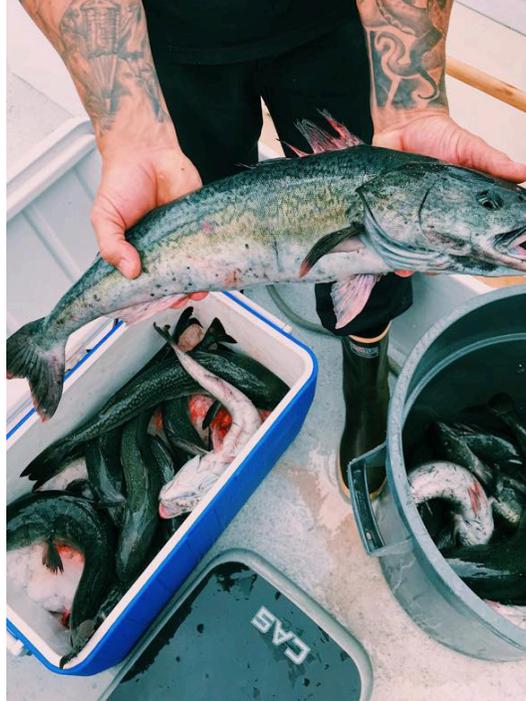




2022
ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Local Catch Network Members and Colleagues,

We are living in a moment of historic connectivity; never has it been so easy to connect with people on social media channels or through our electronic devices. Yet today's atmospheric river of cheap communications is hardly a substitute for real connections. If anything, it only makes us more hungry for them. Networks like ours stand to be part of the solution, helping to satiate our appetite for meaningful connections and creating space to build, sustain, and nourish relationships.

We extend our sincere gratitude to you all for the time, energy, and passion you invest in the relationships that underpin our ever growing network.

Sincerely,

LCN Executive Committee



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Atlantic Cod

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Join Our Community

LOCAL CATCH NETWORK

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Dubovsky, SalmonState (formerly)

Peter Granger, Commercial Harvester & WA Sea Grant (retired)

Jordyn Kastlunger, Atlantic Fisheries Commission & RI DEM

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Cover photo: Jordyn Kastlunger

Page 2 photos: Jordyn Kastlunger

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Our Network

The Local Catch Network 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. Local Catch Network members include seafood harvesters who sell their catch through direct marketing channels as well as those engaged in relevant research, technical assistance, and community organizing.

We invite you to **join our network** if you are not already a member.

Vision

Local Catch Network works to strengthen local and regional seafood systems in support of healthy and resilient communities across North America.

Values

Our network centers around 10 core values that aim to foster accountability and trust.



Community Based Fisheries



Fair Access



Fair Pricing



Eating with the Ecosystem



Simple Supply Chains



Honor the Ocean



Catch and Handle with Honor



Ecosystem Based Approaches



Creativity and Collaboration



Equitable Seafood Systems



ATLANTIC COD, INK PRINT
BY JOSHUA STOLL

Areas of Impact: Our year in review

Endeavoring to help build the infrastructure, knowledge, and connections necessary to support local and regional seafood systems, our shared work focuses on: (1) network building; (2) technical assistance; and (3) research.

#1

Largest network in North America dedicated to small-scale fisheries and food systems

900

Seafood businesses participated in our technical assistance programs

\$2,000,000

Funding raised to strengthen local and regional seafood systems

29,000

People searched for seafood on the Local Catch Network **Seafood Finder**

74

New members joined the network (**become a member**)

12

Newsletters highlighted up-to-date resources, funding, and technical assistance (**sign up today**)



HANNAH HARRISON & PHIL LORING

Network Building

Every three years, we host a convening that brings together innovators, entrepreneurs, advocates, and thought leaders from across North America who are working to strengthen our local, regional, and national food systems. These summits are an opportunity to highlight members of the Local Catch Network, expand our community, and gain practical skills and knowledge that strengthen our collective work. The 2022 Local Seafood Summit, hosted in **Girdwood, Alaska**, brought together **175 people** from across North America for a truly memorable **3-day event** that included **26 interactive panels** and sessions. As one person reflected afterward, "People will be talking about [the summit] for a long, long time."

4th LOCAL
SEAFOOD
SUMMIT
OCTOBER 2-3, 2022
GIRDWOOD, ALASKA

"I have honestly never been to a conference that was so collaborative in nature and ... acknowledged truly all aspects of our food systems."

