

Step 1

Discussion / Direction / Decision

of partnership with the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association for a NOAA energy transition planning and pilot testing grant to support the Sitka fishing industry.

Step 2

I MOVE TO _____.

Sara Peterson

From: Linda Behnken <alfafishak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 2:03 PM
To: Sara Peterson
Cc: Marysia Szymkowiak Szymkowiak - NOAA Federal; Thor Christianson; Lauren Howard
Subject: climate resilience fund
Attachments: _Roadmap to resilience in fishing communities.docx

Hi Sara-

Attached is an LOI for a proposed climate resilience project. We are eager to work with the city to advance collaborative energy transition planning and adaptation. We are also happy to modify this LOI in response to City input prior to submitting.

Thank you for including this in the packet for Assembly members.

Happy Holidays!!!
Linda Behnken

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[Read our 2024 SeaBank Annual Report](#)

Draft Letter of Interest

Tentative project title: Roadmap to resilience in fishing communities

Lead PIs: Marysia Szymkowiak (NOAA AFSC Juneau), Linda Behnken (Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust), City and Borough of Sitka

Statement of problem: Climate change is creating tremendous volatility in Gulf of Alaska fisheries and fishing communities. Over the last decade alone, the region has experienced increasing storms, fisheries failures and closures, changing stock distributions, and increasing marine invasive species. Such losses are devastating for the region, as the seafood industry is its economic foundation. Energy efficiency and innovation have emerged as central pillars for adaptation and resilience in the region. In the face of increasing marine storms, decreasing reliance on external provision of fossil fuels has become a critical point to build resilience. In response to fisheries volatility, cost savings through energy efficiency and conversion are critical for ensuring fishermen and communities can maintain fishing livelihoods. The community of Sitka in Southeast Alaska is at the cutting edge of energy innovations in the seafood sector, by finding low-cost solutions to energy efficiency and most recently developing a hybrid electric commercial fishing vessel. This will be the first of its kind in the country. Sitka's seafood processing sector is also eager to reduce fossil fuel energy use and costs to increase profitability and long-term viability, and will participate in innovative energy transition pilot projects as identified through adaptation planning. Because of its insular nature and hydroelectric generating capacity, Sitka is well positioned to lead energy innovation and to directly benefit from reduced use of fossil fuels by the maritime sector. These shared vulnerabilities and ongoing innovations identify the need and the potential benefits of local collaboration on energy planning and solutions. This project will increase that collaboration and facilitate expedited and more efficient energy adaptation.

Summary of work to be completed: We propose a collaborative community-based pilot project for developing a multifaceted roadmap for energy independence by working with the fishing fleet, seafood processors, and municipality of Sitka. This work will build on broader climate adaptation planning efforts occurring in the community for the fishing industry and municipality. The work will consist of a formal adaptation planning effort focused specifically on energy in the seafood industry and municipality – assessing energy vulnerabilities and risks; exploring multifaceted energy strategies; prioritizing solutions; developing implementation timelines and strategies; and formulating monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Through cohesive planning and collaboration, the project will identify local energy solutions that are coordinated, cost effective, and designed to meet Sitka's unique energy profile and needs. We propose an energy audit for Sitka's seafood processing sector as a critical component to understanding local energy vulnerabilities and risk; an energy audit was recently completed for the municipality, although more targeted and detailed audits could fit within the scope of this project. We will rely on this audit work to guide pilot projects that test identified cost effective energy transition strategies.

This pilot project will be critical for energy adaptation in the region and seafood industry more broadly, which is largely occurring on an ad hoc basis without consistent planning and shared solutions. The project will serve to demonstrate how the process of adaptation planning can be applied to a specific

resilience focal area in the region and industry. The project will also help elevate energy solutions regionally that can be applied at multiple scales - community, region, and sector.

Approximate cost of project: \$100K for 12 months. These funds will be used to support: 1) ASFT staff time; 2) Municipal staff time; 3) A targeted energy audit; 4) Travel and supplies (\$5K). Marysia Szymkowiak's time will be provided as cost matching. Budget details to be determined in collaboration with project partners.