



About the Conference:

Join legislative representatives, community leaders, and other interested regional residents for a week of engaging discussions on the key issues, challenges, and opportunities facing the Aleutian Region.

Learn, engage, and be inspired!

Date and Place :
August 12-16, 2025

Unalaska / Dutch Harbor, Alaska



What's inside?

- Conference Schedule
- Speaker / Session Information
- Transportation Information
- Heart of the Aleutians Festival

WELCOME!



GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Don't forget to check out the Heart of the Aleutians Festivities on Saturday from Noon - 6:00 PM in Downtown Unalaska!

SHUTTLE

Shuttle hours of availability on pg. 9. Please contact (907)359-1298 during shuttle hours to arrange transportation.

MUSEUM OF THE ALEUTIANS

Enjoy a free visit to the Museum of the Aleutians during the conference! Show your conference name badge at the front desk and explore the exhibits at no cost. Don't miss this chance to discover the rich history and culture of our region while you're here!

NAME BADGE

Please display your conference name badge at all sessions and social events. Badges are required for entry to all conference socials, and admission will not be granted without one.

CONFERENCE SOCIALS

Tuesday: Opening Networking Social

Kick off the conference by connecting with other conference participants in a relaxed and informal setting.

Location: Unalaska Public Library

Time: 4:30 - 5:30 PM

No Additional Fee

Wednesday: Grand Aleutian Hotel Buffet

Enjoy Unalaska's most famous meal, the Grand Aleutian Hotel's seafood buffet at a special conference price! This event is an additional \$30.00 charge, and you must be registered in advance.

Location: Grand Aleutian Hotel Makushin Room

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Fee: \$30.00

Thursday: Norwegian Rat Social

Mingle with other conference goers in a relaxed setting overlooking Unalaska Bay. A special thanks to the Ounalashka Corporation for providing drink tickets for everyone!

Location: Norwegian Rat Saloon (Walking distance from Grand Aleutian Hotel)

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

No Additional Fee

Friday: Summer Bay Community BBQ from 1:00 - 5:00 PM. Free food, beach volleyball, and swimming at Summer Bay. This event is open to the public.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

IMPORTANT: SESSIONS AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



Tuesday, August 12

REGISTRATION

🕒 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

1:00 - 4:00 PM: A VARIETY OF LOCAL TOUR OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. SEE THE TOUR PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

OPENING NETWORKING SESSION

🕒 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

🕒 6:00 PM
📍 UNALASKA CITY HALL



Wednesday, August 13

REGISTRATION OPEN / BREAKFAST

🕒 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM
📍 UCSD AUDITORIUM

SESSION 1: TRILATERAL GROUP

🕒 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM
📍 UCSD AUDITORIUM

SESSION 2: FISHING INDUSTRY

🗣️ FRANK KELTY, CAITLIN YAEGER (APA), JULIE DECKER (PSPA)

🕒 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM
📍 UCSD AUDITORIUM

SESSION 3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

🗣️ SPEAKER: WANETTA AYERS, SWAMC
🕒 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
📍 UCSD AUDITORIUM



Wednesday, August 13

LUNCH: EDUCATION PRESENTATION

🕒 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM **OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**
📍 UCSD AUDITORIUM
🗣️ KIM HANISCH & UCSD TEAM
Lunch is available in the UCSD auditorium lobby from 11:30 - 1:30

SESSION 4:

🕒 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM

OPTION A: PERSONAL INVESTING

🗣️ WILLIAM LIERMAN
📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: COMMUNITY ROOM

OPTION B: TOURISM

🗣️ KATHERINE MCGLASHAN, UVB
📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: DAN MASONI CONFERENCE ROOM

SESSION 5: UCSD 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

🗣️ KIM HANISCH, UCSD STAFF
🕒 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM **OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**
📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: COMMUNITY ROOM

BREAK / FREE TIME

4:00 PM: OLD TOWN WALKING TOUR WITH MUSEUM OF THE ALEUTIANS STAFF. MUST BE REGISTERED.

