

IMPACT REPORT



Dear Friends,

As we approach the solstice, it would be an understatement to say I look forward to this time of year. After a long winter and spring's miraculous, relentless emergence - the summer fishing season is here. With it comes deep hope for abundance and health for the earth and its inhabitants. Time on the water brings me face to face with the beautiful beings with which we share our ocean home. It fills me with gratitude.

What also fills me with gratitude - every one of you reading this report - our community. You are the heart of Alaska Marine Conservation Council. Your care and concern for the future of Alaska's marine ecosystems, wild fisheries and fishery-dependent communities in the face of existential threats drives us. **Whether we're testifying at a North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting or walking the halls of Congress, we know you stand with us.**



On the pages of our Impact Report, you'll read a lot about AMCC's policy advocacy efforts from the past fiscal year. It's impossible to explain in just eight short pages the scope of what's at stake, what we're trying to accomplish and the long and technical fisheries management processes. Not to mention how many of you are engaged in these efforts with us. Please know you are key to our collective success!

We send a special shout out to our members who have stood by us for more than 20 years, including **Clair Holland LeClair**, our incredible outgoing board members **Brian Delay and Patty Hamre**, our longtime Catch 49 partner **Kodiak Island WildSource** and **Nell Newman Foundation** for affording us yet another matching gift opportunity. As you'll read on the following pages, the need to keep up the pressure on our policymakers and fisheries managers is great and your urgent support today will be put to good use to do just that.

Thank you again for standing with us!

With tremendous gratitude,

Marissa Wilson
Executive Director

Photo: Marissa and her dad this fall on his final delivery.



Untangling the Terms

Bycatch: The unwanted fish and other marine life caught during commercial fishing for a targeted species, frequently resulting in mortality.

[Called Prohibited Species Catch when a bycatch species has protections]

Trawlers: Fishing vessels (as large as one and a half football fields) that tow massive nets to capture huge amounts of their target species, typically flatfish and pollock. They often drag along the seafloor, even for trawl gear designated as “midwater”. [Not to be confused with “trollers”]

North Pacific Fishery Management

Council: One of eight regional councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to manage our nation’s marine fishery resources.

Catch shares: A management strategy that secures access to a share of fish for an individual, cooperative or fishing community (in some cases, processors).

Abundance-Based Management: An approach that links the amount of fish allowed as bycatch each year to the abundance of the stocks instead of static limits.

Observer coverage: A data collection and monitoring approach utilizing onboard observers and electronic monitoring to collect information about fisheries which is then used in NPFMC decision-making processes.

CONSERVING ALASKA’S WILD FISHERIES

A Year of Advocacy at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

While wild fisheries have declined dramatically across the planet, Alaska has maintained robust fisheries - until recently. Fishing-related industries employ more people than any other private sector. Yet our comparatively strong position belies the rapidly increasing threats facing Alaska’s marine ecosystems and fishery-dependent communities:

- Increasing ocean temperatures and acidification due to climate change are causing ripple effects throughout the food chain, as documented by Western and Indigenous science.
- Unsustainable levels of **bycatch** of salmon, halibut and crab critical to Alaska’s subsistence and directed fisheries occur when factory **trawlers** and catcher vessel trawlers target massive amounts of flatfish, cod and pollock.
- These same trawlers use fishing methods and gear that destroy essential fish habitat - including corals, sponges and seaweed - where fish, crab and other marine life live.

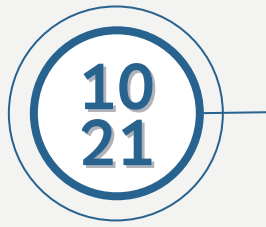
One of the ways AMCC works to address these threats and advance our goals - **Healthy Fisheries & Marine Ecosystems** and **Address & Adapt to Climate-Driven Change** - is by engaging with fisheries management processes through the **North Pacific Fishery Management Council** (NPFMC).

Five times a year, the NPFMC convenes weeklong meetings that AMCC attends. With our members, allies and partners we advocate for proactive policy solutions grounded by our central aim: to build the resilience of large marine ecosystems and fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean, namely the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Between meetings, this work does not stop - we analyze science and policies, participate in NPFMC work group meetings, strategize with partners, prepare comments, raise awareness to you and more.

