



Supporting Our Fisheries

Senator Lisa Murkowski, co-chair of the Senate Oceans Caucus, has a strong record of supporting Alaska's fishing industry and waters. Through legislation and her position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, she continues to advocate for and fund strong science and science-informed management. Below are examples of how she is delivering on that promise.

Blue Economy: Murkowski is a leader on strengthening the blue economy, including supporting Alaska's unique and growing mariculture industry. The BLUE GLOBE Act accelerates technology development, promotes a stronger maritime workforce, and bolsters the blue economy. The Ocean Regional Opportunity and Innovation Act establishes and grows "Ocean Innovation Clusters" to promote and enhance the maritime industry, accelerate and invest in ocean innovation, strengthen our coastal communities, and increase national participation in the global blue economy.

Fisheries: Murkowski has successfully carried appropriations language requiring the accurate labeling of genetically modified salmon since 2014. In FY 2022, she appropriated \$7.5 million for bycatch monitoring efforts in Alaska's fisheries in the North Pacific Observer Program and \$10.2 million in funding to maintain historic levels of fisheries survey coverage in Alaska.

Healthy Oceans and Coastlines: Murkowski prioritizes issues like enhancing wastewater treatment capabilities, marine debris cleanup efforts, and ocean observation. The law to combat marine debris, the *Save Our Seas 2.0 Act*, of which Senator Murkowski was a cosponsor, also included Murkowski's provision that allows for the establishment of a new Genius Prize to fund the development of materials to replace single use plastic and innovations that remove and prevent plastic waste, creating incentives for the development of projects to clean up our oceans and shorelines.

Fostering Resilience in Alaska's Fisheries, Waterways, and Coasts: Murkowski is working to improve the Alaska's fisheries, coastal habitats, and communities through resilience-focused initiatives and priorities. In FY 2022, she secured \$65 million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, funds which are available to Tribes without a match. Additionally, Murkowski appropriated \$39.5 million for Pacific Salmon Treaty activities plus an additional \$34.4 million through her *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.

Trade: Following Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, Murkowski championed legislation to prohibit the importation of Russian seafood. Soon after introduction of the United States-Russian Federation Seafood Reciprocity Act, the administration issued an Executive Order banning all Russian seafood imports.

Infrastructure: When writing the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, Murkowski advocated for waterfront communities, including by securing: \$227.5 million to the Coast Guard for projects in Kodiak, Seward, and Ketchikan; \$1 billion to replace culverts that impede salmon passage; \$17 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, including to build the Port of Nome, to address erosion on the Kenai Bluffs, to construct the Lowell Creek diversion in Seward, and operations and maintenance of the Ninilchik and St. Paul harbors; \$50 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's ocean and coastal observing programs; \$100 million for the Department of the Interior to eradicate invasive species; and \$100 million for the U.S. Forest Service to restore native vegetation and improve watershed health in the Chugach and Tongass National Forests.



The Congressionally Directed Spending process allows Alaskans' to have a voice in federal budget decisions by identifying priorities in the state. Without this process, many of these dollars would flow to other states.

FISHERIES & WORKING WATERFRONTS

As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee and of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Senator Murkowski championed the following Congressionally Directed Spending allocations for Alaska in the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill.

- **Bering Sea:** \$2.75 million for the Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation to monitor commercial fisheries in the Bering Sea.
- **Fairbanks/Statewide:** \$1.75 million to the University of Alaska Fairbanks to conduct baseline marine fishery surveys.
- **Homer:** \$300,000 to the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study the large vessel harbor expansion.
- **Kodiak:** \$1 million to the Island Trails Network for removal, recycling and recovery of debris from the Alaska marine environment.
- **Statewide:** \$2 million for salmon monitoring in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River watersheds.
- **Statewide:** \$500,000 to the Tanana Chiefs Conference to address the large data gap regarding salmon populations on the Yukon River.
- **Statewide:** \$1.2 million for ecological monitoring in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.
- **Statewide:** \$880,000 for implementation of the Intertribal Federal Subsistence Cooperative Management Program at the Kuskokwim River Watershed.
- **St. George:** \$2.5 million to the USACE to fund engineering and design of a harbor.
- **St. Paul/Statewide:** \$250,000 to the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island for surveillance monitoring of fisheries and ecosystems.
- **Unalaska:** \$25.6 million to the USACE to expand Dutch Harbor.
- **Yukon River Drainage:** \$825,000 to the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association to support research, surveys, and community engagement.

In FY 2022, Murkowski secured funding for the following projects:

- **Ketchikan:** \$1.25 million to replace the Schoenbar Creek culvert, which salmon use for safe passage.
- **Kodiak:** \$987,000 to the Alaska Research Consortium to develop a refrigeration certificate training program for Alaska seafood processors.
- **Kodiak:** \$50,000 to the Kodiak Area Native Association to study algal blooms.
- **Seward:** \$1.1 million to the Alaska Sealife Center to study marine animal health and changing oceans.
- **Sitka:** \$840,000 to the Sitka Sound Science Center to renovate buildings used for aquaculture training programs.
- **Statewide:** \$2 million for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to support Alaska fisheries and the adoption of modern technology.
- **Statewide:** \$100,000 to the Alaska Division of Agriculture for surveys of invasive species, like zebra mussels, elodea, and snails.