CONFERENCE SOCIAL

🕒 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
📍 GRAND ALEUTIAN HOTEL
SEAFOOD BUFFET: \$30.00 FEE. MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED





Thursday, August 14

BREAKFAST

🕒 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM

📍 UCSD AUDITORIUM

SESSION 1: LOCAL HEALTHCARE

🎤 PRESENTATION BY IFHS AND APIA MODERATED BY CITY OF UNALASKA FIRE CHIEF BEN KNOWLES

🕒 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

📍 UCSD AUDITORIUM

SESSION 2: STATE LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

🎤 LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN GROUP

🕒 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

📍 UCSD AUDITORIUM

LUNCH SESSION: LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

🎤 LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN GROUP

🕒 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

📍 UCSD AUDITORIUM

Lunch in the UCSD auditorium lobby from 11:30 – 1:30 PM

SESSION 3:

🕒 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM

OPTION A: ELDER FRAUD

🎤 SPECIAL AGENT, FBI

📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: DAN MASONI CONFERENCE ROOM

OPTION B: FRONTLINE IN THE ALEUTIANS

🎤 BEN KNOWLES, CITY OF UNALASKA FIRE CHIEF

📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: COMMUNITY ROOM

SESSION 4:

🕒 3:00 PM - 4:45 PM

OPTION A: SEXTORTION

🎤 SPECIAL AGENT, FBI

📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: DAN MASONI CONFERENCE ROOM

OPTION B: REGIONAL ENERGY

🎤 LARESA SYVERSON, MAGNUS DE WITT, ACEP DOLORES GREGORY

📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: COMMUNITY ROOM

• THIS SESSION ENDS AT 4:15 PM



Thursday, August 14

NETWORKING SOCIAL

🎤 PERFORMANCE BY KAI SPRAGGINS

🕒 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

📍 NORWEGIAN RAT SALOON

SERVING: HORS D'OEUVRES



Friday, August 15

BREAKFAST

🕒 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM

📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

SESSION 1: SHIPPING

🎤 DYLAN FABER, MATSON

🕒 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM

📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: COMMUNITY ROOM

SESSION 2: BROWNFIELDS

🎤 JACKIE ADAMS, COU GRANT MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR, NATALIE CALE, OUNALASHKA CORPORATION, DR. SHANOY ANDERSON, QAWALANGIN TRIBE OF UNALASKA

🕒 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM

📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: COMMUNITY ROOM

SESSION 3: NON PROFIT ROUNDTABLE

🎤 LYNN CRANE (USAFV), EMILY GIBSON (UNALASKA LITTLE LEAGUE), VIRGINIA HATFIELD (MOTA), MEGAN DEAN (MOTA)

🕒 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: COMMUNITY ROOM

SESSION 4: COU COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

🎤 BETH MCKIBBEN (R&M LEAD CONSULTANT FOR PROJ.)

🕒 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM **OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**

📍 UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY: COMMUNITY ROOM

SUMMER BAY BBQ

Enjoy delicious BBQ prepared on the shores of Summer Bay Lake while mingling with other conference attendees. Activities include beach volleyball and swimming.

🕒 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM **OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**

📍 SUMMER BAY PICNIC AREA



SESSION INFORMATION

Sessions will be held at the Unalaska Public Library. See schedule for times and locations of sessions. Some sessions may have limited seating available.

TRILATERAL GROUP

Join members of Unalaska's trilateral group for a discussion on the issues they are currently engaging.

FISHING INDUSTRY

Join longtime Unalaskan Frank Kelty alongside industry leaders Julie Decker (PSPA) and Caitlin Yaeger (APA) as they share insider knowledge about the fishing industry.

Whether you're part of the fleet, work on shore, or are simply curious about the heartbeat of our local economy, this is your chance to gain a deeper understanding of the forces that shape Unalaska.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wanetta Ayers is the Executive Director of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC), a federally recognized Economic Development District (EDD) and Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) serving over fifty communities across the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Chain, Bristol Bay, Kodiak Archipelago, and Pribilof Islands. Her role focuses on economic development strategy, place marketing, workforce development, and small business and tourism support.