Advocacy on complex policy issues like this takes time - with outcomes and years-long timelines out of AMCC’s control. But year after year since 1994, we advocate for reducing overfishing and bycatch; protecting critical fish habitat from destructive fishing practices; ensuring climate science is integrated into fisheries management approaches and bolstering equitable fisheries access for community-based fishermen.

Gratefully, by working together, we have a growing record of achievement advancing consequential policies at the NPFMC. **The following timeline illustrates just some of the highs - and unfortunate lows - from our collective advocacy in fiscal year 2022.**

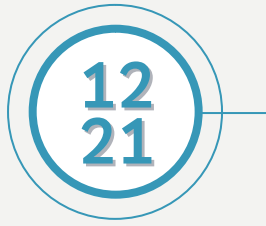




October 2021 NPFMC Meeting

With our members, allies and partners, AMCC champions reducing halibut and crab bycatch and damage to essential fish habitat as the NPFMC finalizes a Pacific cod **catch share** program for trawlers in the Bering Sea. If approved, these solutions would help decrease the inordinate amount of halibut bycatch occurring, and support participation of fishery-dependent communities in this fishery.

RESULTS: The NPFMC voted to reduce halibut bycatch limits in the catch share program by 25% and by 35% for crab. Though AMCC had advocated for more impactful results, this is an advancement to protect the struggling stocks in the Bering Sea, the marine ecosystem and thousands of fishing families .



December 2021 NPFMC Meeting

Ahead of this meeting, AMCC deploys an action alert asking members to urge the NPFMC to take final action on addressing the halibut bycatch crisis in the Bering Sea by adopting **Abundance-Based Management (ABM)**. If approved, this approach, combined with the halibut bycatch limits set in the Pacific cod catch share program would be consequential in the longterm conservation of the species.

RESULTS: The NPFMC takes final action on ABM, limiting halibut bycatch by the "Amendment 80" bottom trawl fleet responsible for most of the bycatch! The new plan represents a 25% reduction from the limit that was in place. While AMCC advocated for more reductions, this is a big step forward for fishery management that reflects more sustainable and equitable use of our common resources.



February 2022 NPFMC Meeting

AMCC and our partners reintroduce the Ecosystem Matrix - a science-based, stakeholder-driven fisheries management tool designed to increase resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts in the North Pacific by helping the NPFMC consider the health of the ecosystem and climate status when setting catch limits.

RESULTS: The NPFMC approves our joint recommendation that the Climate Change Task Force of the NPFMC review the matrix at their March 2022 meeting. However, since this time, the Council has not advanced critical ecosystem based fisheries management concepts introduced in the matrix.



April 2022 NPFMC Meeting

AMCC submits comments and testifies in support of addressing the crash in Bristol Bay Red King Crab stocks by advocating for immediate restrictions on all gear types, except longline, during times that crab stocks are critically low. This solution would reduce crab mortality and damage to essential crab habitat caused by trawl gear and help the stock recover.

RESULTS: The NPFMC passes a motion requesting each Bering Sea fishing sector with crab mortality present relevant data at the October 2022 meeting. (The data illuminated concerns to AMCC, showing pelagic (midwater) trawl gear is dragging on the crab's critical seafloor habitat upwards of on average 40-80% of the time, even more for factory ships, counter to the intent of the fishing gear.)



June 2022 NPFMC Meeting

AMCC submits comments and testifies in support of 100% **observer coverage** for the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl fleet and against moving the start date for pelagic rockfish trawling in Central GOA to April 1. AMCC's concern with this timing is it will increase harvest pressure during a key reproductive period for this long-lived rockfish species with short ranges of home habitat. It could result in depletions that will not register on population estimates until they have compounded for years.

RESULTS: The NPFMC makes no movement toward 100% observer coverage on trawl vessels operating in the GOA on the premise that current rates are adequate. Since the inception of the restructured program, AMCC has pushed for increased coverage in high volume, high impact trawl fisheries. Additionally, they vote to move the start date for pelagic rockfish trawling in Central GOA, effectively endangering this rockfish species.

