

## 2021 Speaker Bios

### Mariculture: The Status of Seaweed & Oyster Farming in Southwest Alaska

**Riley Smith**, Deputy Director

*Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation*

Since its creation in 1978, the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) has been dedicated to identifying opportunities common to the Alaska seafood industry and developing efficient, sustainable outcomes that provide benefits to the economy, environment, and communities. In 2014, AFDF began spearheading the Alaska Mariculture Initiative – a strategy to accelerate the development of mariculture in Alaska. Smith graduated from University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, Environmental Science and Resource Management. At AFDF, Smith works on research related to social responsibility, environmental sustainability certification, mariculture, outreach and communications, grant procurement, and grant management. Smith works closely with the Mariculture Task Force on the implementation of the Alaska Mariculture Development Plan, with a goal to grow a \$100 million industry in 20 years. Email: [rsmith@afdf.org](mailto:rsmith@afdf.org)



**Chris Sannito**, Seafood Technology Specialist

*Alaska Sea Grant*

Christopher Sannito has over 25 years of experience in the Alaska seafood industry. He has earned a Master of Science degree in Food Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is a Fulbright scholar and completed a research project on the post-harvest handling techniques of sashimi tuna from Fiji. He earned his B.S. from Hawaii Loa College in 1989 in Science and Mathematics. In 2003, he founded the Kodiak Seafood Laboratory, Inc., which provides analytical and environmental services for Alaskan seafood processors. Chris has been involved in primary and value-added seafood processing ventures across Alaska with large and small companies. He oversees Kodiak Wildsource, a value-added Kodiak based processor since 2004. He currently serves as a Seafood Technology Specialist with the Alaska Marine Advisory Program. In this role, he provides seafood HACCP training and serves as a recognized process authority for food product development assistance to the public out of the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center. Email: [csannito@alaskan.com](mailto:csannito@alaskan.com)



**Julie Decker**, Executive Director

*Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation*

Julie is the Executive Director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation. Since 1994, Julie Decker has worked in Alaska's seafood industry with a variety of positions including cannery worker, deckhand, diver, vessel owner, and manager of both seafood processing businesses and trade organizations. In the summers, she takes vacation time to commercial fish with her husband, and they also recently applied for a seaweed farm near Wrangell, Alaska. Mrs. Decker has also served on various boards and committees working toward economic development in the seafood industry, including the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, United Fishermen of Alaska, Southeast Conference, Wrangell Borough Assembly, and the Certified Seafood Collaborative. Mrs. Decker holds a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, and a Master of Public Administration, with a concentration in Natural Resource Management, from University of Alaska Southeast. In 2013, Mrs. Decker was presented the *Ernest Gruening Award* for "outstanding graduate student". Email: [jdecker@afdf.org](mailto:jdecker@afdf.org)



**Erik Obrien, Owner/Farmer**

*Kodiak Ocean Bounty*

Erik grew up in Kodiak and Larsen Bay. Leaving home in 1998, Erik ventured out but was never too far from Kodiak. Attending school in Anchorage, he continued to fish in Larsen Bay during the summer. In 2010, he took a job with SWAMC to investigate economic development for Southwest Alaska. Mariculture was one of his first projects, given the vast productive waters, ocean-centric people, and excellent infrastructure. What started out as research morphed into a kelp focus when potential buyers materialized. Preaching the virtues of kelp farming did not materialize, so in 2016 he applied for and received Alaska's first two kelp farming licenses, one in Larsen Bay and one in Kodiak, and convinced a buyer to move to Kodiak setting up operations at Sea Grant facilities and a hatchery in the NOAA lab. But kelp farming was not meant to be, so in 2018 Erik converted his farm to oysters. In 2021, the farm was fully permitted, and the first oyster sales ensued in Kodiak, where demand was phenomenal for locally produced, new fresh seafood. Email: [obrien82@gmail.com](mailto:obrien82@gmail.com)



*It's 2021 – Are we Finally Getting Broadband in Southwest Alaska?*

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**Harold Johnston, Founder/President**

