AFDF has a long history in facilitating the industry’s full utilization of Alaska seafood through cooperative research and development. Past examples of AFDF’s work to develop specialty products from fish waste include supporting the development of surimi from Alaska pollock, omega-3 oils from salmon, and salmon baby food. Recently, AFDF is collaborating with ASMI to explore production of a seafood protein powder and market research regarding acceptability and demand in global food aid countries. AFDF continues to network with the Iceland Ocean Cluster and other world leaders toward the goal of 100% utilization.

Maritime Works is a network of committed individuals, employers and workforce development organizations which share the vision of connecting economic and social issues through workforce development and is working together to advance Alaska’s maritime workforce. Maritime Works is partnering with the Alaska Process Industry Career Consortium (APICC) and the National Fund for Workforce Solutions to connect Alaskans with jobs in the maritime industry – high dollar, blue collar jobs.

AFDF is dedicated to identifying problems common to the Alaska seafood industry and developing efficient, sustainable solutions that provide benefits to the economy, environment and communities.

Please consider renewing or becoming a member of AFDF. Membership is an important source of funding for AFDF to support these areas of research and development on behalf of Alaska’s seafood industry.

Membership renewal forms are available at www.afdf.org
Improving energy efficiency is an essential step for fishing businesses to remain viable in the future. Alaska has over 6,000 registered commercial fishing vessels between 25 & 100 feet in length. Many of these vessels are community-based family fishing operations with narrow operating margins, upon which the cost of fuel has a significant impact. Pressure is also increasing to reduce both CO2 and exhaust emissions. AFDF partnered with other fishing organizations & Navis Energy LLC to conduct vessel energy efficiency audits. Using this baseline data, a new Vessel Energy Analysis Tool was created to help fishermen evaluate their fuel usage and identify methods to reduce costs by improving energy efficiency for various onboard systems. Funded by a NOAA grant, this tool will soon be available online in a web-based form to all commercial fishermen. AFDF is also using this tool to work with federal and state funders to provide funding mechanisms to help fishermen make these energy improvements.

The Alaska Symphony of Seafood is an annual competition for new commercial-ready products made from Alaska seafood in four categories. This event was created to encourage value-added product development, maximize the value of the resource and diversify markets for Alaska seafood. Since 1993, AFDF has held this annual event, funded by seafood industry sponsorships.

AFDF manages Client Groups for both the Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) and Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC) programs. As the Client, AFDF facilitates the sustainability certification of two Alaska fisheries: Pacific cod (both RFM and MSC certified) and salmon (RFM certified). These Client Groups are open to any industry participants and are funded by industry fees. AFDF is also working with United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) and other partners to document socially responsible practices on commercial fishing vessels in Alaska with the intent to satisfy concerns related to these issues without a one-size-fits-all vessel certification program (funded by a NOAA grant). Finally, AFDF is developing strategies to integrate these sources of information and more in a single point-source to provide a transparent seafood supply chain to customers of Alaska seafood.

The Alaska Mariculture Initiative is to grow a $1 billion industry in 30 years. A fully developed mariculture industry in Alaska would provide numerous benefits: economic, environmental, community, industry, food security, and sustainability benefits. AFDF is currently working with a group of stakeholders on Governor Walker’s Mariculture Task Force to craft a comprehensive plan to develop the mariculture industry in Alaska. AFDF is also collaborating with partners on several projects which will remove barriers to entry, create a GIS mapping tool, and develop efficient growing & harvesting methods for seaweed. Funds to date have been provided by NOAA, EDA, Alaska Sea Grant, and U.S. Dept. of Energy.