

**For Immediate Release**

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**Summit in Alaska to bring together thought leaders from across North America to discuss the future of local and regional, direct seafood supply chains**

**ORONO, Maine** (June 25, 2022) – Community-based seafood producers and businesses from across North America are gathering in Girdwood, Alaska for the 4th [Local Seafood Summit](#) to collaborate on charting the course of evolving local and regional seafood systems from Oct. 2-3.

Seafood harvesters, processors, technical assistance and food service providers, as well as advocates, from across the seafood system will explore ways to replicate, improve and expand the community-supported fisheries and direct supply chains that thrived during the pandemic as industrial food systems faltered.

Hosted at [Alyeska Resort](#), the summit is supported by [Local Catch](#), a network of seafood harvesters, organizers, researchers, and consumers committed to supporting small-scale and community supported fisheries from across the United States and Canada. This year's theme is reflective of the current challenges and aspirations of summit attendees: Building the Future of Local & Regional Seafood Systems.

“Since the last Local Seafood Summit in Portland, Oregon in 2019, the direct seafood marketing sector has continued to expand,” said Local Catch Network Founder and University of Maine Professor, Joshua Stoll. “Catalyzed by local innovation and global drivers, more seafood harvesters are turning to local and direct seafood marketing to create transparent, safe, fair, profitable, equitable, and sustainable supply chains that support marine conservation and resilient coastal communities.”

Like past summits, this event will be a practitioner-led forum for networking, shared storytelling, hands-on workshops, and critical information exchange where attendees can learn about everything from new marketing approaches, to business-accelerating software and onboard or land-based processing best practices. They'll hear examples of productive partnerships that have helped grow businesses and look at ways to incorporate the Local Catch Network [Core Values](#).

[Native Conservancy](#) Founder and President **Dune Lankard** will set an inspirational tone for the event during the keynote address, describing how supporting Indigenous access to natural resources strengthens communities and fosters food sovereignty and health. He'll call those at the summit into action by inviting summit attendees to organize with the intention of collectively determining a path forward for community-based seafood systems.

Other highlights include: a seafood soiree dinner elevating responsibly harvested seafood from small-scale harvesters based in Alaska and beyond and live music featuring [The Fishwives Sea Shanty Band](#). There'll also be a three-day field trip down the Kenai Peninsula where summit attendees will visit local seafood processing operations and fishing sites as well as spend time with local fishermen, food entrepreneurs, fishery experts, and community leaders.

For more information about the Local Seafood Summit visit <https://localcatch.org/seafood-summit/> or reach out to the Local Catch Network Coordinator, Jordan Richardson at [Jordan.Richardson@maine.edu](mailto:Jordan.Richardson@maine.edu).

### **About Local Catch Network**

Established in 2011, the Local Catch Network (LCN) is a hub for knowledge exchange and innovation to support and catalyze local and community-based seafood systems. Today, the network is made up of more than 500 members, including over 200 seafood businesses from across North America. Members of the Local Catch Network align with a set of core values that aim to create a higher level of accountability and trust, both internally within the network and externally to the public. Local Catch Network members include seafood harvesters who sell their catch locally and regionally through direct marketing channels as well as those engaged in research, technical assistance, and community organizing. LCN is governed by a volunteer Executive Committee that is responsible for supporting the growth and development of the network. The network is based at the University of Maine with additional backbone support from the North American Marine Alliance. *FMI: <https://localcatch.org/>.*

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