



# ROOTED IN RESILIENCE

2025 SOUTHEAST ALASKA ECONOMIC SUMMIT & 67TH ANNUAL MEETING

SITKA, ALASKA

SEPTEMBER 16-18 2025



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16  
HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL

- 7:00 AM** **REGISTRATION** *Sponsored By Wostmann & Associates, Inc.*  
**BREAKFAST** *Sponsored By The Alaska Committee*
- 8:00 AM** **OPENING CEREMONY** *Color Presentation, AK Flag Song & National Anthem*  
**WELCOME**  
Zak Kirkpatrick, SEC President, Allen Marine, **Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz**, City & Borough of Sitka, **Dionne Brady-Howard (Yeidikook'áa)**, Chair, Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- 8:30 AM** **SOUTHEAST BY THE NUMBERS** Meilani Schijvens, Rain Coast Data
- 9:00 AM** **STATE OF SOUTHEAST**  
Robert Venables, Executive Director, **Alana Peterson**, Executive Director, Spruce Root
- 9:30 AM** **VISITOR INDUSTRY- CREATING A COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE**  
Facilitated By **Scott Habberstad**, Alaska Airlines  
**Susan Bell**, VP of Strategic Initiatives, Huna Totem Corp., **John Leach**, Administrator, City and Borough of Sitka, **Heather Haugland**, VP, McKinley Research Group, **Renée Reeve**, VP of Government & Community Relations, CLIAA, **Steven Sahlender**, Executive Vice President, Goldbelt, **Katie Ringmuth**, Deputy SHPO/State Historian, Parks & Rec
- 10:30 AM** **BREAK** *Sponsored By Cruise Lines International Association*
- 11:00 AM** **TRANSPORTATION- BUILDING STRATEGIC MULTI-MODAL SYSTEMS**  
**Commissioner Ryan Anderson**, AKDOT&PF, **Christopher Goins**, Southcoast Region Director, AKDOT&PF, **James A. Crawford**, Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs, USDOT
- 11:30PM** **U.S. SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI** *(Confirmed, Live from DC)*
- 12:00PM** **LUNCHEON** *Sponsored By Alaska Airlines*  
**KEYNOTE: MARILYN ROMANO** Regional Vice President, Alaska Airlines
- 1:00 PM** **LEGISLATIVE PROGNOSTICATION** Larry Persily
- 1:15PM** **KEEPING COMMUNITIES CONNECTED**  
**Craig Tornga**, Marine Director, AMHS *(invited)*, **Ron Curtis**, General Manager, IFA, **Carl Ramseth**, GM & Co-Owner, Alaska Seaplanes, **Dan Kelly**, VP, Alaska Marine Lines
- 2:00PM** **TRANSPORTATION SPOTLIGHT**  
**Herb Pond**, Mayor, City of Prince Rupert, **Kaitlyn Jared**, Transportation and Programs, SEC
- 2:30PM** **FISHERIES- MODERNIZING FOR A VIBRANT FUTURE**  
Facilitated By **Julie Decker**, President, Pacific Seafood Processors Association  
**Kristy Clement**, Chief Executive Officer, AFDF, **Greg Smith**, ASMI Communications Director, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, **Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**, ADF&G, **Mayor Albert Smith**, Metlakatla, **Linda Behnken**, Executive Director, ALFA/ President, ASFT
- 3:30 PM** **BREAK** *Sponsored By Samson Tug & Barge*
- 4:00PM** **STATE OF ALASKA SE LEGISLATIVE FORUM**  
*A discussion of State policies, programs and regional needs*  
**Representative Rebecca Himschoot**, **Representative Jeremy Bynum**, **Representative Andi Story**, **Senator Jesse Kiehl**, **Senator Bert Stedman**

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**COMMUNITY OF SITKA RECEPTION** @ The Alaska Raptor Center, 1000 Raptor Way  
5:30-7:30PM *Appetizers, Drinks, Live Music and Networking!*





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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17  
HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL

