

ALASKA COASTAL COOPERATIVE CONCEPT SUMMARY

The Alaska Coastal Cooperative (ACC) is an innovative organization created to address emerging environmental and socioecological challenges to Alaska's coastal communities. Its members span disciplinary, governmental, and cultural boundaries and share the common goal to identify and act on shared priorities regarding coastal hazards and their impact on the natural and built environment. Administered through the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the ACC serves to facilitate research, baseline data collection, and education/workforce development activities that support the development of community-driven solutions that address these impacts.

Core Mission: To develop synergistic partnerships that elevate local priorities and accelerate actionable coastal resiliency science and communication, advances multidisciplinary applied research on coastal hazards and their socioecological impacts, and contribute towards workforce development and local technical capacity building.

PILLARS OF THE ACC

Communication Hub: *Build a sustainable framework for supportive multi-stakeholder communication and knowledge exchange that elevates local research priorities and enhances synergistic pathways towards coastal resiliency and hazard mitigation solutions.*

- Foster reciprocal relationships with rural coastal communities to match community identified priorities and to incorporate Indigenous knowledge with scientific research expertise and resources
- Develop a UAF communication hub that elucidates and maps ongoing activities providing informational products and knowledge exchange activities that align shared goals and contribute towards the targeting of limited resources

Advance Applied Science: *Advance scientific research and knowledge regarding coastal hazards and their impacts on rural coastal communities*

- Fill baseline geospatial and hydrographic data gaps with innovative and tailored strategies that leverage existing projects and assets and delivers meaningful mapping and other data visualization products.
- Identify current strengths of effective decision-making frameworks and processes in regard to multi-scale coastal hazard mitigation and adaptation solutions

Workforce Development and Education: *Build technical capacity within Tribal organizations through workforce development and education activities*

- Build a network of local ACC coordinators and regional linkages to hub cities through workforce development education programs at UAF's College of Rural and Community Development (CRCD) regional campuses
- Establish an ACC Graduate Fellowship program that builds technical capacity to address coastal resiliency issues
- Implement Tribal governance and geospatial science technical training programs for high school and college students that lead to greater technical capacity and cultural awareness