Ayers holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, an MBA from the University of Washington, and graduate certificates in economic development and social media marketing. She was born and raised in Anchorage, where four generations of her family reside, and has lived and worked across Alaska — from Juneau and Kenai to Utqiagvik.

In 2021, she was appointed to the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board (AMHOB) and currently serves as its Chair, with her current term lasting through July 1, 2030. Her previous gubernatorial appointments include roles on the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council, the Marine Transportation Advisory Board, and the Alaska Marine Highway Reshaping Working Group.

EDUCATION LUNCH: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

School funding has been a major issue in Alaska for several years. This fiscal year, the state's budget constraints have further limited available resources, and ongoing discussions about education funding have underscored the inadequacy of support for our schools. Join Unalaska City School District (UCSD) Superintendent Kim Hanisch and other UCSD representatives as they provide an overview of educational funding trends in Alaska, highlight the impacts of inadequate funding felt at UCSD, and strategize ways to turn the boat to stay afloat.

BASIC INVESTING

The Alaska Permanent Capital Management (APCM) presentation will provide high level thoughts on investing that are used at the institutional level that can be used for personal use. Learning Outcomes include: Investment Goals and Objectives, Importance of Investing, Retirement, Types of Investments

Bill Lierman, CEO/CIO - Fixed Income

Bill started at APCM in 2002 and has spent his 23+ year career at APCM. Mr. Lierman was elevated to CEO in April 2025. He continues to be responsible for fixed income investments and strategies at APCM. He has 20 years of experience in risk management analytics and working with public and private sector clients.

He holds a BBA from Western Washington University and is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

TOURISM

Join Katherine McGlashan for a presentation on the issues related to tourism in Unalaska. Katherine McGlashan is an Unangan from the Aleutian Islands. She has been the Executive Director of the Unalaska Visitors Bureau for 3 years. She has obtained her 'Cultural and Heritage Tourism' certification from George Washington University in 2023. Her passion to put Unangan Culture in the forefront in tourism is to educate guests of their rich history for those that visit Unalaska and our region from all over the world, and also to show tourists how our past and present lives intertwine.

UCSD 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHT: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Unalaska City School District (UCSD) Superintendent Kim Hanisch will present highlights for the upcoming UCSD school year and also introduce the community to new UCSD staff.



LOCAL HEALTH CARE

Join staff members of Iliuliuk Family Health Services (IFHS) and Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) as they present on their respective organizations and how they are working to meet the health care needs of Unalaska. City of Unalaska Fire Chief Ben Knowles will then moderate a discussion and provide opportunities for the audience to ask questions.

LEGISLATIVE ROUND TABLE & LUNCHEON

Hear from state lawmakers, including Bryce Edgmon, Lyman Hoffman, and others, for engaging discussions of state legislative issues that affect the Aleutians. There will be two sessions: a round table followed by a luncheon. Audience members will be given opportunities to ask questions and engage with their legislators following the presentations.

ELDER FRAUD

The FBI Elder Fraud presentation provides information to community partners on the common frauds and scams impacting elderly Alaskans, ways to detect fraud, and the necessary resources to report it.

SEXTORTION

The FBI Internet Safety/Sextortion presentation provides information to community partners on the risks associated with youth being online, how to navigate online spaces safely, and indicators of the Sextortion threat.

FRONTLINE IN THE ALEUTIANS: FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN UNALASKA, ALASKA

This presentation highlights the realities of delivering pre-hospital EMS and fire services in Unalaska, Alaska. Operating with limited staffing, no mutual aid partners, and tight funding in an isolated location presents significant challenges. Despite these hardships, our personnel and community have shown exceptional resilience, overcoming obstacles through innovation, adaptability, and strong local networks. The presentation concludes with a call for legislative action to support recruitment, retention, funding, and policies that strengthen our ability to protect lives, sustain the economy, and safeguard the infrastructure critical to remote Alaskan communities.

REGIONAL ENERGY

Join speakers Laresa Syverson, Magnus De Witt, ACEP, and Dolores Gregory for an engaging presentation on regional energy possibilities and challenges and what the future may hold for Unalaska.

