

MADE IN ALASKA

MARICULTURE



Presented to Southeast Conference
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AFDF
Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc.

What is Mariculture?

An aerial photograph of a mariculture facility in a fjord. The facility consists of several floating rafts and a larger structure with a white roof. The water is deep blue, and the surrounding landscape is a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, there are mountains and a large body of water. The text "What is Mariculture?" is overlaid in large white letters.

In Alaska, mariculture is NOT...



Finfish Farming

Finfish farming is prohibited by Alaska Statute 16.40.210.

Mariculture is... enhancement, restoration and farming of shellfish and seaweeds.



Why mariculture?

Mariculture = Opportunities & Benefits for Alaskans

economic, industrial, environmental, cultural, and food security



Seagrove Kelp Company harvesting near Craig, Alaska

Complements & expands Alaska industries: seafood & tourism



*Hump Island Oyster Co. & Bonfire Bay Tours
Ketchikan, Alaska*

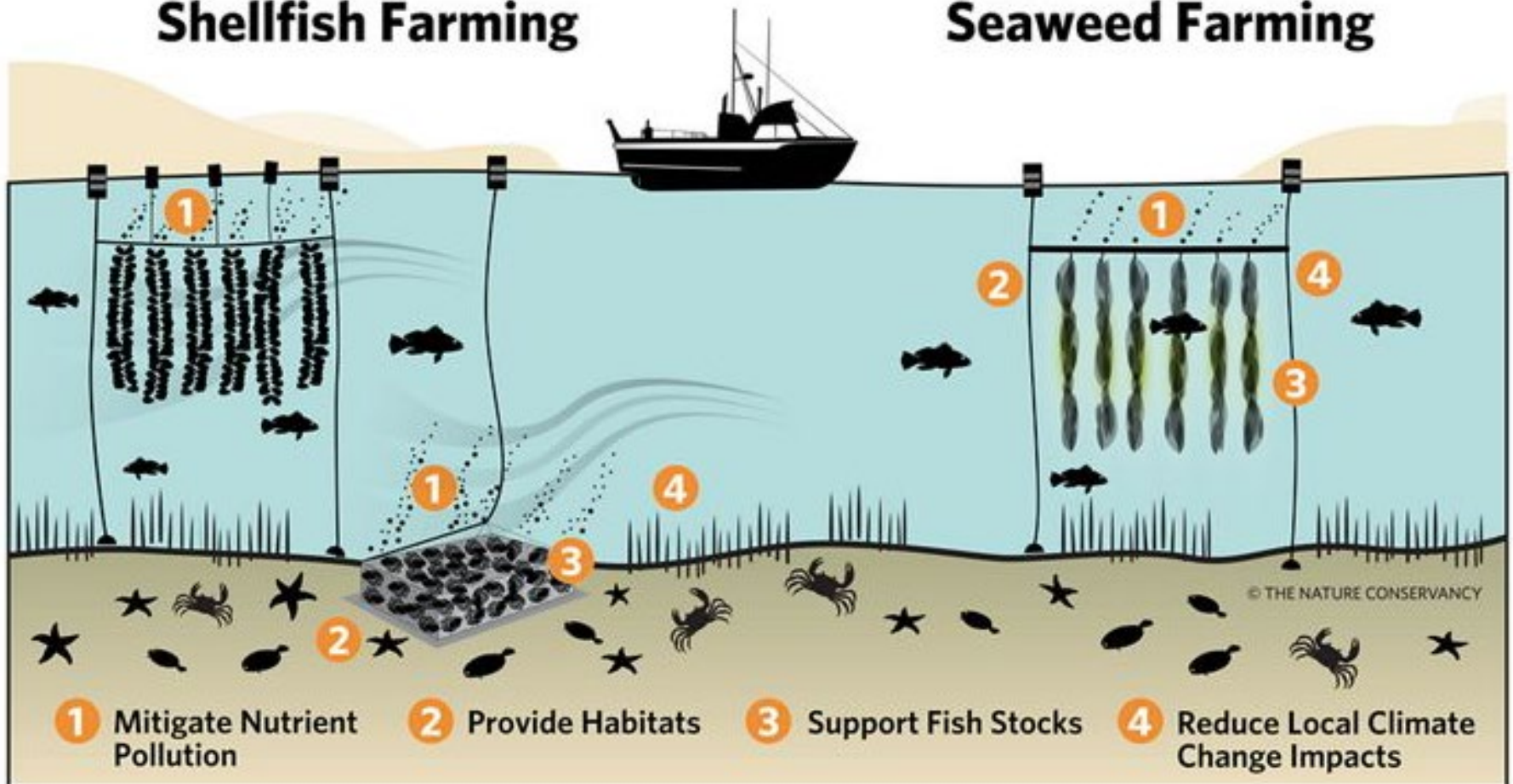
Photo credits: Hump Island

Environmental Benefits:

- CO2 removal from oceans; local ocean acidification reduction
- Habitat improvements
- Ecosystem services (filtration, nitrogen & phosphorus removal)

Shellfish Farming

Seaweed Farming



Alaska Mariculture Task Force: Progress & Sunset



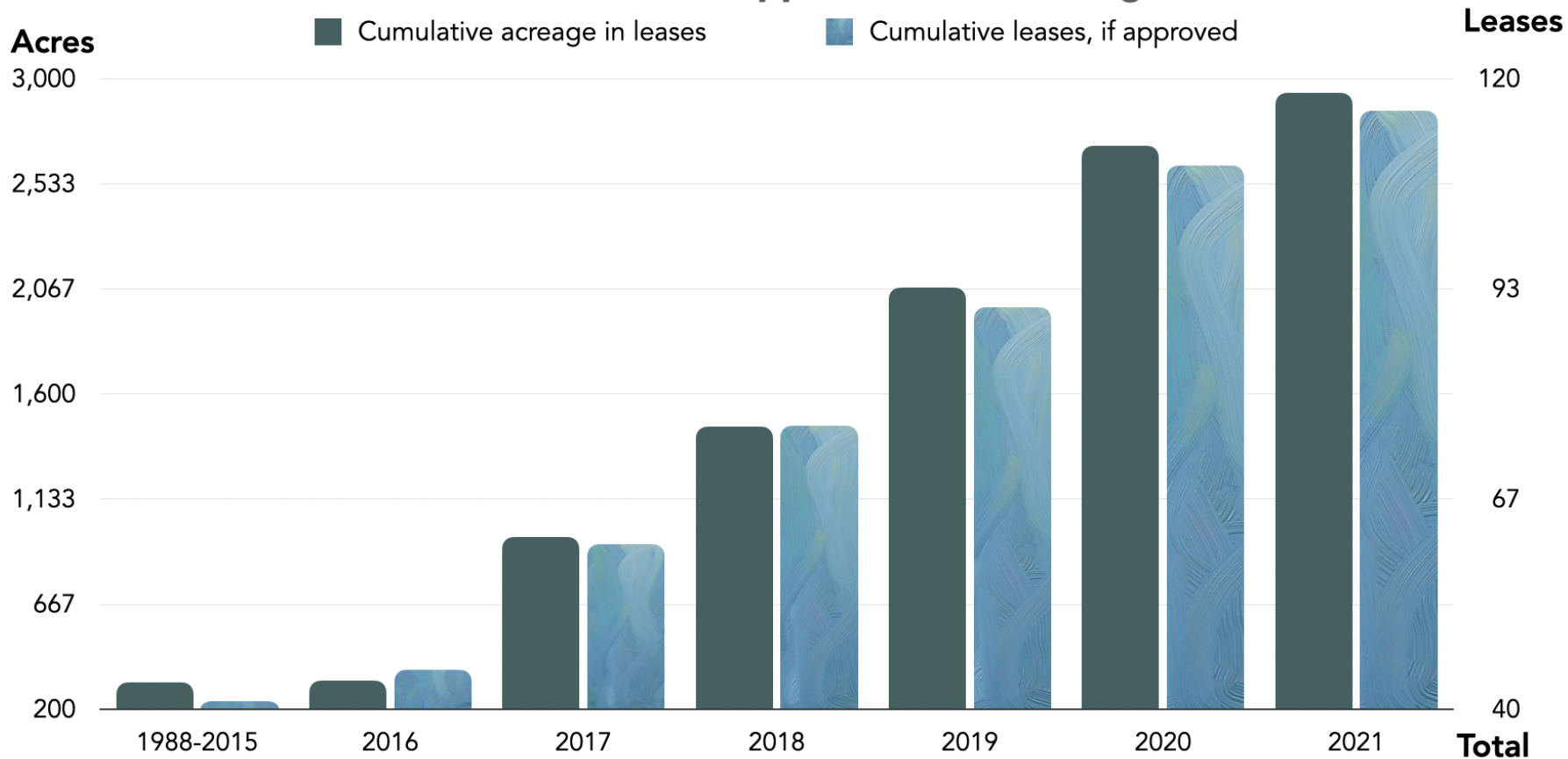
- Alaska Mariculture Task Force (MTF) established by Administrative Order #280 in 2016 & extended it by AO #297 in 2018.
- 2018 - Created statewide strategic plan; goal = Grow a \$100 million mariculture industry in 20 years
- 2020 – created a Five-Year Action Plan
- 2021 - Delivered Final Report to Governor Dunleavy (copies available)
- June 30, 2021 – Task Force sunsets & replaced with the Alaska Mariculture Alliance