*Alaska Tribal Broadband*

Harold Johnston, a Native Hawaiian raised in a Hawaii tribal community and now an Alaska resident, is the founder and president of Alaska Tribal Broadband LLC (ATB). He has extensive telecommunications management experience. Johnston served as general manager of a rural tribal telephone company, managed secured federal government telecommunications networks, and has run domestic and international operations for AT&T and Verizon. Johnston, along with his Alaska Native partner, Craig Fleener, have positioned ATB to be at the forefront of Alaska's support of tribal broadband initiatives. ATB had a busy 2020, supporting over 60 Alaska tribes file their FCC 2.5 GHz license applications, helping Alaska tribes win 4 of the 25 national BIA Broadband Planning Grants, and is currently assisting multiple tribes prepare "shovel ready" broadband plans to qualify for federal infrastructure funding programs available to tribes. Johnston holds a BS in Engineering from the United States Naval Academy and an MBA from San Jose State University. He served in combat as a Marine infantry company commander. Email: [hjohnston@aktribalbroadband.com](mailto:hjohnston@aktribalbroadband.com)



**Chuck Schumann, CEO**

*Pacific Dataport*

Chuck Schumann is Vice President of Microcom and CEO of Pacific Dataport, Inc. In this role, he leads business development efforts to provide satellite broadband connectivity for all of Alaska. He has more than 40 years of experience in the satellite communications industry with projects throughout Alaska, Russia, Hawaii, and the Lower 48. Mr. Schumann founded Microcom in 1984 to focus on satellite communications projects within Alaska and is responsible for many "firsts" in the industry. Pacific Dataport was founded to solve Alaska's rural broadband problem and is now focused on another first for Alaska; building and launching the Aurora 4A (HTS) and Aurora IV (VHTS) satellites. The result will be the Aurora System – a modern, regional satellite system that will serve Alaskans, telecoms, Tribal entities, schools, and health clinics throughout Alaska. Mr. Schumann has been bringing communications solutions and competition to rural Alaska for 40 years. He is now leading the effort to close the digital divide for all of Alaska by launching the Aurora Project which will connect all Alaskans with affordable internet. Email: [cschumann@pacificdataport.com](mailto:cschumann@pacificdataport.com)



**Mark Lester, President & CEO**

*Alaska Aerospace Corporation*

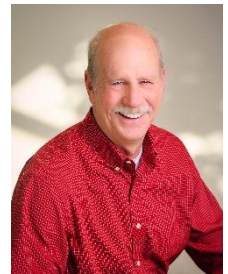
Mark Lester is the President & CEO of Alaska Aerospace Corporation (AAC), a state public corporation responsible to diversify Alaska’s economy with aerospace industry. AAC is best known for developing and operating the Pacific Spaceport Complex – Alaska (PSCA) at Narrow Cape, Kodiak Island. PSCA is a multi-user FAA-licensed spaceport leveraging airport operations know-how for efficiency, innovating new technologies, and is financially sustainable with no government subsidies for operations and maintenance for the past 6 years. Mark is a career space professional with 30-years’ experience in satellite operations, missile defense, and space launch. He served as a US Air Force officer conducting space operations and his aerospace business sector experience includes executive leadership roles at Booz Allen Hamilton, Modern Technology Solutions Inc. (MTSI), and private equity held portfolio companies. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Norwich University and a Master of Engineering in Space Operations from University of Colorado. In addition to launching rockets, Mark is a licensed private pilot and Zamboni driver. Email: [mark.lester@akaerospace.com](mailto:mark.lester@akaerospace.com)



**Dan Boyette, Senior Advisor and VP & GM**

*AU-Aleutians Program, GCI*

Dan Boyette has been with GCI since 1989 working in various positions primarily involved with network expansion activities throughout rural Alaska. Since 2017, he has been pushing as aggressively as possible the plan to get an undersea fiber optic cable run to the communities along the southern Alaska Peninsula and eastern Aleutian Chain. Dan is the Vice President and General Manager of the AU – Aleutians program. Email: [dboyette@gci.com](mailto:dboyette@gci.com)