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- 7:30 AM REGISTRATION** *Sponsored By Wostmann & Associates, Inc.*  
**BREAKFAST** *Sponsored By Alaska Pollock Fishery Alliance*
- 8:00 AM WELCOME BACK** **Zak Kirkpatrick**, SEC President, Allen Marine  
*Meet the candidates running for election to SEC board seats, Polls Open*
- 8:15 AM A CONVERSATION WITH ALASKA'S COMMISSIONERS**  
**Cathy Muñoz**, DOLWD, **Randy Bates (Designee)**, DEC, **John Boyle**, DNR,  
**Ryan Anderson**, DOT&PF, **Anna Latham**, Deputy Commissioner, DCCED
- 9:15 AM NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Tessa Axelson**, Executive Director, Alaska Forest Association, **Jason Gubatayao**,  
General Manager of Natural Resources, Sealaska Corporation, **Leila Kimbrell**,  
Executive Director, RDC, **Ashley List**, Deputy Director, DOF, **Monique Nelson**, Forest  
Supervisor, USFS, **Jill Weitz**, Government Affairs, Tlingit & Haida
- 10:15 AM BREAK** *Sponsored By Northrim Bank*
- 10:45 AM THE ALASKA MARICULTURE CLUSTER**  
**Angie Bowers**, Sitka Aquaculture/Mariculture program lead, UAS, **Markos Scheer**,  
Seagrove Kelp and Oysters, **Dan Lesh**, Deputy Director, SE Conference
- 11:30 AM STRENGTHENING SOUTHEAST- WORKSHOP PREVIEW**  
**Blue Shibler**, Executive Director, Southeast Childhood Collective,  
**Jill Melcher**, AKDOT&PF, Southcoast Region Planning, **Tom Wetor**, Chair, SEASWA
- 12:00 PM LUNCHEON** *Sponsored By Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute*
- 12:30 PM KEYNOTE: U.S. SENATOR DAN SULLIVAN** *(Confirmed, Live from DC)*
- 1:15 PM ENERGY SECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE & DISTRIBUTION**  
**Tim Sandstrom**, COO, Alaska Energy Authority, **Michael Rovito**, Deputy Director, Alaska  
Power Association, **Robert Siedman**, CEO, SE Alaska Power Agency, **Hannah Wilson**,  
Programs Manager, AK Heat Smart, **Jessie Huff**, Energy Program Manager, SEC
- 2:15 PM BREAK** *Sponsored McKinley Research Group* (polls close)
- 2:45 PM STRATEGIES & COLLABORATIONS FOR STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS**  
*Economic Impacts of SASS Investments, Year 3: Meilani Schijvens, Rain Coast Data*  
**Q&A with Barb Miranda**, Deputy Forest Supervisor, USFS, **Jocelyn Fenton**, Director of  
Programs, Denali Commission, **Keith Perkins**, SE Area Director, USDA-RD *(invited)*,  
**Moderator Robert Venables**, Executive Director, SEC
- 3:30 PM UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA UPDATE**  
**Chancellor Aparna Palmer**, University of Alaska Southeast

## 5:45PM AWARDS BANQUET & SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

**Silent Auction, Dinner, Live Auction & Regional Awards** @ Harrigan Centennial Hall  
**Banquet Theme: Fireside & Fizz**

*Slip into your fireside chic (think cocktail attire with a outdoor twist, boots and blazers, dress up your fav flannel), and raise a glass beneath the stars. Bid on amazing auction items as we toast to resilience, opportunity, and the people that build strong communities!*

**Markos Scheer & KC Hostetler, Auctioneers**





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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL

- 7:30 AM** **REGISTRATION** *Sponsored By Wostmann & Associates, Inc.*  
**BREAKFAST** *Sponsored By ADIEA*
- 8:30 AM** **WELCOME BACK** Zak Kirkpatrick, SEC President, Allen Marine
- 8:35 AM** **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Installation of officers, Membership Comments to the Board, Resolution Consideration
- 9:30 AM** **BREAK** *Sponsored By Visit Sitka/ Sitka Chamber of Commerce*
- 9:50AM** **U.S. REPRESENTATIVE NICK BEGICH**
- 10:00 AM** **HOUSING HURDLES TO MEET AN ECONOMIC BOOM**  
Shaun Guthrie, Operations & Portfolio Manager, T&H Regional Housing Authority, Randy Hughey, Executive Director, Sitka Community Land Trust, Richard Harney, Tribal Planner, KIC *(Invited)*
- 10:30 AM** **HEALTH CARE SPOTLIGHT**  
Dan Harris, Chief Financial Officer, SEARHC
- 11:00 AM** **FUTURE-READY RESILIENCE**  
Cari-Ann Carty, President & CEO, AK Safety Alliance, Nils Andreassen, Executive Director, AK Municipal League, Jenae Erickson, Project Manager, DCCED Officer of the Commissioner
- 11:45 AM** **LUNCHEON** *Sponsored By Sealaska Corporation*
- 12:30PM** **KEYNOTE PANEL: INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES**  
*Facilitated By: Katie Berry, McKinley Research Group*  
Michelangelo Bustamante, Commercial Lending Lead, Native American Bank, Dave Stieren, Infrastructure Development Officer, AIDEA, Nils Andreassen, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League, Keith Perkins, SE Area Director, USDA-RD *(invited)*
- 1:30PM** **BREAKOUT WORK SESSIONS**  
*Join in on this region-wide, collaborative effort to address challenges in Southeast AK. All breakout Sessions are open to all attendees.*

### COLLABORATING ON THE CHILD CARE CRISIS ROOM TWO

Facilitated By Blue Shibler, ED, Southeast Childhood Collective

Learn about the Child Care Subcommittee and address barriers, highlight opportunities, and build momentum for this infrastructure.

### REGIONAL MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE STRATEGY ROOM THREE

Facilitated by Patrick Cotter, Program Manager, RESPEC

Address challenges with solid waste and develop sustainable, economically viable solutions for regional waste management.

### SOUTHEAST ALASKA TRANSPORTATION PLAN ROOM ONE

Facilitated by Renee Whitesell, Senior Project Manager, DOWL

Work with AKDOT&PF as they begin the process of updating the Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan.

### 3:00PM YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND THE STATE OF SITKA'S ECONOMY A SITKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION EVENT

Presented by Meilani Schijvens, Rain Coast Data @ Harrigan Centennial Hall

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Thank you

2025 ECONOMIC SUMMIT & 67<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

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