AMCC ADVOCACY IN HIGH GEAR

Our fisheries conservation advocacy efforts are continuing in earnest in fiscal year 2023. To follow are some of the key issues we are focused on today. We encourage you to stay engaged on these and raise your voice when we send action alerts. **Sign-up today at www.akmarine.org.** The long-term sustainability of Alaska's marine ecosystems, wild fisheries and fishery-dependent communities are wholly dependent on our urgent and collective action.

Defending Bristol Bay Red King Crab

In October 2022, the State of Alaska closed the Bristol Bay Red King Crab season for a second year because the population continues to decline at an alarming rate, despite efforts to rebuild it. Meanwhile, AMCC believes rebuilding plans will continue to fail if they do not acknowledge the damage to vital Red King Crab habitat caused by pelagic (midwater) trawl gear on the seafloor. Our advocacy at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is focused on helping Red King Crab stocks recover by protecting the habitat critical for supporting all their life stages, addressing unobserved mortality from pelagic trawl gear and more. Stay tuned for regular updates on this evolving issue. **Meanwhile, check out our white paper: [The Myth of Midwater Trawl](#) on our publications page at www.akmarine.org.**

Advancing Sustainable Fisheries

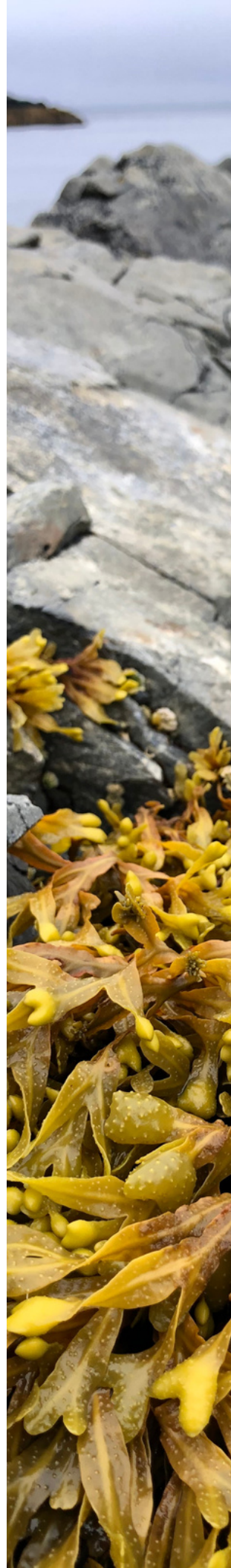
The **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)** has been up for reauthorization since 2016. Still, it remains stalled and opportunities to improve the law, including related to our rapidly changing climate, are too. AMCC is focused on a workaround - strengthening the guidance language used in federal fishery management decisions, specifically addressing three of the **MSA Ten National Standards** - 4, 8 and 9 concerning allocations, communities and bycatch, respectively. **The National Marine Fisheries Service is accepting public comments on new guidelines through September 12, 2023. Look for future action alerts from us!**

Advocating for Salmon Bycatch Reductions

Chinook and chum salmon are being caught as bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, as these stocks have declined to crisis levels for communities along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers and throughout the Bering Strait. Some NPFMC members have agreed this is a humanitarian crisis, but still the Council has recently recommended additional analysis to inform potential chum bycatch limits or other regulations on the pollock industry, with no action yet on Chinook bycatch. AMCC stands in solidarity with the communities impacted and will continue advocating for timely and meaningful action. There will be more updates on this issue. **Read Our Comment on Salmon Bycatch on our blog at www.akmarine.org.**

Building Resilience to Climate Change

One of AMCC's highest priorities at the NPFMC this year is to support development of a **Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)**. The technical name of the document belies the far-reaching implications for North Pacific marine ecosystems, wild fisheries and fishery-dependent communities, especially as it relates to the rapidly escalating effects of climate change. A PEIS will serve as a framework to help ensure fisheries management approaches and plans are designed to build the resilience of the region. AMCC is playing a leadership role for supporting the NPFMC in developing a PEIS and advocating for alignment with AMCC's mission. **Regular updates are forthcoming. In the meantime, read about our other efforts to advance climate-ready fisheries on our blog at www.akmarine.org.**



THRIVING WORKING WATERFRONTS

Community-Based Processors: Critical to the Success of Small-Scale Fisheries



Catch 49 was established with a few key goals in mind: **#1** bolster economic opportunities for small-scale, community-based fishermen; **#2** help sustain the Alaskan fishing lifestyle and **#3** generate revenue to support AMCC's mission. We insist on complete traceability - knowing when, where and how fish are harvested and processed - to ensure that it has only been in the hands of those who revere it as much as we do.

