



# *Growing Alaska*

*through responsible resource development*

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*2012 Annual Report  
Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.*

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Jan Trigg, Coeur Alaska, Juneau

## What is RDC?

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

See RDC staff profiles at:  
[akrdc.org/membership/board/staff](http://akrdc.org/membership/board/staff)

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### Resource Development Council

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[resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org)

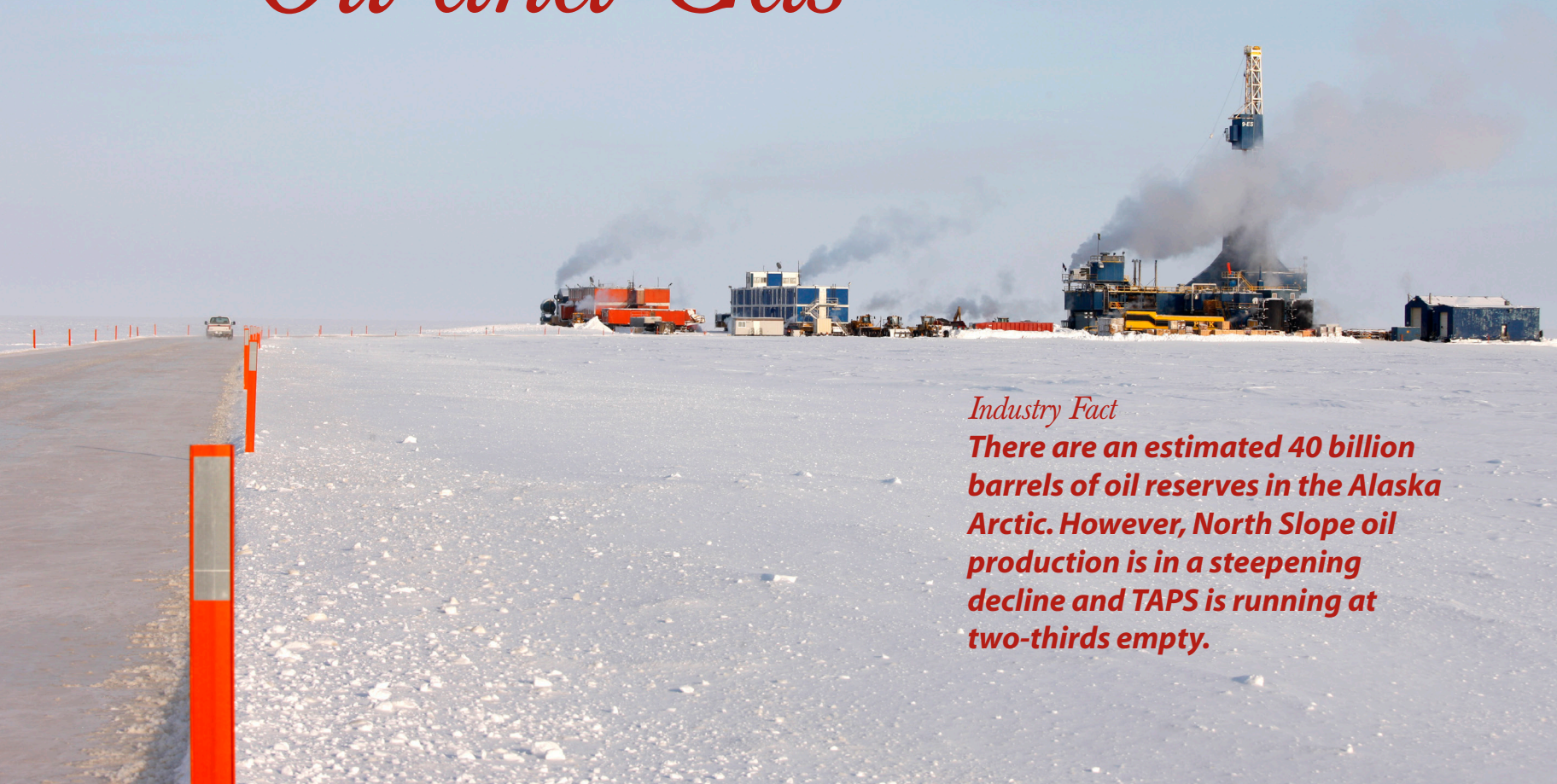


Become a fan on Facebook:  
Resource Development Council



Follow RDC on Twitter: [alaskardc](https://twitter.com/alaskardc)

