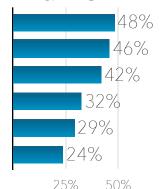


## Southeast Alaska's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

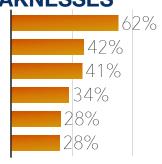
#### **ECONOMIC STRENGTHS**

Rich Alaska Native culture and heritage
Beauty and recreation opportunities
Tourism sector
People and Southeast Alaskan spirit
Subsistence opportunities
High quality of life



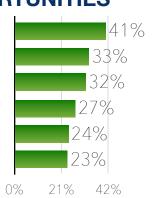
#### **ECONOMIC WEAKNESSES**

Housing: Not enough, too expensive
Cost of living and doing business
Ferry transportation decline
Lack of childcare
Lack of workforce-aged residents
Aging or lack of infrastructure



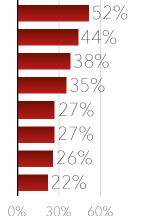
#### **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

Expand housing
Ferry connectivity strengthened
Attract/retain young families/workers
Mariculture development
Improve infrastructure
Renewable energy/reduce diesel use



#### **ECONOMIC THREATS**

Cost of living
Loss, reduction of ferry service
Declining/aging/loss of youth/workforce
Fisheries decline
Decline in education (budget, educators)
Extreme weather events
Natural disasters (landslide, flooding)
Barge disruption



#### 2030 ECONOMIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Approximately 400 regional leaders participated in the overall or sector-specific strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis and prioritization.

#### Seafood

- Top Strength: High-quality product
- Top Weakness: High costs
- Top Opportunity: Increase value-added processing
- Top Threat: Low seafood prices

#### Visitor Industry

- Top Strength: Natural beauty of region
- Top Weakness: Limited seasonal housing
- Top Opportunity: Workforce housing development
- Top Threat: Housing shortages

#### **Transportation**

- Top Strength: Connecting communities
- Top Weakness: Lack of qualified workforce
- Top Opportunity: Improve ferry service
- Top Threat: Demise of AMHS

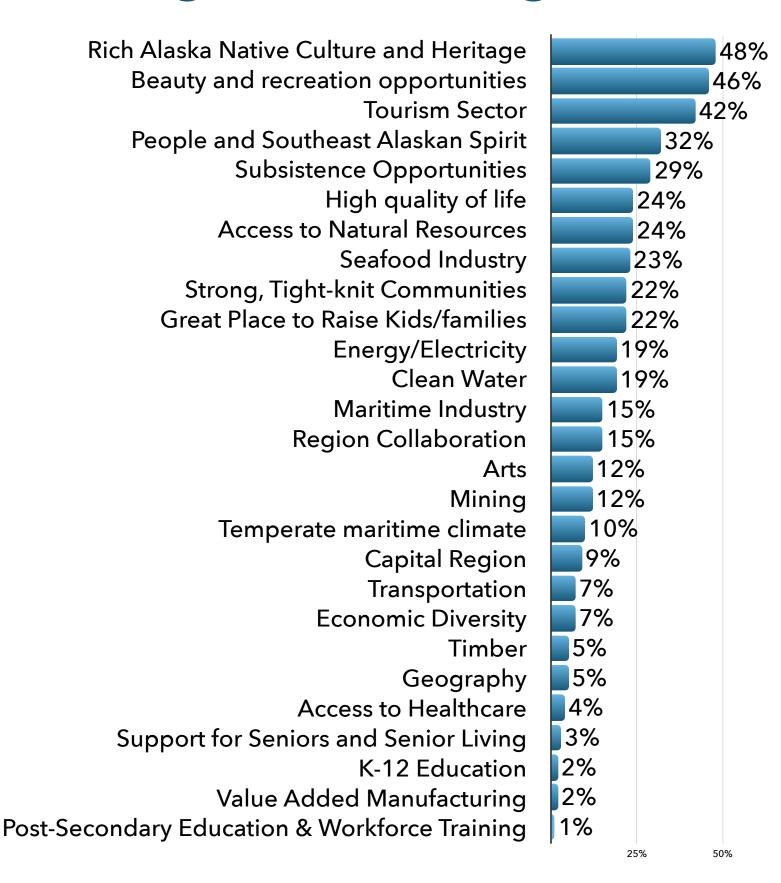
#### **Energy**

- Top Strength: Abundant hydropower
- Top Weakness: High costs of infrastructure
- Top Opportunity: Heat pump installation
- Top Threat: Inadequate workforce

#### **Mining**

- Top Strength: **Provides high-paying jobs**
- Top Weakness: Extreme opposition by environmental groups
- Top Opportunity: Explore and develop new mineral deposits and expand existing mines
- Top Threat: Anti-mine advocacy

## Regional Strengths



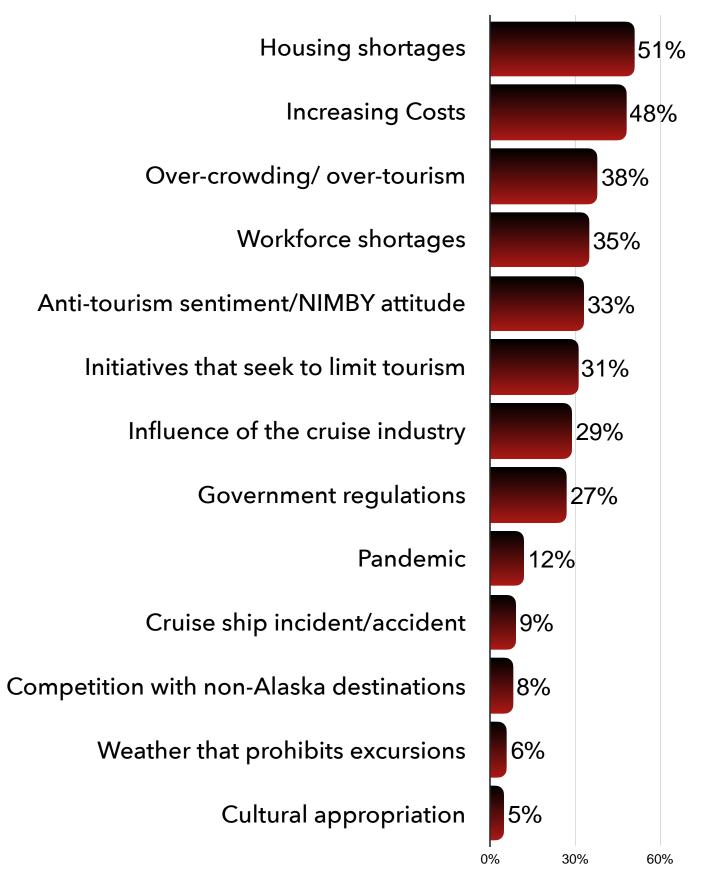
# Regional Weaknesses

Housing: Not enough/Too Expensive Cost of living and doing business Ferry transportation decline Lack of childcare Lack of workforce aged residents Aging or lack of infrastructure Aging/declining population Transportation Insufficient education/workforce development Lack of jobs that can support a household/family Health care costly and limited Seasonal jobs instead of year-round Lack of economic diversity Not enough opportunities for young people Solid waste disposal limitations Lack of access to our lands Our geography and isolation Lack of road connectivity Quality of K-12 education Problems related to over-tourism Local entities not working together Anti-development bias Lack of value added/local manufacturing Dependence on State oil economy Energy Costs	62% 42% 41% 34% 28% 22% 22% 21% 11% 11% 11% 11% 11% 10% 10% 10% 9% 9% 9% 8%
Regulations and overreach of federal government Weather Lack of food security Politics Negative perception by outsiders Limited communications (broadband, internet) Limited access to financing	8% 7% 5% 4% 4% 2% 1%