Most large processors prioritize the demands of the global market, regardless of the negative impacts associated with catching and processing fish on an industrial scale. Meanwhile, to provide the product Catch 49 has promised to our discerning Alaskan customers, we seek out community-based processors who share our values. These include a commitment to fair wages and sustainable business practices and a willingness to take the extra steps necessary to ensure Catch 49 customers receive the highest quality product possible.



One such processor we have been proud to partner with for many years is **Kodiak Island WildSource**. Owned and operated by the Sun'aq Tribe in Kodiak, WildSource prioritizes quality, stewardship of our natural resources, supporting Kodiak-area native fishing families and employing local residents. Without WildSource we could not provide our customers with low-impact jig-caught Kodiak rockfish, cod and halibut. They are also a key player in the development of Kodiak's burgeoning kelp industry, exclusively processing kelp every spring for one month to ensure that local kelp farmers have the chance to thrive.

Using community-based processors helps ensure that small-scale fishermen can bring their catch to market, provides critical local jobs and keeps the value of our resources in Alaskan communities. We are grateful to work with WildSource - in addition to **60° North Seafoods** in Cordova, **Kvichak Fish Co.** in Naknek and **Kenai-Red Fish Company** in Ninilchik - to help Alaska's small-scale fisheries succeed!

To learn more about Catch 49's current offerings and subscribe to our newsletter, visit www.catch49.org.

Welcoming Almanac Submissions!

Are you or do you know a fisherman who has fishing photos, art, poems, recipes or other observations of life at sea (or ashore!) to share? Please submit those to AMCC for our third Alaska Young Fishermen's Almanac, a publication designed to inspire future generations of fisherfolk.

Submissions can be sent to almanac@akmarine.org with the subject "Almanac Volume 3" and a name and address by September 1.



SMALL DONATIONS, BIG IMPACT

Join the **Tide Pool Monthly Giving Club** and be the change you want to sea!

Like the tides, recurring monthly gifts are reliable, providing a source of abundance AMCC can count on. This allows us to be better positioned to safeguard Alaska's ocean, fisheries and communities and you a budget-friendly and meaningful way to support a cause you care about!

Please consider signing up today at www.akmarine.org. Thank you!

Thank you to our Ocean Guardians for making our work in FY2022 possible!

Suzanne Abraham
Alaska Boats & Permits, Inc.
Alaska Conservation
Foundation
Peter Allan & Mary Hickey
Susan Alward
Matthew Alward
Nicole Arevalo
Christopher Arp &
Sarah Robinson
Erica Aus*
Samantha Baker*
Michael Barber
Melissa Behnke
Ed Berg
The Blue Heron Inn
Aaron Brakel
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood
Development Association
Melanie Brown
Bethany Buchanan
Robert Bundy & Bonnie Lembo
Tom & Catie Bursch
Michael Byerly
Raymond Cammisa
Brad Casar
Charlotte Martin Foundation
Vicki Clark*
Kathrine Consenstein*
Genie Crowe
Pete Cummiskey &
Heather Preece
Kaitlin Cunningham
Camilla Dalton
Aase Dane
Samuel Degange-
Aschenbrenner
Linda Degnan Cobos
Carole Demers
Robin Dern
Clifton Derrick
Katherine Devine
Dustan & Evie Dickerson
George Donart
Rachel Donkersloot
Robert Dugan
Sherry Dugan
Cliff Eames &
Ruth McHenry
Edgerton Foundation
Leonard Efta
Thomas Ely
Adria Evans
FashionPACT Thrift Boutique
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Mary Forbes
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Christopher Frost
Dan Gabbay
Katie Gavenus*
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Memorial Fund
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Madeleine Grant
Patricia Green
Hannah Griego
Jarl & Kathleen Gustafson
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Todd Hoppe
Sharon & Steven Horn
Mark Hottmann
Elayne Hunter
Brooke Itter
Lindsay Johnson
Terry & Yelena Johnson
Roger Jolma
Eric & Sarah Jordan
Laura Junge
Darius Kasprzak
Kenai-Red Fish Company
Peter Kircher
Maureen Knutsen
Karla Kolash &
Harold Curran
RJ & Barclay Kopchak
Koteff Accounting Group