# *Oil and Gas*



## *Industry Fact*

***There are an estimated 40 billion barrels of oil reserves in the Alaska Arctic. However, North Slope oil production is in a steepening decline and TAPS is running at two-thirds empty.***

# Overview

The oil and gas industry has driven much of the growth in Alaska's economy and has paid for state government operations in Alaska for 40 years. If oil had never been discovered on the North Slope, Alaska's economy today would be about half as big and so would its current workforce, according to the Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Alaska has produced over 17 billion barrels of oil and in 1988 it accounted for 25 percent of domestic production. With the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline now running at two-thirds empty, Alaska's share of domestic production has fallen to 11 percent. But it is not for a lack of oil. In fact, there is estimated to be at least 40 billion barrels remaining to be tapped on the North Slope and offshore areas of the Alaska Arctic. This oil has the potential to support the Alaskan economy for generations.

In the near-term, oil will come mostly from producing fields, which may have about five billion barrels of conventional oil remaining. There are other known but not yet producing fields on state land that could hold two billion barrels. Federal areas onshore and offshore may contain up to 36 billion barrels of oil.

Today the industry continues to generate an overwhelming majority of Alaska's general fund revenues, accounting for over 90 percent, or \$7.048 billion, of all unrestricted

state revenue in fiscal year 2011. FY 2012 unrestricted revenues from oil production is anticipated to be \$9.162 billion and FY 2013 revenues are forecast to reach \$7.7 billion. Over the past 40 years, the state has received \$164 billion in revenues from oil.

Daily oil production in FY 2011 was 609,000 barrels per day and 580,000 barrels per day in FY 2012. Oil production is expected to fall to 563,000 barrels per day in FY 2013. A third of Alaska's jobs, about 127,000, are oil related and depend on oil production.

## *RDC's Efforts*

- Advocated for revisions to Alaska's oil production tax structure to enhance Alaska's competitiveness for investment.
- Played a leading role in advocating for oil and gas leasing in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas.
- Provided testimony and comments on OCS drilling plans and oil discharge prevention and contingency plans.
- Testified on the DEIS on the Effects of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic Ocean.
- Testified on the Integrated Activity Plan for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

- Testified and submitted comments on the ANWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan.
- Supported legislation to encourage exploration in new basins of Interior and Western Alaska.
- Testified on the Point Thomson DEIS.
- Supported the Shadura oil and gas project in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.
- Published Action Alerts and submitted comments on a wide range of other oil and gas issues.
- Featured updates on issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from oil industry executives across the state.
- Published background paper on the oil and gas industry at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org).



*Industry Fact*

**In 2011, mining provided 4,500 jobs  
in over 120 communities around  
Alaska, paying \$620 million in direct  
and indirect payroll.**

*Mining*



# Overview

Mining in Alaska provides thousands of jobs and pays millions of dollars in communities throughout the state, often in communities where no other opportunities exist.

There are seven large producing mines in Alaska, and six more in either the exploration or permitting phase, as well as thousands of smaller operations throughout Alaska.

While money spent on development was down from the previous year, to \$175 million, exploration expenditures were up in 2011 to \$300 million.

Mining in Alaska produces zinc, lead, gold, platinum, silver, coal, and construction materials such as sand and gravel.



## RDC's Efforts

- Supported expansion for the Greens Creek Mine tailings facility.
- Supported coal exploration and permits at Jumbo Dome and Wishbone Hill.
- Advocated for a fair process for the Pebble Project, including opposing the EPA's premature assessment of the Bristol Bay Watershed and potential preemptive action.
- Supported critical minerals access and legislation.
- Supported Kensington Mine APDES permit.
- Worked on other issues directly and indirectly impacting the mining industry, see pages 16-17.
- Featured updates on mining issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from industry executives across the state.
- Published background paper on the mining industry at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org).



# Forestry

A logger wearing a white hard hat, a grey long-sleeved shirt, and blue jeans with orange suspenders is using a chainsaw to cut a large tree trunk. The logger is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing away from the camera. The tree trunk is thick and has a rough, textured bark. The background is a dense forest with many tall, thin trees and green foliage.

