



Emerging Sectors Boat & Ship Building

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The boat and ship building industry in Alaska

- About 30 Alaska companies manufacture vessels
- Vessel builders are found in Southwest, Southcentral, Gulf Coast, Interior, and Southeast Alaska
- Over 9,000 vessels over 28 feet in length (McDowell Group, 2014)
- Boat and ship building accounts for 700 jobs: 400 direct jobs, with another 300 indirect/induced jobs
- The industry contributes \$20 million in direct wages and \$16 million indirect/induced wages

Key Findings

- Vessel builders succeed by focusing on customization and specialty products
- The sector is fertile ground for entrepreneurship and innovation
- Builders use a blended business model combining manufacturing and service
- Workforce development is paramount for the sector

Recommendations

- Develop shared marketing services and Alaska-built brand for boats and ships
- Expand technical assistance offerings for maritime businesses
- Align maritime workforce and economic development strategies
- Leverage state financing programs and assets
- Promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the maritime sector
- Identify maritime supply chain opportunities for Alaska companies

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