**Jenifer Nelson, Senior Manager of Corporate Communications and Community Engagement**

*GCI*

Growing up in King Cove gave Jenifer Nelson a unique understanding of the impact that reliable connectivity brings to rural communities. As the senior manager of community relations at GCI, she is responsible for developing strategies and programs in rural communities and ensuring customers have a voice. She is a leading member of GCI’s Rural Affairs Committee and GCI’s Arctic working group, championing projects that improve services in sparsely populated areas. Nelson’s experience and work have earned her positions on a number of boards and committees including the Arctic Council’s Task Force on Telecommunications in the Arctic (TFTIA) under the U.S. chairmanship. She was part of the Task Force to Improve Connectivity in the Arctic (TFICA) under the Finish chairmanship. She was also appointed to the Arctic Economic Council to represent the Aleut International Association and serves as the vice chair of the Aleut Corporation Board of Directors. Email: [jnelson1@gci.com](mailto:jnelson1@gci.com)



*Alaska’s Congressional Delegation*

**United States Senator Lisa Murkowski**

Senator Lisa Murkowski is the state’s first Alaska-born U.S. Senator and has served in the United States Senate since 2002. Since joining the Senate in 2002, Senator Murkowski has worked tirelessly for Alaskans and earned a reputation in the Senate for her ability to work collaboratively and across the aisle to reach common sense solutions. Murkowski is well-known for her love and dedication to her state, which means putting Alaska first. Lisa loves spending time in the Alaska outdoors. She’s an avid skier, has hiked on glaciers, enjoys fall duck hunts, and has a pretty impressive King Salmon mounted on her office wall. She is married to Verne Martell and they have two grown sons.



### **United States Senator Dan Sullivan**

Dan Sullivan was sworn in as Alaska's eighth United States Senator on January 6, 2015. Senator Sullivan serves on four Senate committees vital to Alaska: Armed Services, Environment and Public Works; Veterans' Affairs; and Commerce, Science and Transportation. Senator Sullivan has been able to pass numerous bills and amendments related to rebuilding and modernizing our country's military, responsible resource development, reining in federal overreach, spurring economic development, expanding benefits for our veterans, and helping those who are most vulnerable, including victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Senator Sullivan served as Alaska's Attorney General and Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources—where he focused on pushing back on federal government overreach and growing Alaska's economy. Senator Sullivan served in the George W. Bush Administration as an Assistant Secretary under Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and as a Director in the International Economics Directorate of the National Security Council staff at the White House. Sullivan is also a colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, having served in a variety of command and staff billets on active duty and in the reserves over the past 25 years. He and his wife Julie Fate Sullivan were married more than 25 years ago in Fairbanks and have three daughters.



### **United States Representative Don Young**

Congressman Don Young was re-elected to the 117th Congress in 2020 to serve his 25th term as Alaska's only Representative to the United States House of Representatives. First sworn in as a freshman to the 93rd Congress after winning a special election on March 6, 1973, Congressman Young is today the Dean of the House and the longest serving member of the current Congress. Congressman Young calls Fort Yukon, Alaska home; a remote village of approximately 700 people located 7 miles above the Arctic Circle in Alaska's central interior region. Born on June 9, 1933 in Meridian, California, he earned his associate degree at Yuba Junior College in 1952, and his bachelor's degree in teaching at Chico State College in 1958. Between earning these degrees, he served in the US Army's 41st Tank Battalion from 1955 to 1957.



### *Fishing: Forecasts, Marketing, and Policy Challenges and Opportunities*

**Rachel Baker**, Deputy Commissioner

*Alaska Department of Fish & Game*

Rachel represents the State of Alaska's interests in federal fisheries management issues, including participation on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council on behalf of the Commissioner. Rachel has more than 15 years of experience working to develop and implement fisheries policy and management programs for commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries of Alaska. Prior to joining the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in early 2019, Rachel worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Juneau as an analyst and regulatory specialist for Alaska's federal halibut, groundfish, and crab fisheries. Rachel began her fisheries career as an economist with the ADF&G and later worked as an analyst and fishery manager for the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries and for the National Marine Fisheries Service headquarters office in the Washington, DC area. Email: [Rachel.baker@alaska.gov](mailto:Rachel.baker@alaska.gov)