# Regional Opportunities

Expand Housing	41%
Ferry connectivity strengthened	33%
Attract and retain young families and workers	32%
Mariculture development	27%
Improve infrastructure	24%
Renewable energy development/reduce diesel use	23%
Improved public land development/use	23%
Increased workforce development	21%
Diversify the Economy	19%
Cultural tourism development	19%
Tourism development	19%
Childcare	17%
Seafood/ocean products development	16%
Strengthen K-12 and UAS education	16%
Grow food & harvest plants regionally	16%
Mining industry growth	14%
Work collectively as a region	13%
Maritime industry growth	13%
Attract more federal funding	13%
Public-Private-Partnerships	13%
Attract remote workers	11%
State Fiscal Planning	10%
Senior Care	10%
Economic planning	10%
Increased recreation	10%
More value-added manufacturing	9%
Timber industry growth	8%
Promote region to Alaska/nation/world	8%
More roads	7%
Address regulatory bottle-necks	7%
Improved communications & technology	7%
Grow the Arts	5%
Increase scientific research	5%

## Regional Threats



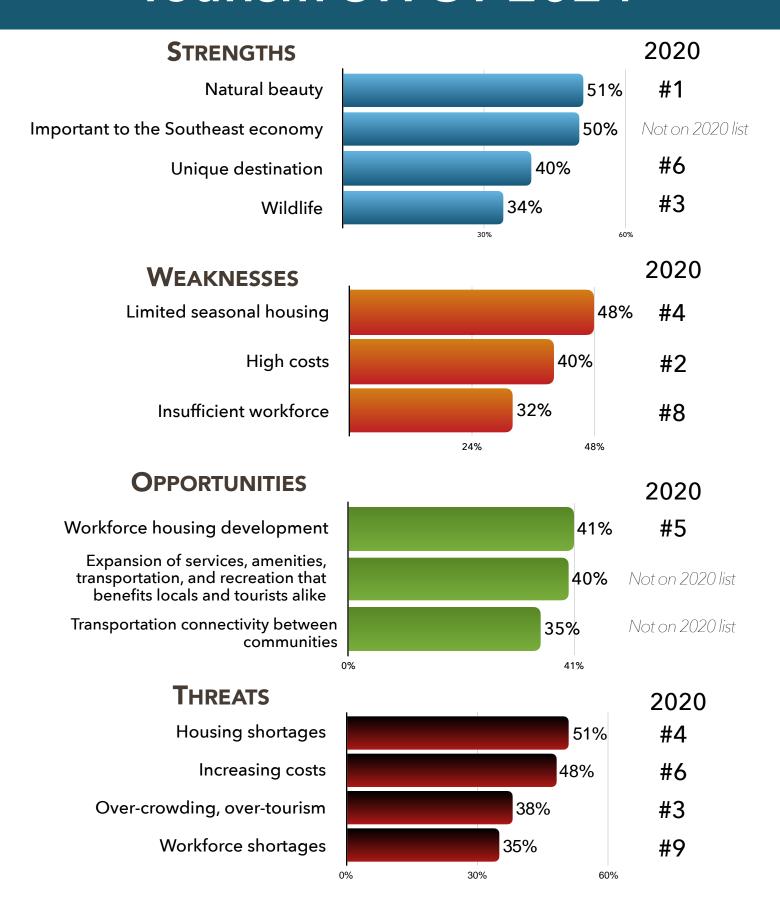
# **Detailed** Industry Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT)

Nearly 200 business leaders and Southeast Conference members were asked to participate in sector-specific SWOTs within the Southeast Conference committee areas. A SWOT analysis is an in-depth analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. These SWOT analyses identify the region's sector-specific competitive advantages and obstacles. The sectors that received their own SWOTs in 2024 include seafood, energy, transportation, tourism, and mining.