“ *I value AMCC for amplifying the voices of fishermen, harvesters, marine scientists and other regular people like me who care about protecting our oceans and the quality of food we get from them.*

*- Katya Koteff
Koteff Accounting Group*

Tracie Krauthoefer &
Peter Briggs
Claire Holland LeClair*
Linda & Thomas Lance
Athenia Large
Clare Lattimore
Ricarda Lebman
William Leighty &
Nancy Waterman
Eugene Levine
Caspian Linkhart
Mary Liston
John Little
Kerry Lynch
Marine Vinyl Fabric
Cecil Magone*
Sonja Martin Young
Bridget Maryott
Hope McGratty &
Tyler Jones
Casey Meliah
Linda Millard
Valorie Miller
Michael Milligan
Robbi Mixon
Stanton Moll
Stephen Montsaroff*
Astrid Mueller
Thorey Munro
Mark Munro
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Nell Newman Foundation, Inc.
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Christine O'Connor
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Ocean Conservancy, Inc.
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Britta-Lis Perry
Daniel Perry
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Amanda Piatt &
Nick Hamming
Scott Pyne
Linda & Frederick Rabideau
Rasmuson Foundation
David Ricculli
Rising Tide Communications
Teri & Kris Robinson
Rolan & Jo Ruoss
Ella Rush
Ruud-Mjos Tributaries
Alaska Family Fund
Walter & Linda Sargent
Michael Schumm*
Jorg & Susan Schmeisser

Daniel & Joanne Shively
Leonard Simmons
Susan Siok
Ralph Sirofchuck
Anthony Sisto &
Deanne Adams
Sitka Salmon Shares
McKenna Slivensky
Janet Smoker
Walter Sonen
Patricia Stark
John Starkey
Leonard Steinberg
William Still
Sara Stoops
Stacy Studebaker
Frederick & Laurel Stutzer
Pat Szabo
Audrey Taylor
The Harder Foundation
The William C. Bannerman
Foundation

“ *AMCC's work with Alaska's community-based fishermen, especially their efforts to empower the next generation of commercial fishermen, is critical. Their approach to stewardship and sustainable economies that drives marine conservation is one we are pleased to support.*

*- The William C.
Bannerman Foundation*

”
David Theriault
Leigh Thomet
True North Foundation
Twin Peaks Fisheries LLC
Freda Diane Van Matre
Catherine & Joseph
Vanbuskirk
Erik Velsko
Walton Family Foundation
Stephanie Watowich
Christopher White
Paula Williams
Danielle Williams
Josh Wisniewski
Thomas Young
Jon & Stephanie Zuck
Anonymous Members (5)

***Tide Pool Monthly Giving
Club Members**

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 20 YEAR SUPPORTERS

AMCC is indebted to the following amazing group of members whose support has been instrumental in helping bring about meaningful and long-lasting change for Alaska's ocean, fisheries and communities for more than 20 years. Thank you all for being an integral part of our journey!