**Sam Rabung**, Director of Commercial Fisheries

*Alaska Department of Fish & Game*

Commercial Fisheries Director Sam Rabung is a lifelong Alaskan who has worked in salmon fisheries enhancement and mariculture in Alaska for more than 35 years. Before taking his current position, Sam was the Section Chief of Statewide Aquaculture Planning and Permitting for Commercial Fisheries and was responsible for oversight of Alaska's Private Nonprofit (PNP) Salmon Hatchery program, Aquatic Farm permitting, and fish transport and propagative research permitting. He has been a voting member on all Regional Planning Teams statewide and is a member of the Mariculture Task Force. He has worked for USFWS, ADF&G, and Alaskan regional and non-regional aquaculture associations at over 14 hatchery facilities in positions ranging from Technician to General Manager. He has experience working in mariculture as a student researching kelp culture, as





part of a cooperative kelp mariculture training program in Japan, and through working with oysters on permitted Aquatic Farms in Alaska. Rabung graduated with honors in 1987 from Sheldon Jackson College with a B.S., in Aquatic Resources, Fisheries Science and Aquaculture Emphasis. He attended A.J. Dimond High School in Anchorage, where he graduated in 1982. Email: [Samuel.rabung@alaska.gov](mailto:Samuel.rabung@alaska.gov)

**Jeremy Woodrow**, Executive Director

*Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute*

Jeremy Woodrow is the Executive Director for the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute. Jeremy is a born and raised Alaskan whose family has commercially fished in Southeast Alaska for over five decades. He has practiced marketing and public relations in the fields of seafood and state and local government throughout Alaska since 2002. Jeremy is an alumnus of Northern Arizona University where he received his bachelor's in public relations and bachelor's in advertising. He lives in his hometown of Juneau with his wife and two young children. Email: [jwoodrow@alaskaseafood.org](mailto:jwoodrow@alaskaseafood.org)



**Dr. Rachel Donkersloot**

*Coastal Cultures Research*

Rachel Donkersloot is a social scientist by training with broad experience working with communities, non-profits, Tribes, Universities and other fishing and community-based organizations across the state. With more than a decade of policy and research experience in rural fishing communities across the North Pacific and North Atlantic, her work concentrates on fishing community sustainability, rural and Indigenous well-being, marine resource governance, and contemporary youth in the Global North. Recent research projects include: *Graying of the Fleet: Defining the Problem, Assessing Alternatives (2014-2017)*; *Well-Being and Alaska Salmon Systems (2016-2019)*; and the *Indigenizing Salmon Management Project (2017-2023)*. Her work has been recognized nationally and featured in *National Fisherman*, *The New York Times*, and several academic journals. She has been invited to present her work to such decision-making bodies as the Alaska Legislature, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. Rachel was raised in Naknek and maintains strong connections to the region. She currently lives in Palmer, Alaska where she manages her own research and consulting firm, Coastal Cultures Research. Email: [rachel@coastalculturesresearch.com](mailto:rachel@coastalculturesresearch.com)



**Andy Wink**, Executive Director

*Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association*

Andy Wink is Executive Director of the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association (BBRSDA), which seeks to enhance the value of Bristol Bay's salmon fishery through marketing activities, quality improvement, habitat protection, and other efforts. Mr. Wink is also an economist who has spent his most of his career focused on the Alaska seafood industry and analyzing market conditions for the industry's products. He was named top fish economist four years in a row by Alaska Fish Radio before joining BBRSDA in 2018. Email: [andy@bbrsda.com](mailto:andy@bbrsda.com)



*Southwest Alaska Regional Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan*

**Erin Harrington**, Consultant

*McKinley Research Group*

Erin returned to McDowell Group in 2020 after a 12-year hiatus. Erin's passion and experience lie at the intersection of Alaska's renewable natural resources and human cultural and economic values. She also has significant depth in organizational management and design, as well as facility development and new project startup. In recent years Erin developed and lead a long-running culture-change initiative, The Salmon Project. The foundation of that work is the unique interdependence between Alaskan lives and livelihoods and the state's huge and ubiquitous wild salmon resource. The work combined focused communications and network building with intensive facilitated conversations and a laser-sharp digital media and communications strategy. It touched on fields ranging from the arts to scenario planning to



regional economics and political power structures. The Salmon Project was deeply informed by quantitative and qualitative research. Erin also worked a number of years as leadership staff in the Alaska State Legislature, where she focused on renewable resource and fiscal policy. In her free time, Erin can be found outdoors with her family, fostering a love of hiking, beachcombing, skiing and biking in her young son. She is also deeply invested in public media, having served on the boards of three separate public media corporations in Alaska. Erin is part of an Alaska commercial fishing family and has split much of her life between Kodiak and Juneau, Alaska, with additional time spent in Anchorage and Fairbanks, as well as in New England and overseas.