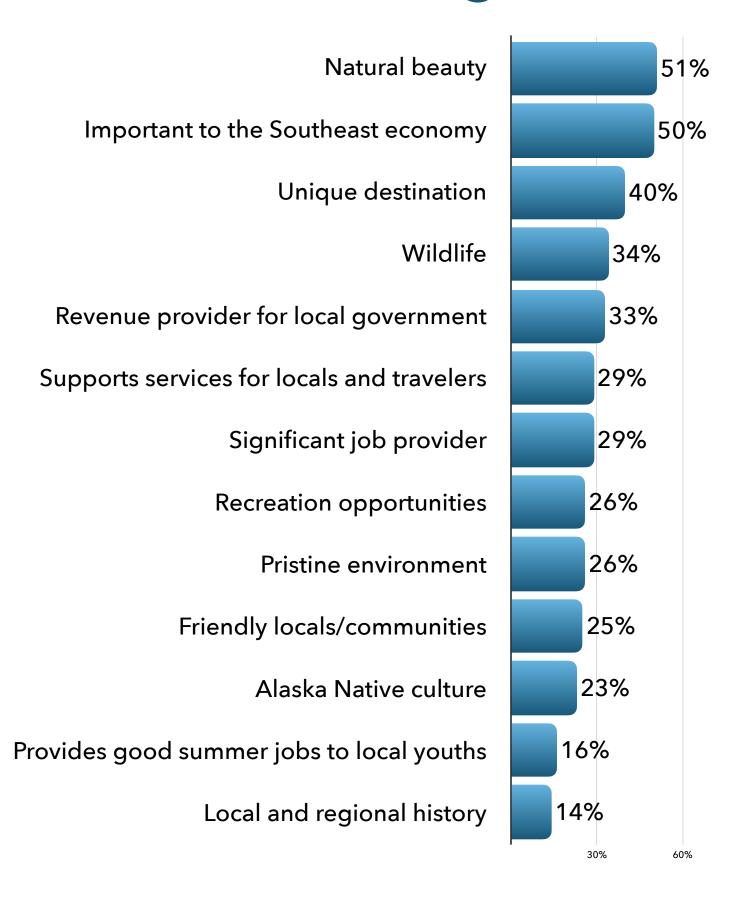




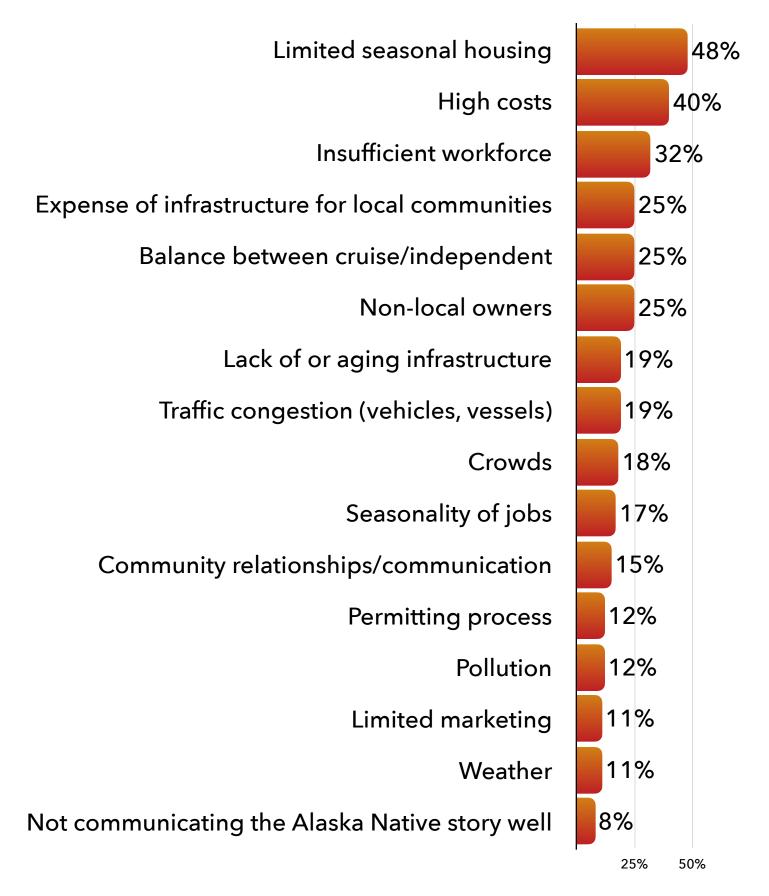
### Tourism SWOT 2024



# **Tourism Strengths**



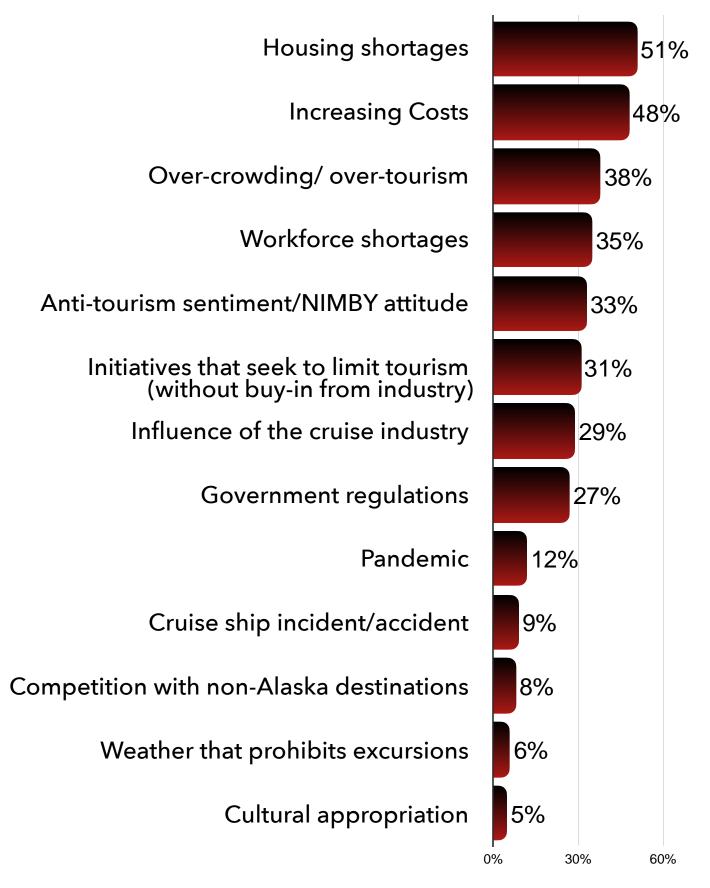
#### Tourism Weaknesses



## Tourism Opportunities

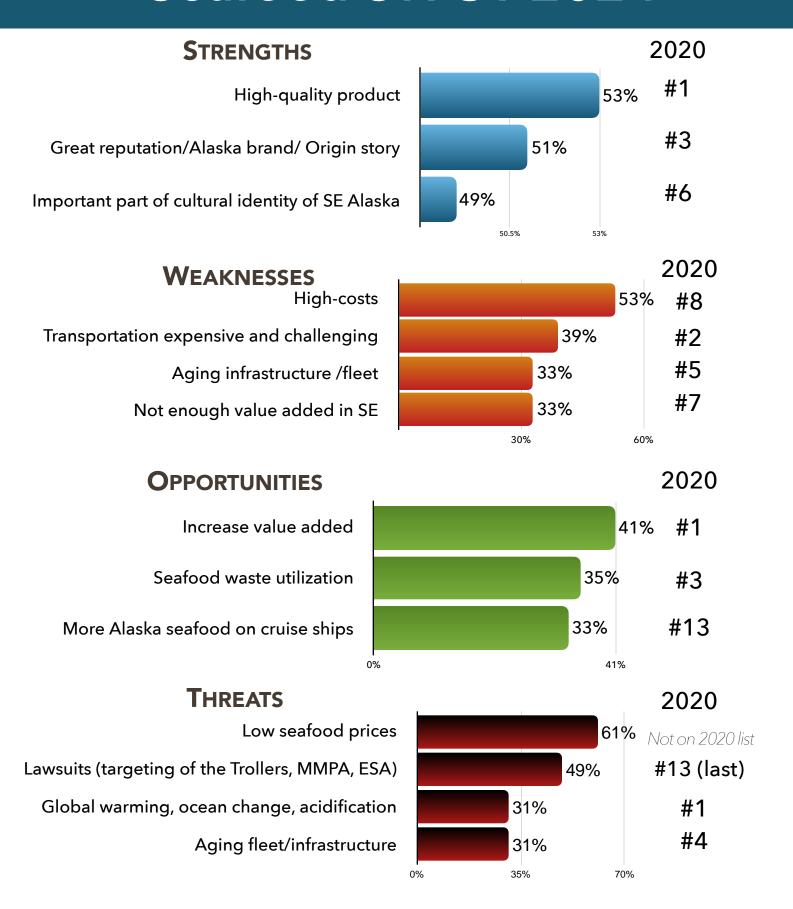


## **Tourism Threats**





#### Seafood SWOT 2024



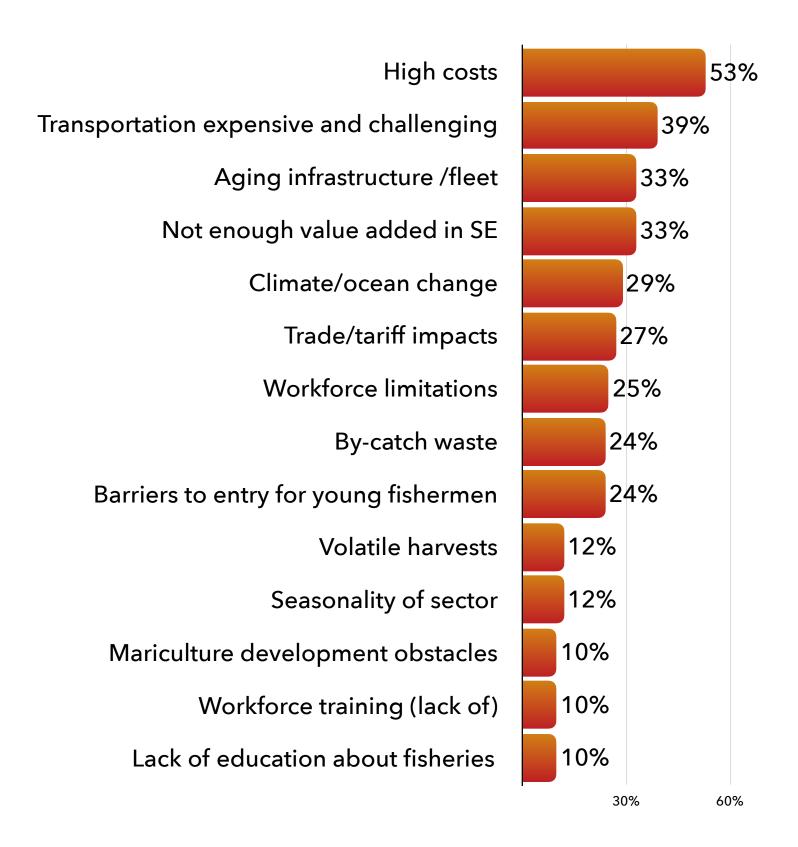
# Seafood Strengths

What does the seafood sector in Southeast Alaska do well? What unique