Emerging Sectors

Boat & Ship Building

Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit

February 13, 2018
Emerging Sectors: Boat and Ship Building

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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