## *Industry Fact*

**In 2011, only 32 million board feet of timber was logged in the Tongass, even though the forest plan allows for an annual sustainable harvest of up to 267 million board feet.**

# Overview

In the 1970s, the forest sector was the second largest industry in Alaska. However, major government policy and federal land-use shifts in the 1990s radically transformed the industry. Yet forestry still holds much potential to diversify the economy. The forest industry is a renewable resource, providing jobs and biomass energy for the 49th state.

Most commercial logging has taken place in the coastal zone, primarily in the Tongass National Forest and Native corporation land in Southeast Alaska. More harvests are now taking place on state lands, including biomass energy projects in the Interior. Creation of the Southeast State Forest in 2011 was a good start to securing a state-owned land base for forest management in that region.

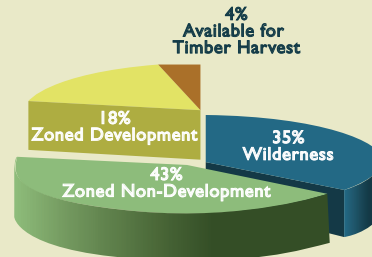
In 2011, only 32 million board feet of timber was harvested from the Tongass National Forest, even though the current forest plan allows for an annual sustainable harvest of up to 267 million board feet. (The annual sustainable harvest level set under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 was 520 million board feet.) Timber harvests on Native Corporation lands reached 110 million board feet in 2011. Meanwhile, the State of Alaska sold 24 million board feet of timber in 71 sales statewide in 2011. These sales included timber to help support mills in Southeast Alaska hit hard by the decline in federal timber sales.

According to the Alaska Department of Labor, there were 307 people directly employed in forestry and logging jobs across Alaska in 2011, down from 4,600 in 1990. An additional 150 in wood products and manufacturing jobs contributed to a total payroll of \$21 million in 2011.

## RDC's Efforts

- Worked with the Alaska legislature and the State to add 23,181 acres of commercial forest lands to the Southeast Alaska State Forest.

- Supported the creation of a Susitna Valley State Forest.
- Supported the Sealaska federal lands bill.
- Submitted comments on the new Forest Service Planning Rule.
- Supported state and federal timber sales.
- Featured forestry issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from executives across the state.



Entire Tongass



Tongass Old-Growth

Only seven percent or a little over 400,000 acres of the total productive old-growth has been logged over the last 100 years in the Tongass National Forest. About 15% of the highest volume stands have been harvested, while about 85% of the forest's highest volume old-growth remains unharvested. Over the next 100 years, less than 10% of this high volume old-growth is to be harvested.

# MINERAL, OIL, AND GAS RESOURCES OF ALASKA

DIGITAL SHADED RELIEF IMAGE OF ALASKA

BY J.R. RIELHE ET AL., 1996,

USGS MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATIONS MAP 1-2585

Mineral Information provided by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.

Oil and Gas Data provided by AK DNR DOG, US MMS, and BLM.