resources does it draw on? What are the benefits the seafood industry provides to the Southeast Alaska region? What is the Southeast Alaska seafood sector "known for"?

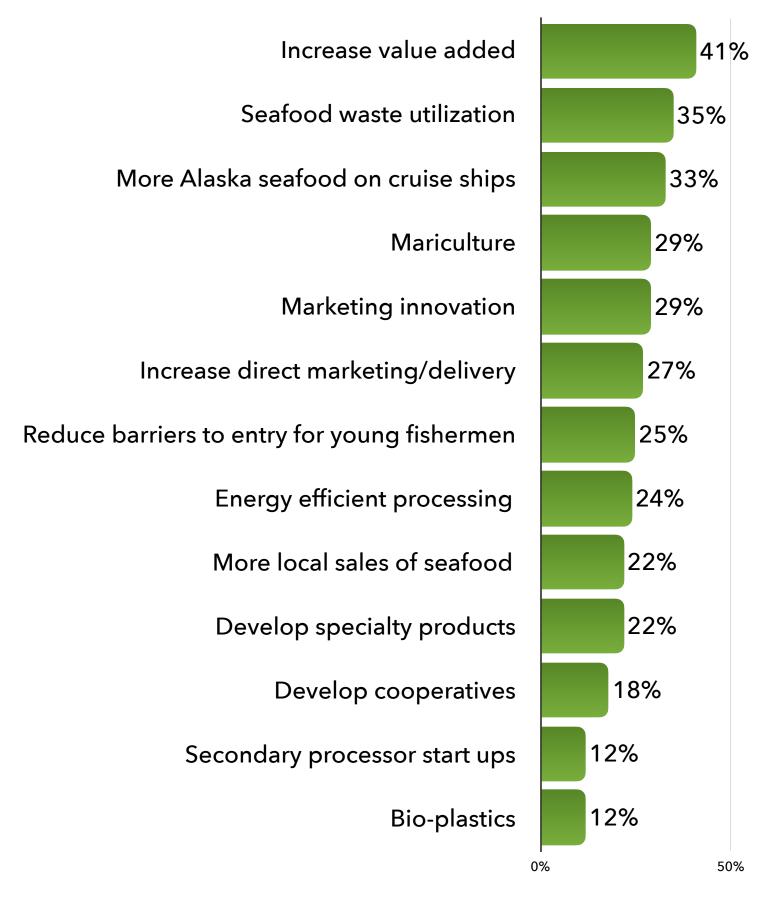


#### Seafood Weaknesses

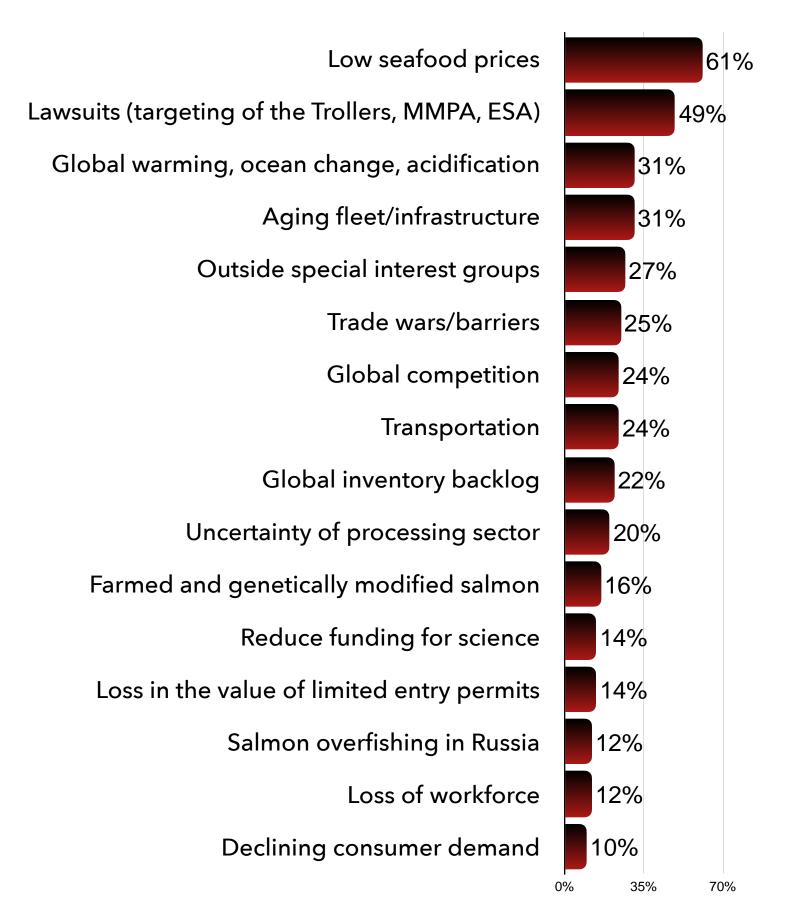
What are the known challenges of regional seafood? What could the Southeast Alaska seafood sector improve? Where does the seafood sector have fewer resources than it needs? Pick 2-4