Indicators of Progress in Alaska

- Launch of **Mariculture Map** – GIS map which includes publicly accessible data for developing lease applications with lease conflicts: <http://mariculture.portal.aos.org>
- **Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund** – 11 active loans for a total \$1.0 M
- **Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund** – issued first mariculture loan from this program; loans can total up to \$1 M

Indicators of Progress in Alaska

Cumulative Lease Applications & Acreage



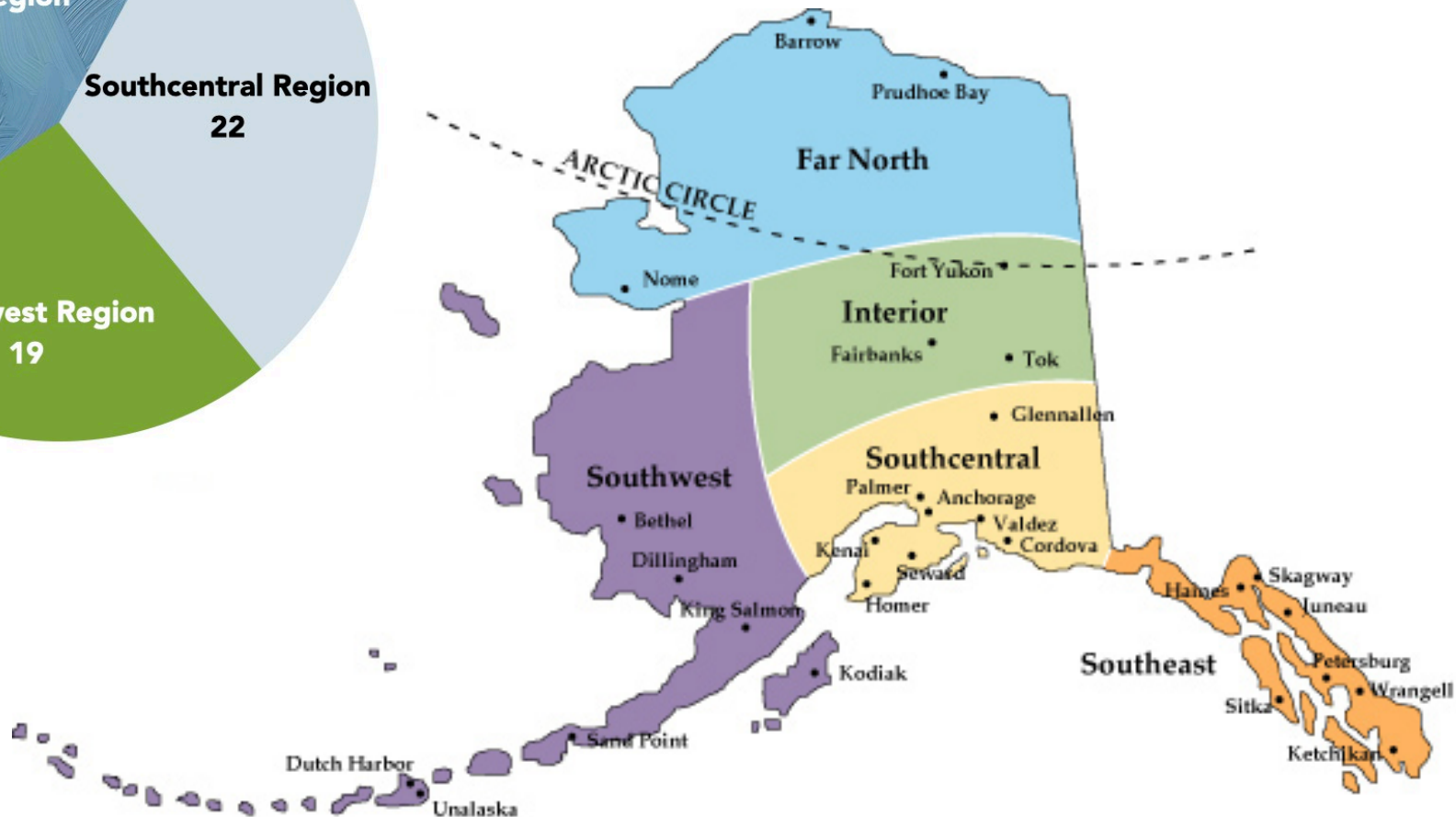
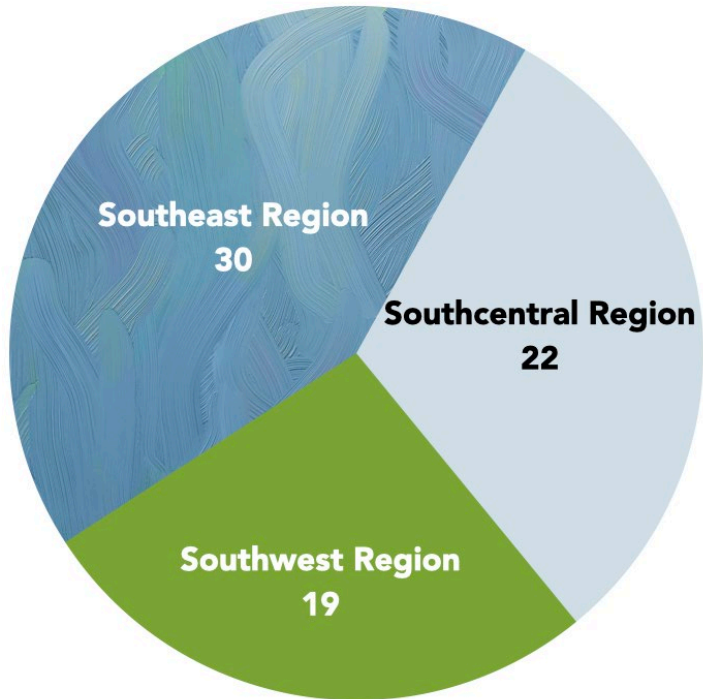
New lease applications	43	4	14	19	13	16	7	116
Lease acreage in new applications	320	8	636	462	620	626	239	2,940

NOTE: 72% (or 51) of the new lease applications and 81% (or 2,105 acres) of the new acreage since 2017 are either seaweed or seaweed/shellfish.