- Summit Attendee



Like our network, the summit was made possible by the generous support and contributions of many, many people and organizations, including summit **sponsors** that provided scholarships for more than 50 people to attend. We were particularly grateful to those who donated and prepared seafood for the summit, including the **guest chefs** and **seafood providers**, and the planning committee: Nelly Hand (Drifters Fish), Emma Krammer (Straight to the Plate), Melanie Brown (Salmon State & Bristol Bay Fisherman), Katy Rexford (Catch 49), Sunny Rice (Alaska Sea Grant), Kate Massury (Eating with the Ecosystem), Robbi Mixon (Alaska Food Policy Council), Colles Stowell (One Fish Foundation), Kelly Harrell (Independent Community-Based Fisheries Advocate), Jon Russell (NAMA), Jordan Richardson (UMaine), and Joshua Stoll (UMaine). A huge thanks also goes to Melanie Brown for her introduction to Alaska Native Heritage and closing remarks and, to Dune Lankard (Native Conservancy), Ephraim Froehlich (AKWA-DC), Andy Olson (Native Fishing Association), Jason Jarvis (Fresh Harvest Kitchen), and Togue Brawn (Downeast Dayboat) who presented as keynote speakers. We also thank the US Department of Agriculture for providing “curbside consulting” during the summit and their commitment to supporting small and values-based seafood harvesters and businesses through mentorship and programming. For those who were unable to attend, we look forward to seeing you at the next summit.



Learn more about the 4th Local Seafood Summit and past summits:

<https://localcatch.org/seafood-summit/>





Equitable Seafood Systems

In early 2022, the Local Catch Network – with the support and encouragement of members – adopted a new core value to highlight the importance of **equity and justice in seafood systems**. In adopting this core value, we recognize the long history of systemic racism, exclusion and oppression that has permeated the food system, including the fisheries sector. The Local Catch Network is committed to developing policies, programs, communications, and decision making processes that center the voices and lived-experiences of people who have been, and continue to be, most impacted by injustice. To ensure we are best serving our communities, we will operationalize this core value and continually question our own practices. In addition, we have also developed and implemented an onboarding process which allows network staff to connect directly with new members, and better enables us to facilitate connections between new and existing network members with similar interests, backgrounds, and/or challenges.

Technical Assistance

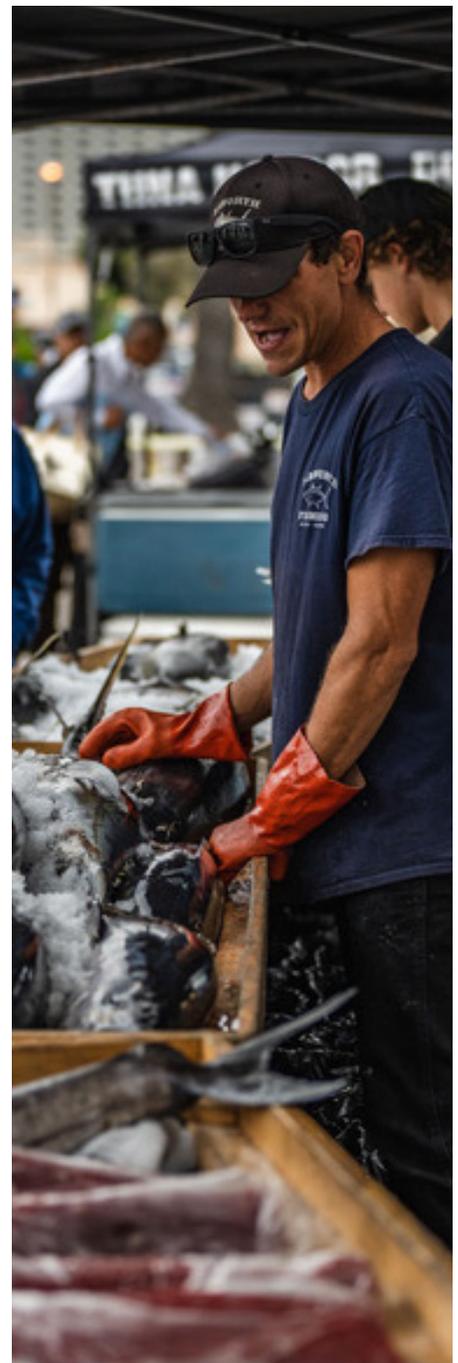
The commercial fishing sector in North America faces a number of challenges that make it increasingly difficult for community-based harvesters to enter the system and remain viable. Issues range from competition with global markets to a lack of infrastructure and resources that enable small and mid-scale direct seafood marketers to operate. The Local Catch Network addresses these obstacles by providing seafood harvesters and businesses with the technical assistance and networks they need to thrive. In 2022, we provided technical assistance to 900 seafood businesses and/or organizations through webinars, convenings, and training.