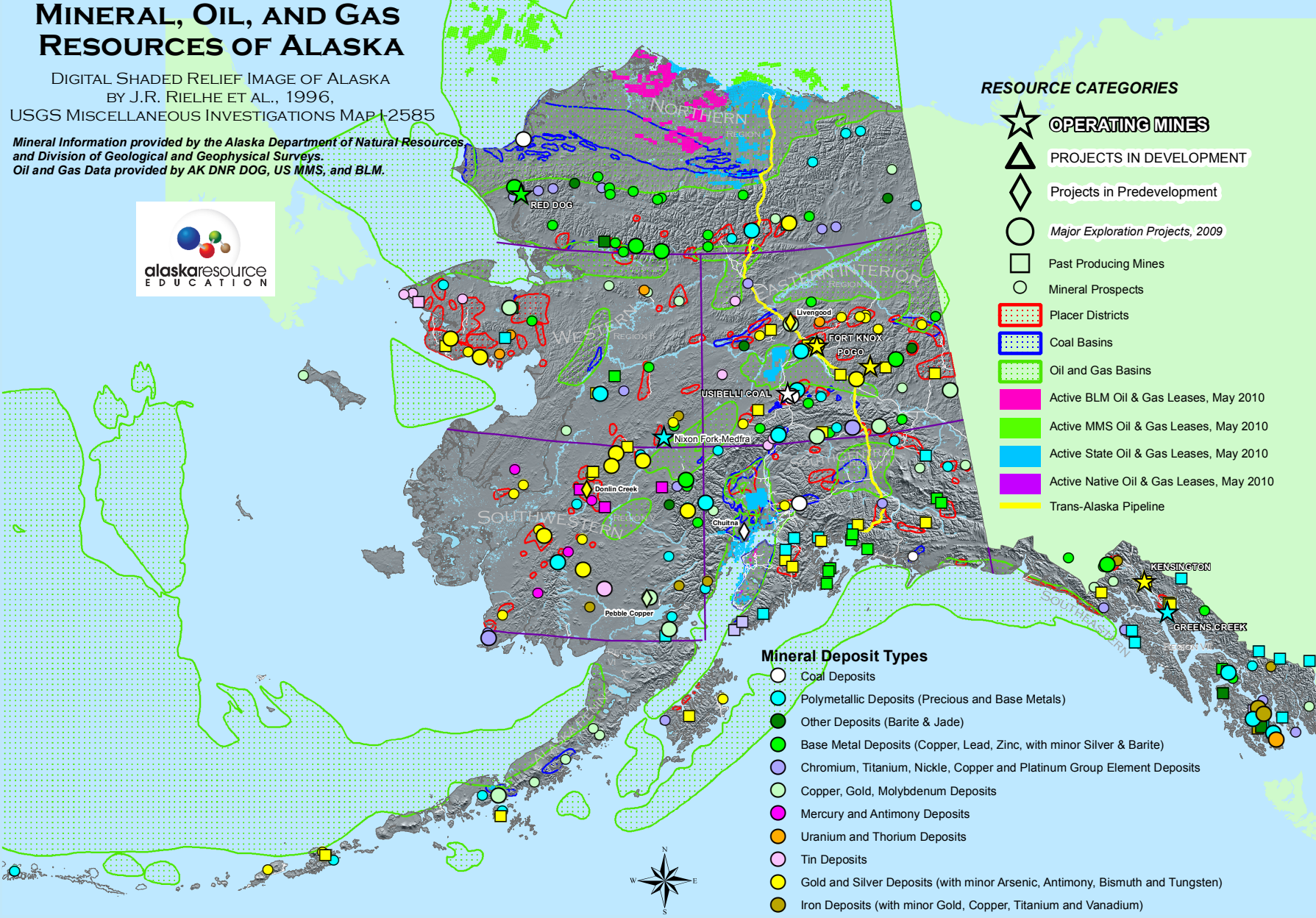


## RESOURCE CATEGORIES

- ★ OPERATING MINES
- ▲ PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT
- ◇ Projects in Predevelopment
- Major Exploration Projects, 2009
- Past Producing Mines
- Mineral Prospects
- ▨ Placer Districts
- ▨ Coal Basins
- ▨ Oil and Gas Basins
- Active BLM Oil & Gas Leases, May 2010
- Active MMS Oil & Gas Leases, May 2010
- Active State Oil & Gas Leases, May 2010
- Active Native Oil & Gas Leases, May 2010
- Trans-Alaska Pipeline

## Mineral Deposit Types

- Coal Deposits
- Polymetallic Deposits (Precious and Base Metals)
- Other Deposits (Barite & Jade)
- Base Metal Deposits (Copper, Lead, Zinc, with minor Silver & Barite)
- Chromium, Titanium, Nickel, Copper and Platinum Group Element Deposits
- Copper, Gold, Molybdenum Deposits
- Mercury and Antimony Deposits
- Uranium and Thorium Deposits
- Tin Deposits
- Gold and Silver Deposits (with minor Arsenic, Antimony, Bismuth and Tungsten)
- Iron Deposits (with minor Gold, Copper, Titanium and Vanadium)



# WHERE CAN WE DEVELOP ALASKA'S RESOURCES?

## Federal Land - through Federal mining claims, oil & gas leases and timber sales

- Chugach National Forest
- Tongass National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Petroleum Reserve - Oil and Gas only

## State Land - through State mining claims, agreements, oil & gas leases and timber sales

- State Land
- Mental Health Trust Lands

## Native Land - through leases and agreements

- Native Land

## Private Land - through leases and agreements

- Private and Municipal Land

## WHERE CAN WE NOT DEVELOP ALASKA'S RESOURCES?

### Federal Land

- Tongass National Forest Wilderness Areas
- National Monuments
- National Parks and Preserves
- National Wildlife Refuges\*
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Steese National Conservation Area
- White Mountains National Recreation Area
- Major Military Land

\*Oil and gas leasing is permitted if found to be compatible with the refuge.