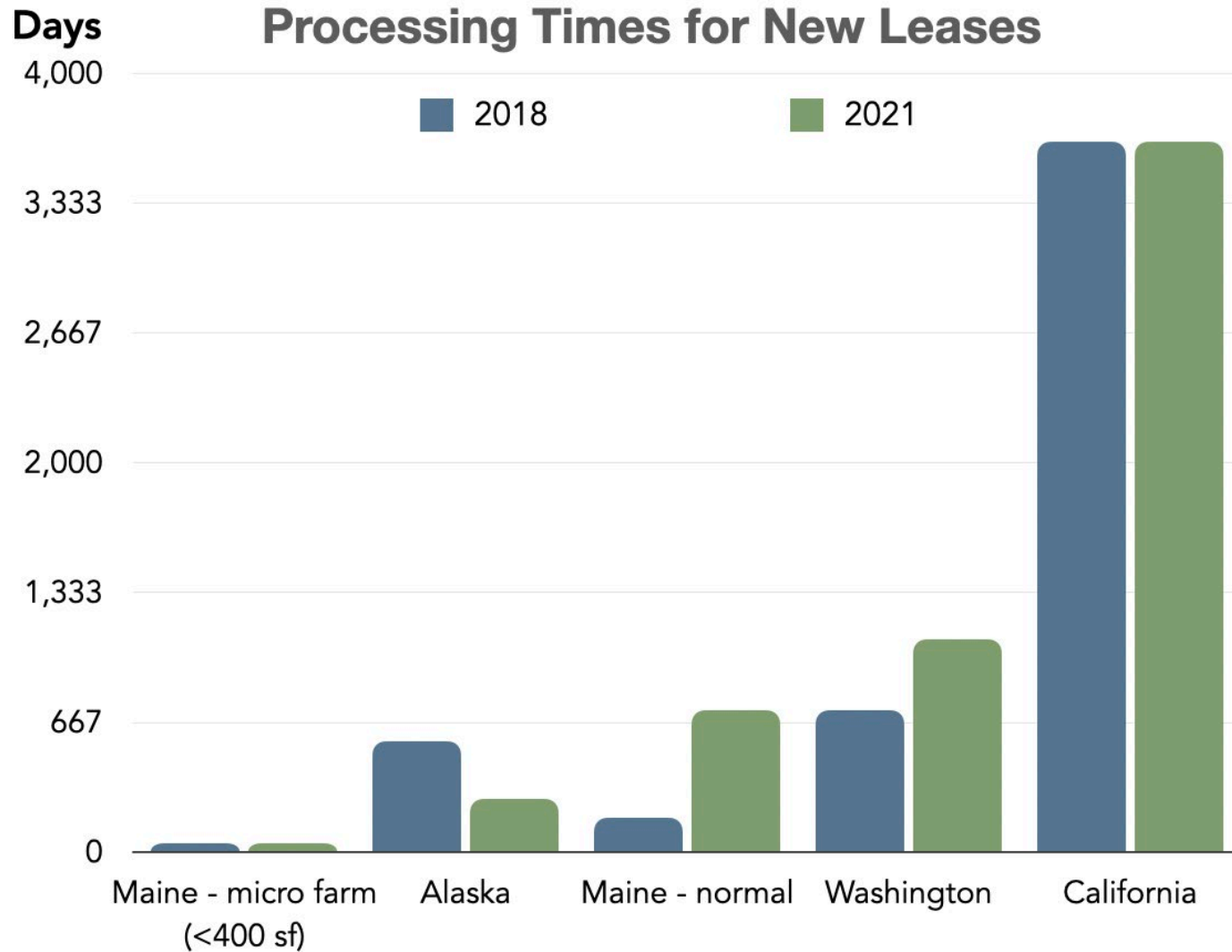


Indicators of Progress in Alaska

New Lease Applications by Region: 2017 to 2021



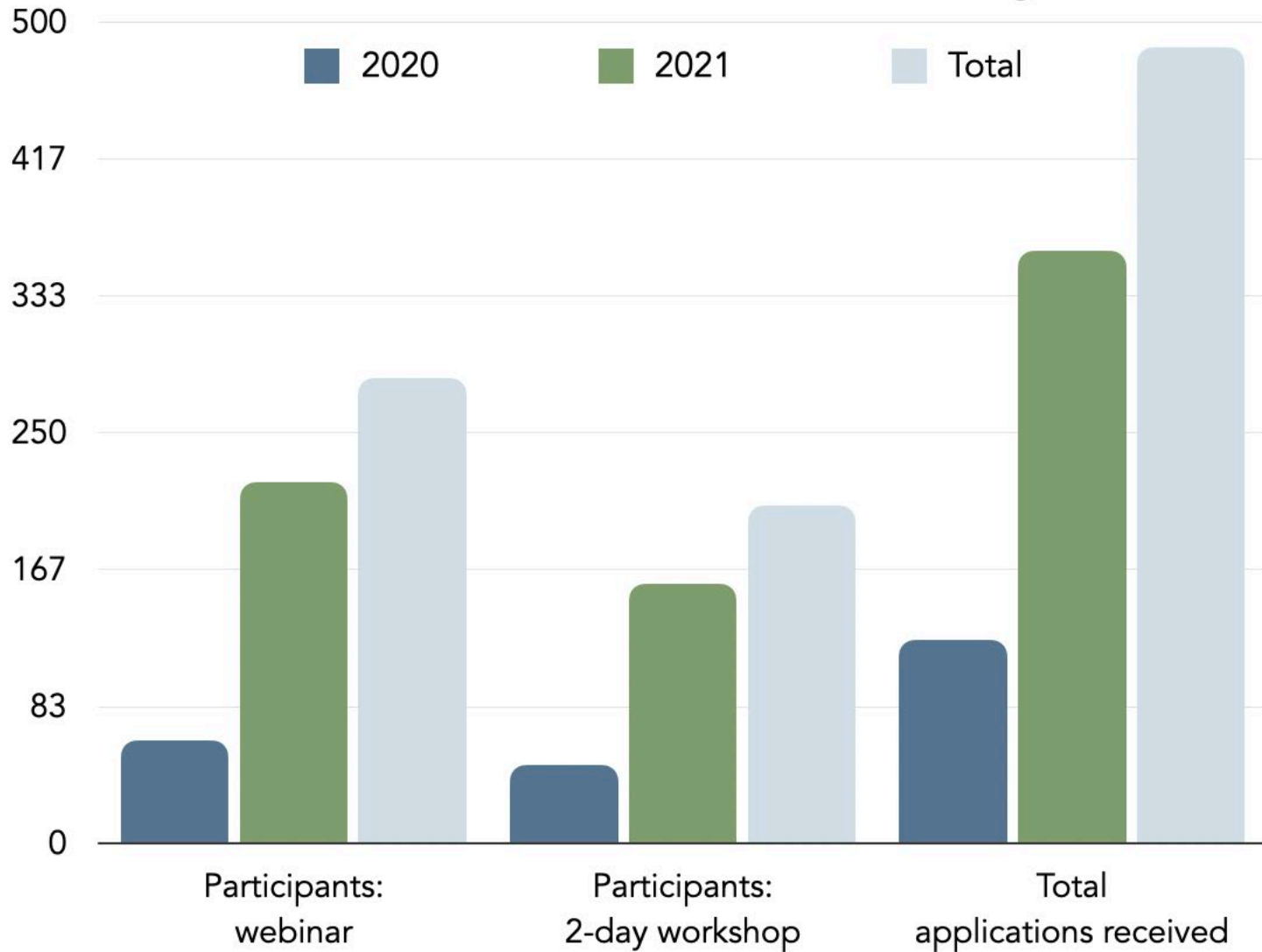
Indicators of Progress in Alaska



Indicators of Progress in Alaska

Alaskans

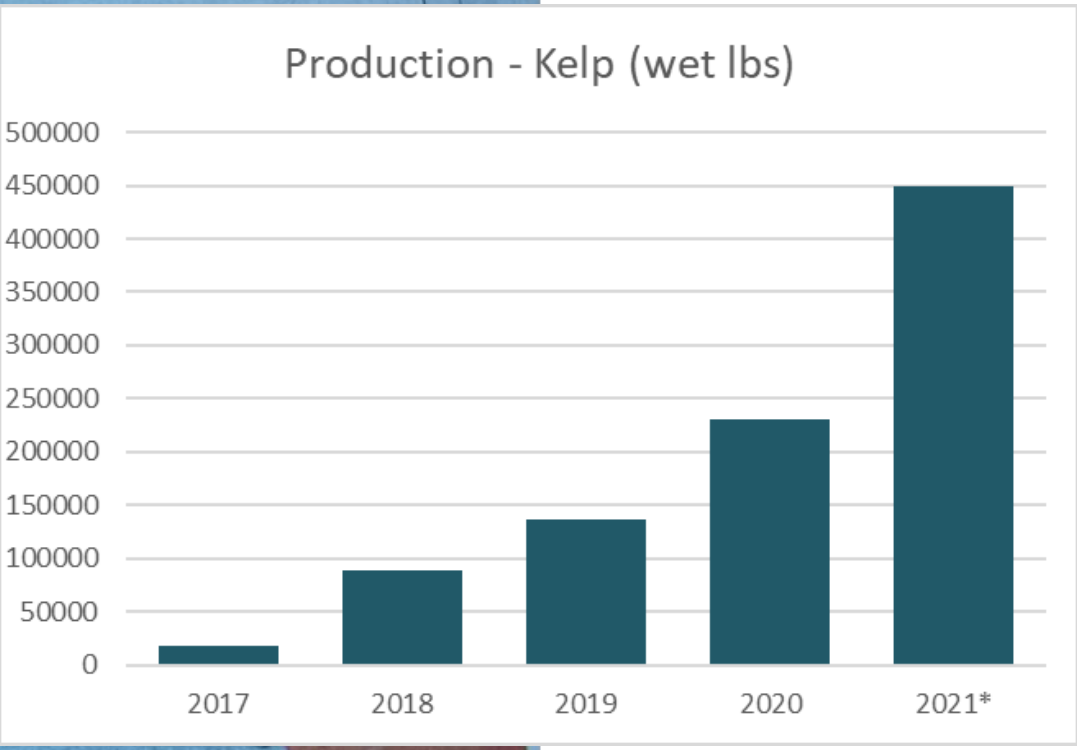
Demand for Mariculture Training



First kelp harvest nets over 10,000 pounds

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Next Steps:

- 1) **Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA)** – hold first meeting in Oct/Nov, 2021
- 2) **University of Alaska hosting Mariculture Conference** (Feb. 22-24, 2022) in Juneau in collaboration with **AMA** and **Mariculture Research & Training Center (MRTC)**
- 3) **Expand seaweed processing in Alaska** - Facilitate site visits between seaweed processors/buyers and Alaska seafood processors/investors
 - McKinley Research Group completed **Alaska Seaweed Market Assessment** (copies available)
 - Working on **Regional Seaweed Processing Site Assessment**
- 4) Passage of **HB 41 / SB 64 Allowing Shellfish Enhancement** in Jan. 2022
- 5) Gap analysis towards Hatchery Solution for Alaska