USDA Local Market Promotion Program Grant Assistance

We continued to offer technical assistance to seafood businesses and fishing communities in 2022 by helping network members access USDA federal grant programs. In the past two years, USDA has awarded a total of \$154.2 million in competitive grant funding through the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP). During this time, we have partnered with USDA to provide an estimated 350 hours in outreach, education, and technical support to help rural, BIPOC, and underserved businesses and communities apply for LAMP grants. Our work has resulted in 14 funded proposals totaling \$5.6 million.

Scaling Up Local and Direct Seafood Marketing

We continue our partnership with **Ecotrust** to facilitate a business accelerator program (**Scale Your Local Catch**), designed to aid small and mid-scale fishing businesses in building their networks and skill set in order to operate a sustainable company. Fifteen businesses were accepted into the inaugural cohort of the program from 13 states. Of these businesses, 33% are BIPOC-owned. As part of the program, participants attended 18 sessions on a wide range of topics related to business structures and entity formation, taxation, accounting and bookkeeping, cashflow, insurance, marketing, labor, access to capital, and contracts and partnerships. The cohort also participated in two networking sessions to allow program participants to connect more deeply with each other through sharing resources, insights, experience, and asking questions to receive feedback. Complementary core training topics were paired with additional learning opportunities provided to the larger Local Catch Network on topics regarding USDA Value Added Producer Grants and Institutional Purchasing.



JORDYN KASTLUNGER



RED CLIFF FISH COMPANY

Research

We are actively involved in multiple research initiatives that aim to bring visibility to our collective work and offer new insights about how fishing communities contribute to and enhance local and regional food systems.

In 2022, we published a **review of small-scale fisheries** in the United States in *Marine Policy*. The paper examines the socioeconomic contributions of small-scale fisheries by analyzing data from 1,019 fisheries across the country. The paper also identifies key drivers of change in the sector.

The University of Maine, Agricultural Marketing Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and National Marine Fisheries Service launched the first phase of the **American Seafood Harvesters Marketing Practices Survey**, which

aims to provide a complete picture of the critical role the commercial fishing sector plays in supporting the United States' food system. As part of this work, the team contacted over 40,000 seafood harvesters from across the nation and have identified 6,610 seafood harvesters that engage in direct marketing. These seafood businesses will receive a follow-up survey in 2023 that aims to bring greater attention to the important roles that seafood plays in local and regional food systems.

Researchers, students, and other interested parties who are interested in collaborating can contact Joshua Stoll (joshua.stoll@maine.edu)

2023

Future Outlook

We made huge progress in 2022 and have big plans for 2023. Here are a few highlights for the coming year:

We will continue to center underserved and historically marginalized communities in our processes, programming, and decision making.

We are hiring a NEW Local Catch Network Coordinator! Stay tuned.

We are recruiting our third cohort in the Scale Your Local Catch program and will offer technical assistance for USDA grant funding.

We are partnering with researchers at the University of Maine, NOAA, and USDA to support the **American Seafood Harvesters Marketing Practices Survey.**

We are launching a national needs assessment to strengthen local and direct seafood systems.



Funding Support

Our work is made possible by the generous financial support of the following organizations:

>\$10,000

University of Maine
North American Marine Alliance
Oak Foundation
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
The University of Maine
Canadian-American Center
Sitka Salmon Shares

\$10,000 - \$5,000

**Local Ocean | Dockside Grill +
Fish Market**
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

\$5,000 - \$2,500

**Arrell Food Institute at the
University of Guelph**
Kenai-Red Fish Company
**Alaska Longline Fishermen's
Association**
Alaskans Own

\$2,500 - \$1,000

Northwest Farm Credit Services

Other Contributions

Intertribal Agriculture Council
Tim Briggs
Nathaniel Furey
Anne George
Pete Granger
Leslie Lima
Jim Mccallum
Katherine Mills

Support Our Work

localcatch.org/how-to-support

Join The Network

localcatch.org/join