SHIPPING

Dylan Faber with Matson will provide insights into regional shipping .

BROWNFIELDS

Addressing Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), Brownfields, and Environmental Hazards in Unalaska and the Aleutian Islands. This session will inform the public about ongoing efforts to identify hazardous materials around Unalaska, discuss what the future of clean-up programs may look like in Unalaska and the Aleutian Chain, and give an overview of the history of brownfields identification efforts in Unalaska.

NONPROFIT PANEL

Nonprofit organizations in Unalaska are essential to the health, education, and cultural life of the community. From youth development to cultural preservation to crisis response, these organizations deliver critical services — often with tight budgets, volunteer labor, and significant operational constraints. As costs rise and staff capacity remains limited, many nonprofits are reconsidering their funding models and long-term sustainability. Despite these challenges, local nonprofits regularly collaborate, share resources, and support one another to ensure services remain available to the community. This panel brings together practitioners from across Unalaska’s nonprofit sector to share firsthand experiences, common challenges, and innovative strategies for organizational resilience. Panelists will also discuss the possibility of developing a local Community Foundation to provide long-term support for essential services beyond the scope of annual city funding.



SHUTTLE Information



Tuesday

Shuttle available for trips from the Grand Aleutian Hotel to the Unalaska Public Library	12:00 - 6:00 PM
Shuttle available for transportation from City Hall to the Grand Aleutian Hotel	Following the Unalaska City Council Meeting



Wednesday & Thursday

Shuttle available for trips between the Grand Aleutian Hotel and Conference Sessions.	7:15 AM - 5:00 PM
No shuttle available for transportation to the conference socials.	



Friday

Shuttle available for trips between the Grand Aleutian Hotel and Conference Sessions.	7:15 AM - 1:00 PM
Shuttle to and from Summer Bay Community BBQ	1:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Contacting the Shuttle

Conference guests at the Grand Aleutian Hotel may contact the conference shuttle using a personal phone or by speaking to the check in counter. The shuttle is only available for transportation between the hotel and the conference location, as well as for transportation to the Summer Bay Community BBQ.

To contact the shuttle please call: (907)359-1298



CITY OF UNALASKA PCR PRESENTS



Heart of the Aleutians Festival



Celebrating Culture, Creativity & Community

Downtown
Unalaska

Saturday, Aug 16th
12:00PM-6:00PM

Registration Opens JULY 1st



From
Louisiana,
bringing
Southern Soul

Kai



Unangan Dancers



Samoan Dancers



Filipino Dancers

Explore 35+ local vendors – food, art, handmade goods & more

Family fun zone with games, inflatables, crafts, & paint stations

**Photo ops, community booths, and DJ Carlos bringing the beats
all afternoon**

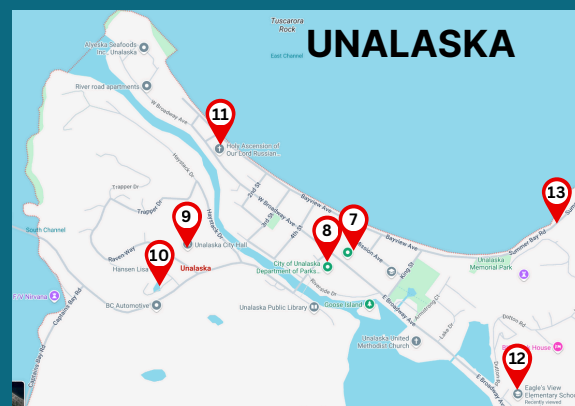
For more information call PCR @ 907-581-1297

CONFERENCE MAP



Dutch Harbor Locations:

1. Tom Madsen Airport
2. Grand Aleutian Hotel
3. Museum of the Aleutians
4. WWII Museum
5. Norwegian Rat Saloon
6. Safeway



Unalaska Locations:

7. Unalaska City High School
8. Community Center
9. City Hall
10. Iliuliuk Clinic
11. Russian Orthodox Church
12. Eagle's View Elementary
13. Road to Summer Bay



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