Robert Archibald &
Roberta Highland
Bill & Etsuko Beebe
Betty & Fred Bonin
Nevette Bowen

Judith Brakel
Dorothy & Bob Childers
Steve Fish & Kari Johnson
Harvey Goodell
Mimi Hogan & PJ Hill

Claire Holland LeClair
Dan Hull & Nancy Pease
Sara Jackinsky
Nancy Lord & Ken Castner
Laura Lucas & Bob Banghart

James & Dianne Mahaffey
Martinus Nickerson
Mike O'Meara
Karl Ohls & Evelyn Abello
Tina & Paul Seaton
Bob Shavelson

Clair Holland LeClair // Anchorage, AK

AMCC Member Since 1994

Claire was first introduced to the *idea* of AMCC before there was an AMCC. While she was living in Kodiak in the early 1990s and working as a park ranger, Nevette Bowen was traveling around coastal communities meeting with fishermen and residents to suss out the formation of a statewide marine conservation organization. Claire subsistence fished for salmon and commercial fished for halibut during the derby openers and sat in on some of those conversations. She recalls: *"The concept that developed from Nevette's outreach was not only viable but necessary. We needed a statewide group to take on the nexus of conservation, ocean health and sustainable fisheries – and to have a strong presence at NPFMC meetings."* Claire became a dedicated member when AMCC was founded and later, a board member.

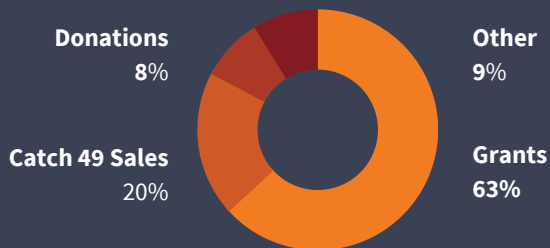
"I appreciate that AMCC was created with the recognition of our human reliance on and connection to a healthy ocean for food as well as for work and commerce. I value AMCC's steady and effective advocacy to help protect Alaska's marine ecosystems and hold federal and state fisheries managers accountable for ensuring sustainable harvest levels and methods."

We are honored by Claire's steadfast support. If you value AMCC's mission too, please consider a donation today. Thank you!

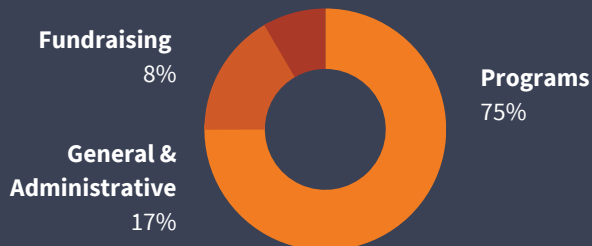


FY2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Revenue by Type: \$708,285



Total Expenses by Type: \$608,562



AMCC's FY2022 (10/1/21-9/30/22) Financial Review and 990 are available on request at fish@akmarine.org.

AMCC Board & Staff

Board of Directors: **Josh Wisniewski** (Chair), Seldovia. **Brian Delay** (Vice Chair), Juneau. **Patty Hamre** (Secretary), Anchorage. **RJ Kopchak** (Treasurer), Cordova. **Melanie Brown**, Bristol Bay & Juneau. **Georgie Heaverley**, Anchorage. **Darius Kasprzak**, Kodiak. **Dave Theriault**, Anchorage.

AMCC wishes to share our genuine gratitude to our outgoing board members **Brian Delay** and **Patty Hamre** for their many years of dedicated service to AMCC's mission.

Staff: **Marissa Wilson** (Executive Director), Homer. **Theresa Peterson** (Fisheries Policy Director), Kodiak. **Katy Rexford** (Director of Catch 49), Anchorage. **Michelle Stratton** (Fisheries Science Staff), Kodiak & Palmer.

In addition to our staff, AMCC works with a mission-focused team of contractors who help support the organization's success: Koteff Accounting Group, Danielle S. Williams Consulting and Coast Strategies.

Learn more about AMCC's current Board & Staff at www.akmarine.org.



IMPACT REPORT

**Double Your Impact for
Alaska's Oceans Today!**

Thanks to the generosity of the **Nell Newman Foundation**, now through July 30, all donations to AMCC will be matched \$-for-\$ up to \$5,000! Your urgent support is needed today to advance our mission.

**Please donate at www.akmarine.org
to double your impact!**



Support the Businesses that Support AMCC!

We're grateful to the generous businesses that supported our mission in FY2022.



Danielle S. Williams Consulting | Kenai-Red Fish Company | Kustatan Inc. | Twin Peaks Fisheries
The Blue Heron Inn