Smoker, ed., “Fisheries Education in Alaska: Creating a Program of Excellence,” Anchorage, Alaska, Sea Grant Report 82-4, published December 1981; available at <http://nsgl.gso.uri.edu/aku/akuw80003/akuw80003index.html>.

<sup>5</sup> UA’s response was provided by Michelle Rizk, Vice-President University Relations. Ms. Rizk can be reached at (907) 450-8187.

KSMSC is on (approximately 7.15 acres) was donated to the University of Alaska by the City of Kodiak to house KSMSC.

Annual facility operations and maintenance costs are approximately \$300,000. Four faculty (Marine Advisory Program and Fisheries Department) and 1.5 staff (Marine Advisory Program) are supported by CFOS at approximately \$500,000 per year.

The University received one partial operating increment in 1992 from the state to cover some of the costs associated with operating the facility. In the 1990's and early 2000's dedicated federal research funds supported faculty salaries to offset facility operating costs since no overhead was allowed on these dedicated funds. Today, the faculty in the building may generate overhead through competitive grant funds (e.g. Sea Grant, NPRB, NOAA, USDA, and ASMI) and may generate salary funds through industry-funded research (PCCRC) and UA TVEP funds. The amount of faculty generated operating revenue each year is variable.

**Does the UA have sole authority to decide what the current Center building is used for?**

Yes.

**Could the UA sell the building and keep the funds for other University purposes, if it chose to?**

The sale of university property is governed by BOR Policy and Regulation Chapter 5.11- Real Property. The distribution of the proceeds of the sale of university assets rests with the Board of Regents.

It is important to note that the university is required by statute to meet the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center's (formerly Fishery Industrial Technology Center) purpose established in Alaska Statute 16.020. "The center shall 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 university will therefore continue to need resources in Kodiak to meet this purpose.

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.