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**Katie Berry, Economist**  
*McKinley Research Group*

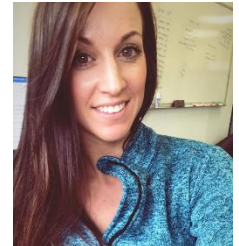
Economist Katie Berry joined McDowell Group in March 2017. Katie previously worked for Union Pacific Railroad as the finance lead on an interdepartmental capital project team tasked with development of new business processes and elimination of inefficiencies. Katie holds Master's degrees in Economics and Finance from the University of Wyoming. As a Teacher's Assistant for the Economics and Finance Department, she led discussions for the Financial Markets & Institutions class and supported instruction of the Behavioral Finance and Banking Management & Policy classes. In addition to transportation and infrastructure, Katie is interested in issues that affect Alaska including public health, tourism, and natural resource use. Katie recently returned to Anchorage, where she was born and raised. Outside of the office, she enjoys travel and outdoor recreation. Email: [kberry@mckinleyresearch.com](mailto:kberry@mckinleyresearch.com)



*COVID-19 Relief: State and Federal Programs that Helped Southwest Alaskans*

**Glenn Hoskinson, Special Assistant to the Commissioner**  
*DCCED*

Glenn Hoskinson is Special Assistant to Commissioner Anderson with the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED). As Special Assistant, she acts as the Legislative Liaison and Public Information Office for the department, taking on special projects as needed. Glenn was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska, has experience in both private and public sectors, and comes from a family of small business owners. She was attracted to DCCED because of her passion to help small businesses grow and thrive in Alaska. When Governor Dunleavy allocated \$290 million in CARES Act funds to DCCED for Small Business Relief in Spring 2020, Glenn jumped right in to take a lead role in assisting businesses with, and acting as a key point of contact for, the AK CARES grant program. Email: [glenn.hoskinson@alaska.gov](mailto:glenn.hoskinson@alaska.gov)



**Keri Scaggs, FORWARD Team Leader**  
*Compass North Solutions, LLC*

Keri Scaggs is the founder of Compass North Solutions, LLC, specializing in connecting people and solving problems for startups as well as multi-billion dollar companies. Though originally from the Bluegrass, she's honored to call Anchorage home. Email: [keriscaggs@gmail.com](mailto:keriscaggs@gmail.com)



**Jon Bittner**, Executive Director

*Alaska Small Business Development Center*

As Executive Director of the Alaska SBDC, Jon Bittner oversees seven regional centers to ensure that the Alaska SBDC provides accessible, high-quality business assistance services to individuals and existing businesses. In his role, he provides program management, advocacy, and fundraising in addition to serving as the Lead Investigator for the various grant programs that are run through Alaska SBDC. He formerly served as vice president of Anchorage Economic Development Center (AEDC). Jon also served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

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*COVID-19 Impacts: Lessons Learned*

**John Conwell**, Superintendent

*Unalaska City School District*

John Conwell is a long time Alaskan educator in his fourteenth year as superintendent of the Unalaska City School District. Under Conwell's leadership, Unalaska High School was awarded the 2011 National Blue Ribbon School Award, and in 2013, Eagle's View Elementary School was a finalist for the Blue Ribbon School Award. Conwell holds a B.A. in History and a Masters in Education Leadership from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In 2018, Conwell was named Alaska Superintendent of the Year. Conwell enjoys volunteer work and is actively involved in his local community. Conwell serves on the Board of the Ballyhoo Lions Club and has been a member of numerous local and statewide planning and advisory committees. In his spare time, Conwell enjoys hiking, fishing, reading, and traveling. Conwell and his wife, Mayumi, have two sons, Brian, a junior at Harvard University, and Sean, a freshman at Western Washington University.