# Seafood Opportunities

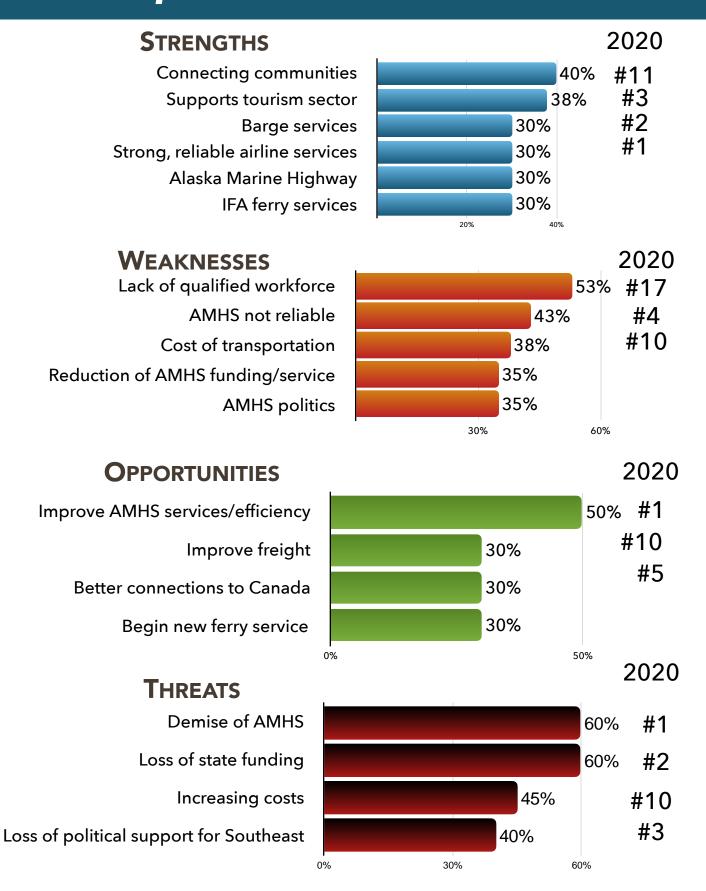


#### Seafood Threats



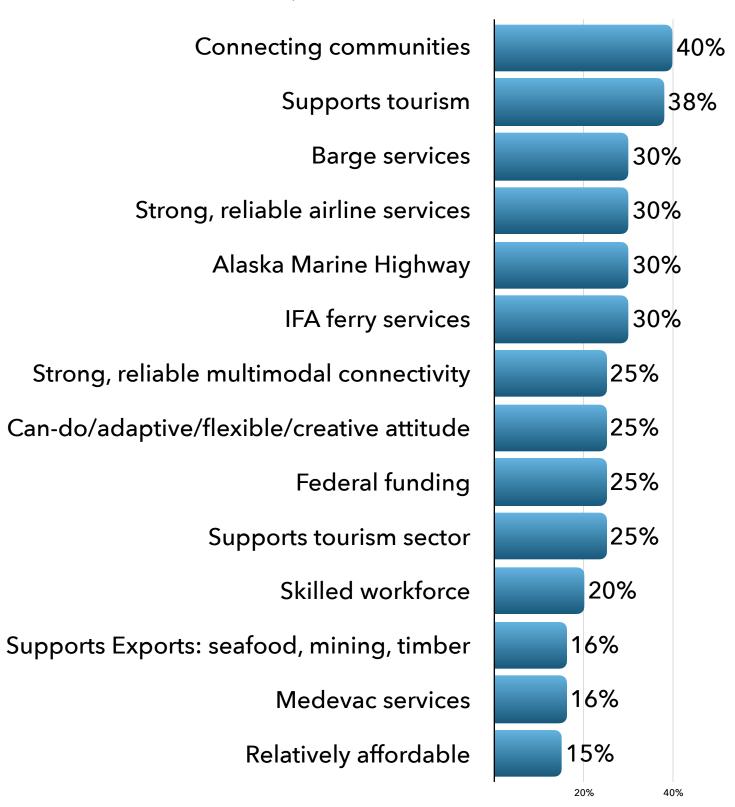


#### Transportation SWOT 2024



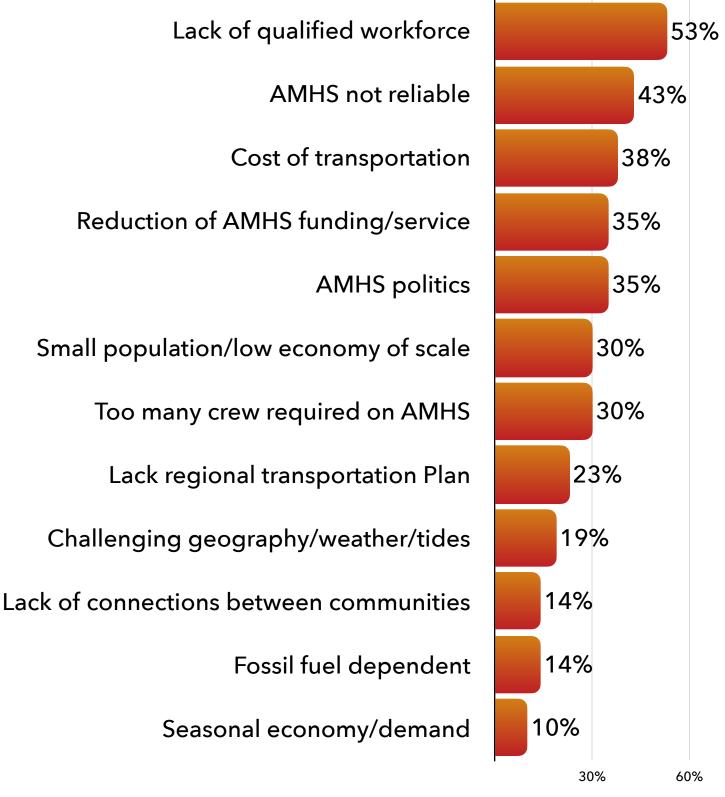
## **Transportation Strengths 2024**

What does the Transportation sector in Southeast Alaska do well?
What unique resources does it draw on? What are the benefits the Transportation industry provides to the Southeast Alaska region? What is the Southeast Alaska Transportation sector "known for"?



