Goal: Implement the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan which will address the challenges of the Alaska seafood industry by bringing in new workers and training the existing workforce. In 2017, Vigor employed 227 Alaskaans in this program and 35 of their 67 trainees received full-time employment. 2017-2019 figures: $61,193. Vigor created an innovative Registered Apprenticeship in the shipyard where 200 Southeast Alaska high school students have experienced shipbuilding careers. Project Champion: Julie Petersen, CEO and Chair, Vigor Alaska Shipyard Development.

Goal: Grow a $1 billion mariculture industry in Alaska in 10 years, including enhancement, farming and restoration of shellfish. In 2017, 15 new aquatic farm applications were submitted to the State. If permitted, these applications would increase the number of farms by 10% and add 20% more shellfish capacity. Mariculture in Southeast Alaska is expanding with the approval of 13 new applications (an increase of 42%). In 2017, the second phase of an economic analysis was completed which projects the number of farms by 50% and the number of acreages by 400%. The number of farms is expected to increase from 33 to 50 farms. 30 new jobs should be created through all committees of referral and are in the last committee at this time. Site evaluations to track the Apprentice's improvements. Vigor apprenticeship contributes $500/month. Project Champion: Karen Tripp

Goal: Support the development of specialty seafood products that can provide economic benefits to local economies. Approximately 350,000 pounds of wild salmon are processed in Southeast Alaska each year, but the majority lies with only one company processing wild salmon. Project: Coastal Seafoods, sponsored by Karen Petersen, Southeast Alaska Energy and Biomass Development to promote and conduct energy audits for businesses in Southeast, Alaska. Project Champion: Julie Petersen, Southeast Alaska Energy and Biomass Development.
Southeast Conference Mission

The mission of Southeast Conference is to undertake and support activities that promote strong communities, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

About Southeast Conference

Southeast Conference was incorporated in 1959 to carry out a regional transportation system that eventually became the Alaska Marine Highway System. After that success, we evolved to collaborate to continue to advocate for issues that are key to the southeast region as a whole. Our goal is to help develop strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska. We look for consensus and areas where we can work together for the betterment of the region. Our key areas of focus include economic development, transportation, energy, maritime, seafood, and mining.

We have more than 200 members from nearly every community. We work together to ensure that the region’s transportation, maritime, seafood, and economic development organization matches the region’s needs. Our membership also represents many regional transportation organizations, Alaska Native organizations, local and regional officials, and other businesses. We help support the business and communities we serve.

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Southeast Conference and our Board

Our board is made up of hardworking community leaders from industry and local government who still find time to advocate for the betterment of the region as a whole. Our board is guided by a 12-member steering committee.

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