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**Aimee Williams**, Executive Director

*Discover Kodiak*

Aimee Williams is the Executive Director of Discover Kodiak, the Interim Director of the Kodiak Economic Development Corporation (KEDC), and serves on the Kodiak Island Borough Assembly. She was one of four original board members that formed KEDC which facilitated the CARES Act funded small business grant program for the Kodiak Archipelago. Aimee served in the US Coast Guard for twelve years and is a graduate from the US Coast Guard Academy. She then went on to earn her MS in Technology and Human Resources Development from the University of Texas. Aimee has lived in Kodiak for nine years with her husband, a Coast Guard C-130 pilot, and her daughter, a sophomore at Kodiak High School. Email: [director@kodiak.org](mailto:director@kodiak.org)



**Mary Swain**, Executive Director

*Camai Community Health Center*

Mary Swain is the executive Director/CEO of Camai community Health Center in Bristol Bay Borough. She moved to King Salmon as a Senior in High School due to her father being stationed at King Salmon Air Force base. Mary has a degree in Business Management and will finish her degree in Healthcare Management by the end of the year. Prior to accepting the position of Executive Director/CEO she was a 10-year member of the board of directors and an EMTII for 13 years. She is the current Bristol Bay Borough Assembly President and member of the finance committee. As well as serving on the Board for SWAMC, she is the Secretary on the Alaska Primary Care Association board of directors and member of their Policy Advocacy Committee. Mary is married to her high school sweetheart and they have 2 boys that are 18 and 20. Born in Panama, she attended 8 different schools while growing up due to being an Air Force dependent. By the time she turned 18 she had been to



every single state. In her down time she loves traveling, spending time with family, sport and subsistence fishing, gardening, crafting, and reading. Email: [director@camaichc.org](mailto:director@camaichc.org)

**Nicole Kimball, Vice President**

*Pacific Seafood Processors Association*

Ms. Kimball has over 20 years' experience in Alaska fisheries management and policy and currently works for the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, a non-profit trade association comprised of motherships and shorebased seafood processors across Alaska. Prior to this, she served as Federal Fisheries Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, where she represented the state in regional, national, and international fisheries venues, and served as the alternate to the Commissioner on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (2012-2016). Before this Nicole worked as a fisheries analyst for the Council for 12 years. Nicole received a BS in natural resource management at the University of Maine, and a master's in environmental policy and renewable resource management from Tufts University. Nicole currently serves on the board of the Alaska Sea Life Center, the Maritime Works Leadership Council, the Alaska Sea Grant Advisory Committee, and the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute's Communications Committee. Born in Ketchikan, she resides in Anchorage. Email: [NicoleK@pspafish.net](mailto:NicoleK@pspafish.net)



**Frances Leach, Executive Director**

*United Fishermen of Alaska*

Frances Leach is a lifelong Alaskan with deep ties to Alaska's coastal communities. She earned a Bachelor's of Science degree from Oregon State University and a Master's of Arts degree from The George Washington University. Frances grew up commercial fishing with her father in Ketchikan Alaska, providing her with connections and first-hand knowledge about the industry she has championed throughout her professional career. While attending graduate school in Washington, D.C., Frances interned for Senator Ted Stevens and later worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Juneau, a job that required frequent interaction with the Alaska Board of Fisheries and deep knowledge of its regulatory process. Frances also has 15 years of experience in the non-profit sector, where she served as executive director for three non-profit organizations. She is currently the Director of United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) in Juneau where she has served since November 2017. Email: [director@ufa-fish.org](mailto:director@ufa-fish.org)



**Heidi Hedberg, Director**

*State of Alaska Division of Public Health*

Heidi Hedberg currently serves as the Director of the State of Alaska Division of Public Health. Email: [heidi.hedberg@alaska.gov](mailto:heidi.hedberg@alaska.gov)