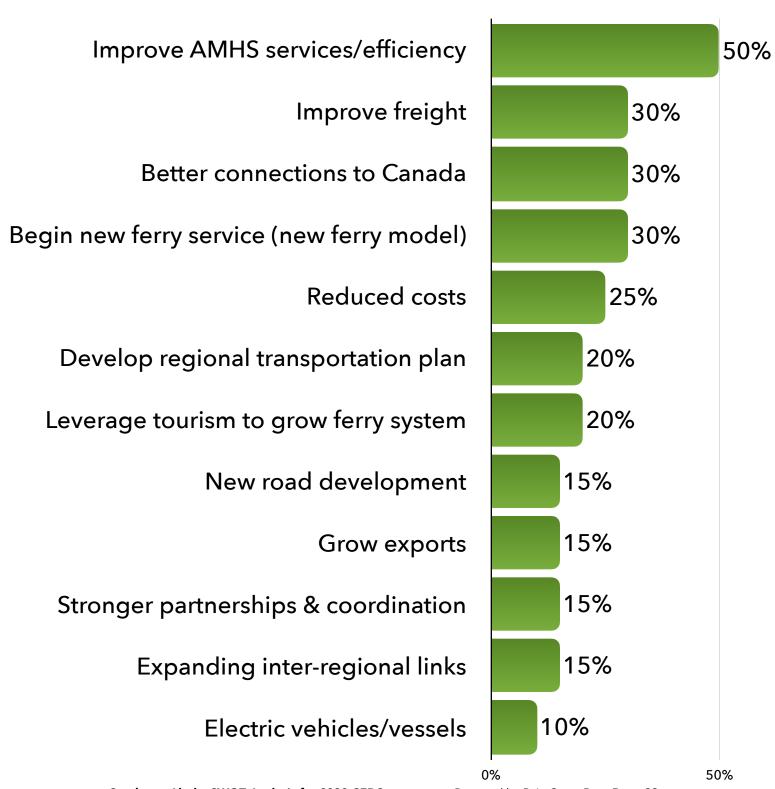
#### Transportation Weaknesses

What could the Southeast Alaska Transportation sector improve? Where does the Transportation sector have fewer resources than it needs? What are the known challenges of regional Transportation? Pick 2-4



#### Transportation Opportunities

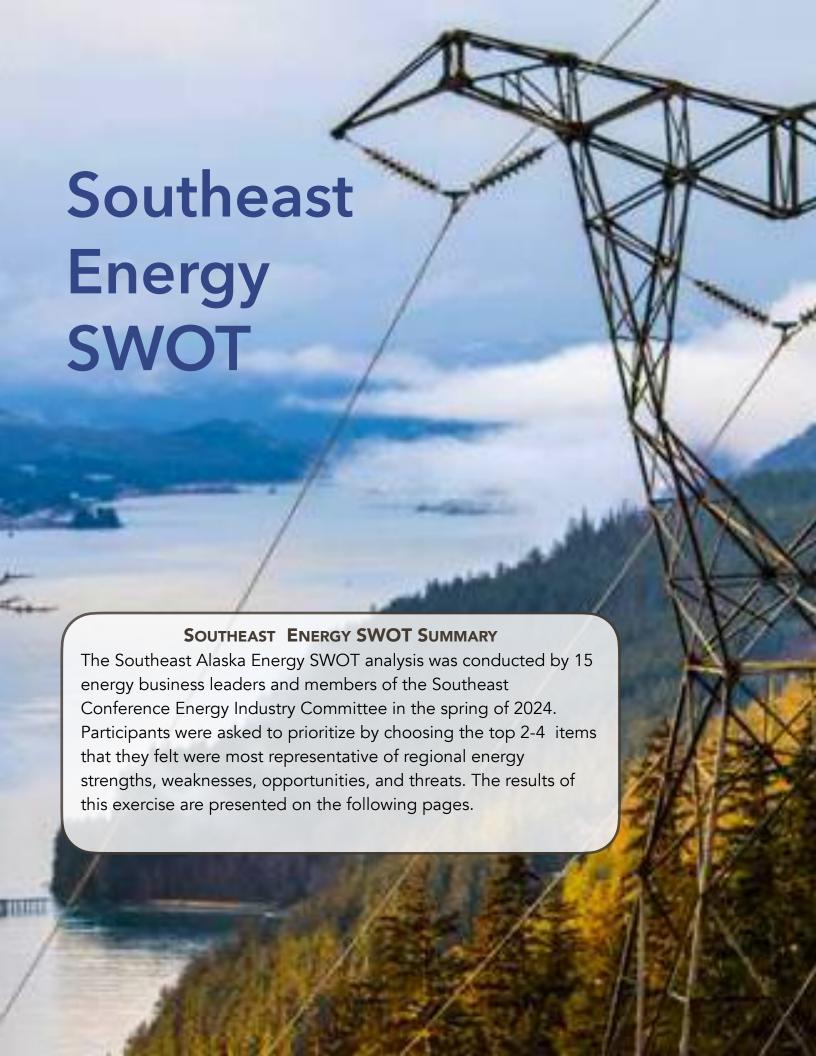
What opportunities are open to the regional Transportation industry? What trends could the regional Transportation sector take advantage of? How can the Transportation sector in Southeast Alaska turn its strengths into opportunities? Pick 2-4



#### Transportation Threats

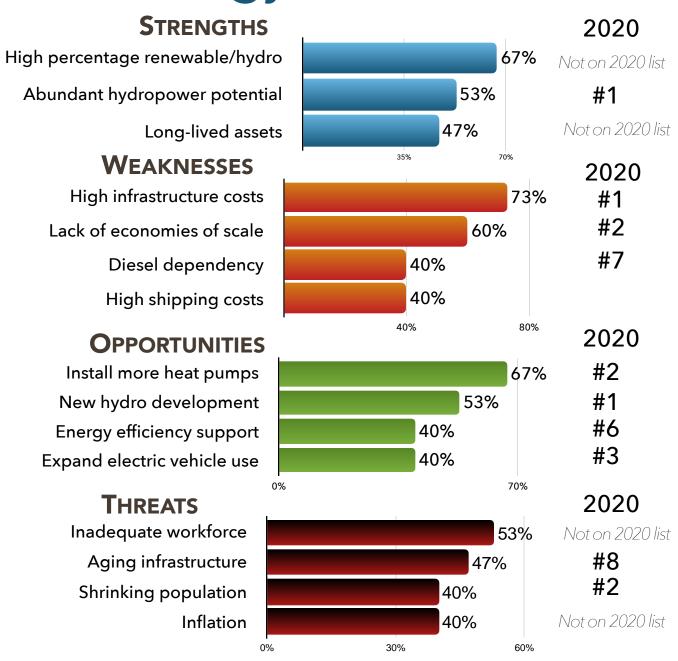
What threats (from outside the region or the sector) could harm the region's Transportation sector? What outside obstacles does the Transportation sector face? What threats does Transportation's weaknesses expose it to? Pick 2-4



