

The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) 2024 Economic Summit and Membership Meeting was held at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, Alaska, in March 2024. The theme of the 2024 Economic Summit was "Charting a Course Forward in a Dynamic World." In a message from the SWAMC president, "We are entering a period of unprecedented infrastructure investment by the federal and state governments. New industries like mariculture and new tools like robust broadband connectivity offer the potential for a more diverse and stable regional economy. But some of the same challenges remain. How do we develop the workforce necessary to build the future, and how do we provide a safe and healthy environment for them? Will our transportation systems be ready?"

The agenda covered a range of topics pertinent to the region's development and prosperity.

- Discussion on Workforce Development and Job Training for Future Projects. Points included teacher training and retention, electric journeyman programs, or lack thereof. Programs needed to build partnerships to develop programs, such as nursing programs to facilitate licensing transfers. Most efficient career guidance is community based.
- Exploration of Connectivity Horizons: Navigating Regional Broadband and Telecom. New opportunities were in tribal broadband and the use of LEO networks and primary and back-up systems, and the advantages of space-based technologies to fit Alaska rural needs for the next 20 years. Starlink is looking to reduce the number of small satellites to larger ones with increased capacity.
- Focus on Safe Communities: Strengthening Public Safety & Healthcare. Behavioral health to call 988 crisis line. Avoids the emergency room - model to provide the correct level of care. This model is not in rural communities.
- Delve into Mariculture Momentum: Cultivating Sustainable Growth in Coastal Economies
- Explore Frontiers of Prosperity: Emerging Economies in Southwest Alaska's Tomorrow
- Discussion on Navigating Tomorrow's Routes: Transportation Solutions in the region. Consulting options for grants in economics and the energy sectors.

- Video Address by Senator Murkowski and Senator Sullivan
- Harmony in Flux: Navigating Fisheries Management Challenges. Discussion about the influx of Russian seafoods into the market, and the unfair trade agreements of the past. Encourage working with Dept. of Agriculture and delegates to correct.
- Reel Solutions: Overcoming Marketing and Processor Challenges in the Fishing Industry. 2 b dollar loss in 2023 -excess inventory, Russia product (now MSC certified) dumped to support Ukraine war, inflation, more expense for exporting, increase cost of production. ASMI is working to expand into markets in Asia and South America.
- Legislative Update and Discussion with Membership, including Senator Stevens and Representative Stutes.

Speakers and panelists include notable figures such as David Nelson, Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, BOF member Marit Carlson-Van Dort, representatives from various academic and research institutions, government officials, industry leaders, and advocates from sectors like workforce development, telecommunications, healthcare, mariculture, transportation, fisheries management, and seafood processing. The conference aimed to address key challenges and opportunities for economic development and community well-being in Southwest Alaska.

The conference also included the 2024 SWAMC Membership Meeting, which included sub-regional caucuses and board elections, the FY23 financial report and resolutions.