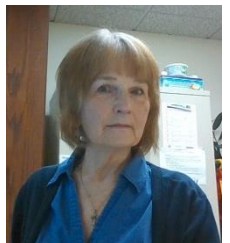


*Vaccine Plans for Southwest Alaska in 2021*

**Tonda Scott BSN-RN, Regional Preparedness and Safety Nurse**

*State of Alaska Department of Health & Social Services*

Tonda Scott has been a nurse for 30+ years, where her career started by working in the Emergency Departments of hospitals in Kansas and Colorado as a staff nurse, a manager, or quality improvement. While working in an Emergency Department in Colorado, she was selected to become a member of the Colorado State Emergency and Medical Trauma Advisory Council. It was during that time that she was introduced to the State All-Hazards Advisory Committee of which hospitals would become actively involved with as part of the state plan. She was exposed to Public Health Clinics and Emergency Management personnel, which reinforced her desire to further her degree and enter a career in Public Health and Disaster Preparedness. After starting work in Colorado, she moved to





Anchorage after feeling a calling to Alaska. Initially, she was an itinerant nurse and traveled to villages to provide health care. After she accepted a position of regional preparedness nurse, she became the DHSS liaison to the State Emergency Operations Center and an instructor for the MAD (Mass Antibiotic Dispensing) and the newer POD Essentials Course. Tonda works with public health centers and other state agencies in reviewing and writing emergency preparedness plans as well as other tasks related to Emergency Preparedness. She currently holds many FEMA preparedness certifications. In working with the state for preparedness, she is responsible for writing and reviewing various plans and guidelines for the section of public health nursing and preparedness. She works with various public health centers and community partners within the state in exercise planning and evaluations. Email: [tonda.scott@alaska.gov](mailto:tonda.scott@alaska.gov)

**Wendy Allen, RN, BSN, TCRN, Trauma Program Manager**

*Rural & Community Health Systems, State of Alaska Division of Public Health*

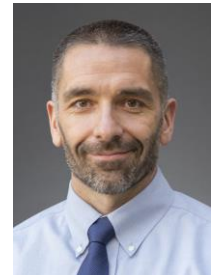
Wendy has served as Trauma Program Manager since 2019, where she is responsible for the oversight of the system of care for severely injured patients in Alaska, including trauma center verification, trauma registry database management, and working with partner entities in areas including practice management guidelines, patient transfer criteria, and injury prevention activities. Previously, Wendy served as Pediatric Trauma Program Coordinator and Trauma Program Analyst for Providence Alaska Medical Center. Wendy has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Email: [wendy.allen@alaska.gov](mailto:wendy.allen@alaska.gov)



**Dr. Robert Onders, Alaska Native Medical Center Administrator**

*Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium*

Dr. Robert Onders is the Medical Director for Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). He was the President of Alaska Pacific University (APU) from January 2017 to April 2020 when APU affiliated with the ANTHC. Prior to joining ANTHC in 2015, Dr. Onders worked as clinical director for Kodiak Area Native Association and emergency department director at West Park Hospital in Cody, Wyoming. Dr. Onders graduated from a combined six-year B.S./M.D. program through Kent State University and Northeast Ohio Medical University in 1997. He completed his Family Medicine residency, Juris Doctorate, and Master of Public Administration with the University of Wyoming. Email: [rpanders@anthc.org](mailto:rpanders@anthc.org)



**Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer**

*State of Alaska*

Anne grew up in Colorado and moved through her training from College in Philadelphia to Medical School at Stanford and then Residency at University at Utah. As a mountaineering guide she had fallen in love with Alaska and after residency in Emergency Medicine became lucky enough to call Alaska home. Not only does she love the people and the place, but also the medicine. Alaska is a small isolated microcosm of U.S. health care where certain forces like distance, lack of referral centers, and community involvement help create better systems of care that are directly related to bedside care. She quickly became involved in helping improve systems of care as the medical director of her group, then in her hospital and with state and federal legislation, including state legislation to improve care coordination, opioid addiction treatment option, integration between private systems and the VA, DOD, and IHS facilities and more. Dr. Zink had the honor of becoming the State of Alaska Chief Medical Officer in July 2019. In all the work she does, she strives to create work environments, policies, and practices that are data-driven, foster collaboration, and build system efficiencies that put patients first. Email: [anne.zink@alaska.gov](mailto:anne.zink@alaska.gov)