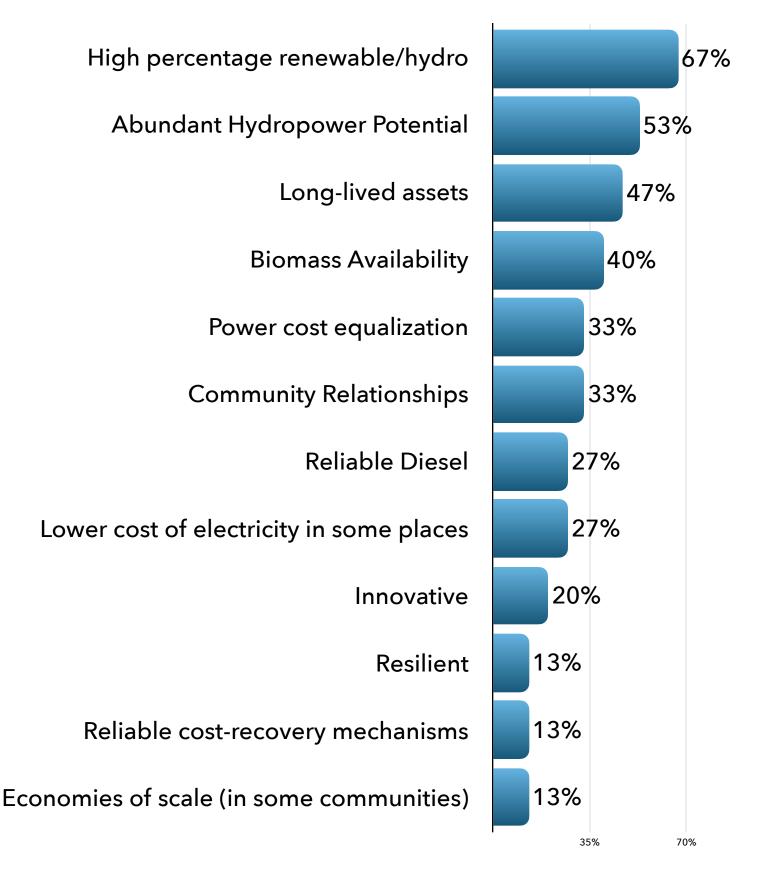


# **Energy** Industry Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT)

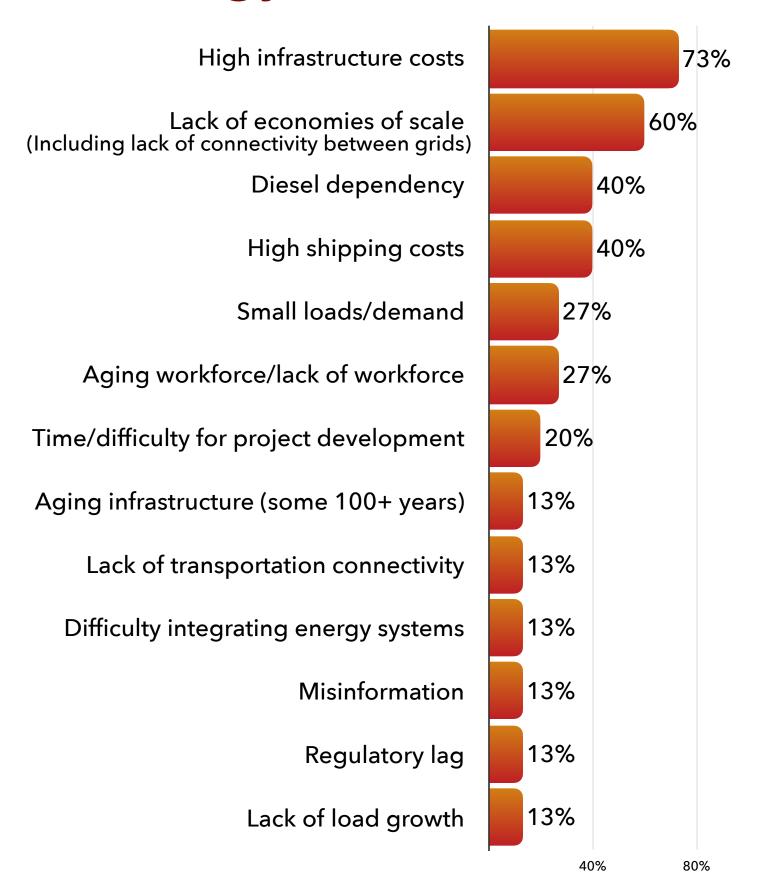
#### Energy SWOT 2024



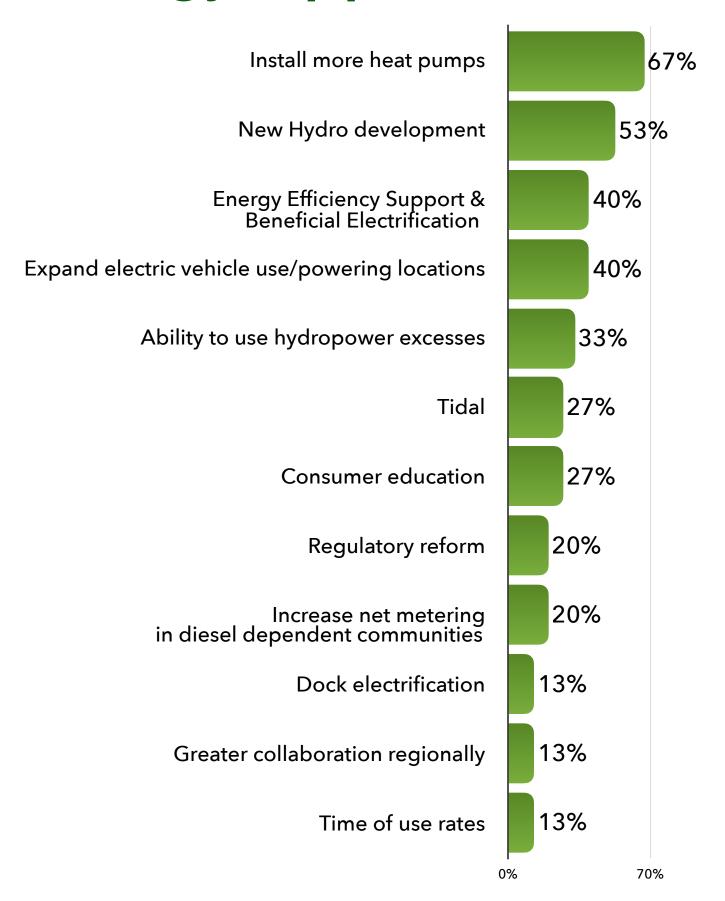
## **Energy Strengths**



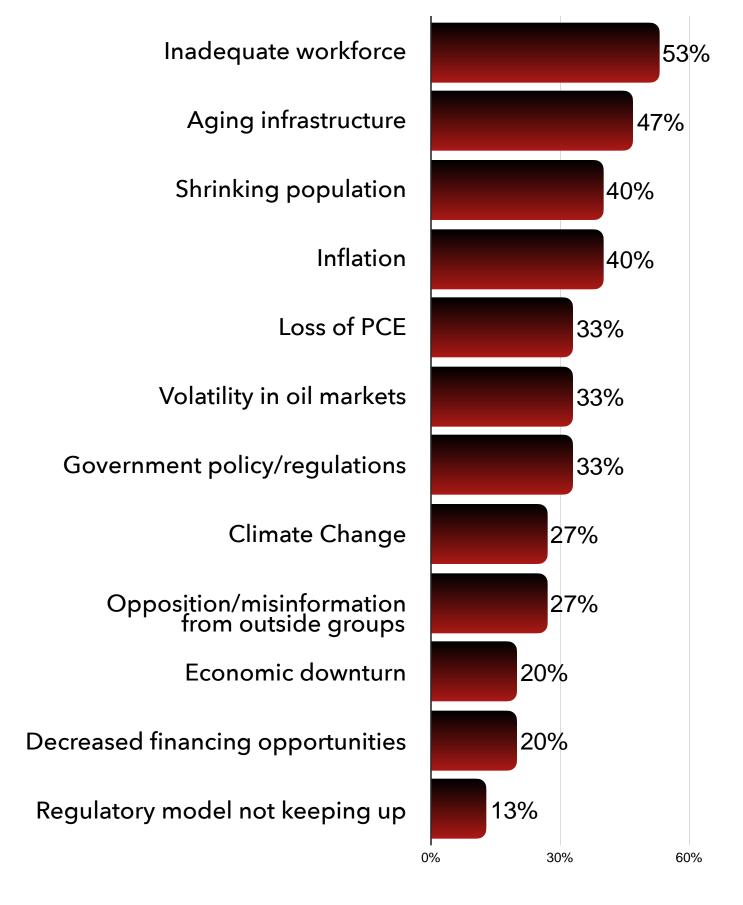
## Energy Weaknesses



## **Energy Opportunities**



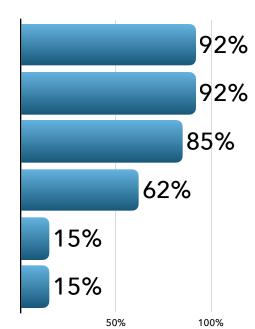
# **Energy Threats**



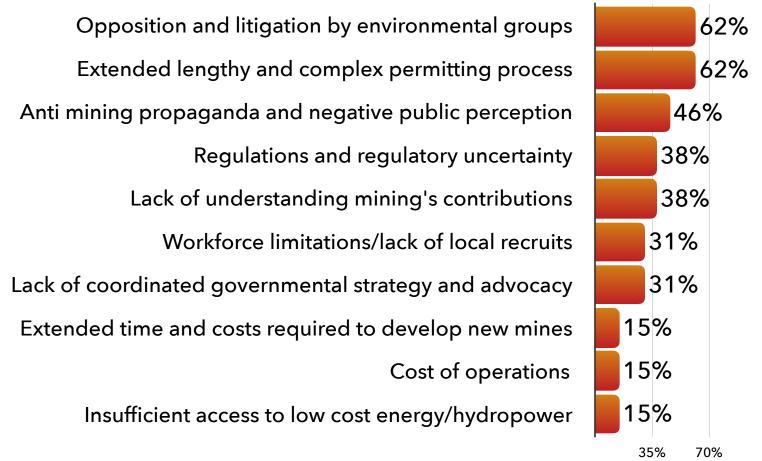


# Mining Strengths

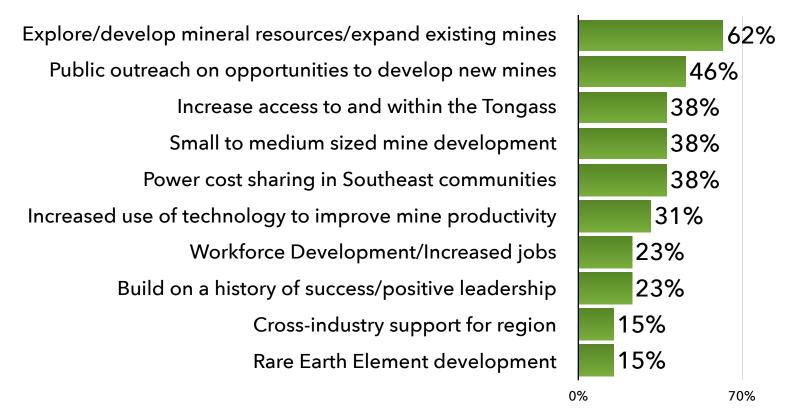
Provides quality/high paying jobs
Supports regional economy
High environmental standards
Diversification of the regional economy
Abundant mineral resources
Skilled workforce



# Mining Weaknesses



## Mining Opportunities



# Mining Threats

Environmental groups and anti-mine advocacy New regulations/permits/uncertainty Federal management/bureaucracy Insufficient surface access to mines in the Tongass Spread of false information Insufficient housing and childcare Lack of skilled workers 23% Lack of State of Alaska personnel that 23% understand the industry and regulatory process 40%

# Creating A Vibrant Business Climate: How important is it to focus on these factors over the next five years?

Southeast Alaska business leaders were asked to rank the importance of focusing on 11 key element necessary for creating a vibrant business climate. This is a weighted ranking of their responses.

# Critically Important

**Moderately Important** 

Business leaders say it is critical for government to focus on housing initiatives, attracting and retaining a workforceaged population, transportation, and the development of a state fiscal plan in order to create a vibrant business climate.

Business leaders rated arts, culture, recreation, and social services as being moderately important to focus on in the next five years. (In previous surveys, business leaders have said that the region is already doing a good job with arts, culture, and recreation).

#### **Housing initiatives** 7.9 Attract/retain a workforce-aged 7.5 population **Transportation Development of State** 6.7 fiscal plan **Quality K-12 education** 6.6 Infrastructure 6.5 Childcare 6.1 **Utilities** 5.8 Social 3.3 **Services** Chart shows weighted Recreation 3 responses. Full tables on following pages. Arts & 2.6 culture 2 8