### State Land

- State Historic and Recreation Sites
- State Parks

## WHO OWNS ALASKA'S LANDS?

### The Federal Government

- Chugach National Forest (USFS)
- Tongass National Forest (USFS)
- Tongass National Forest Wilderness Areas (USFS)
- National Monuments (USFS)
- National Parks and Preserves (NPS)
- National Wildlife Refuges (USFWS)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers (BLM)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- National Petroleum Reserve (BLM)
- Steese National Conservation Area (BLM)
- White Mountains National Recreation Area (BLM)
- Major Military Land (DOD)

### The State of Alaska

- State Land
- State Historic and Recreation Sites
- State Parks
- Mental Health Trust Lands

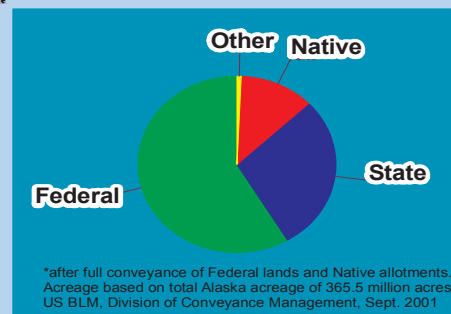
### Alaska Natives

- Native Land

### Private Citizens and Municipalities

- Private and Municipal Land

## Who Owns Alaska?\*



Land Status information provided by Alaska Department of Natural Resources, General Land Status, Land Ownership file, State Park Units files, USDA Forest Service Geospatial Service and Technology Center (GSTC), Special Designated Areas for USDA Forest Service Alaska Region (R10), Mental Health Trust Land Office, April 2007.

*Industry Fact* **For the 22nd year in a row, Dutch Harbor – Unalaska has led the nation with the largest amount of fish landed.**

# *Fishing*



# Overview

Alaska has one of the best-managed fisheries in the nation, including all five species of wild Pacific salmon. The science-based management is a model for the world. Other seafood harvested in Alaska includes pollock, cod, crab, shrimp, scallops, geoduck, halibut and several varieties of other groundfish.

Seafood from Alaska provides over half of our nation's landings, and continues to be Alaska's largest private sector employer. The value of seafood harvested from Alaska is over \$1.7 billion.

The fishing industry continues to provide jobs in rural and coastal communities, and pays millions as a tax base for many of those communities.

Additionally, sportfishing in Alaska is a \$1.4 billion industry, providing approximately 16,000 jobs statewide, and \$125 million in state and local taxes.



## RDC's Efforts

- Ongoing efforts to track national ocean policy, including Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.
- Commented on the ESA Draft Policy on Interpretation of "Significant Portion of its Range."
- Support the delisting of the Steller sea lion.
- Published background paper on the fishing industry at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org).
- Featured fishing issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from executives across the state.



# *Tourism*



## *Industry Fact*

**Of the 1.56 million summer visitors in 2011,  
83% came from other parts of the U.S.**

# Overview

Alaska is different than any other destination in the world. Each day there is something new to see, from glaciers to wildlife, to mountains and coastlines. Alaska continues to be a popular destination for visitors, but isn't as strong as it was several years ago.

RDC, along with other visitor organizations, continues to work to create a positive business environment in Alaska for the cruise and tourism industries.

While the number of visitors was slightly up, tourism businesses are still hopeful the latest policy changes will continue to reverse the decline seen in 2008.

An increase to 1.56 million people visited Alaska during the summer of 2011 over the previous summer. Of this figure, 57% arrived by cruise ship, 39% by air, and the remainder by highway or ferry.

Tourism continues to be the second-largest private sector employer in Alaska, supporting approximately 40,000 direct and indirect jobs. Tourism is a renewable resource with many opportunities yet to be discovered.



## RDC's Efforts

- Remained engaged with AlaskaACT and promoted its mission to advocate for a positive business environment for Alaska tourism.
- Work to educate Alaskans on EPA's Emission Control Area, impacting transportation and tourism across Alaska.
- Support equitable environmental laws for the tourism industry.
- Engaged in tourism promotion to increase awareness of environmentally-sound practices, such as wastewater treatment systems and recycling management.
- Supported increased access and infrastructure for tourism across the state.
- Featured tourism issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from executives across the state.
- Published background paper on the tourism industry at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org).



# *Legislature*

The RDC Board and staff continued its active engagement in Juneau last session, testifying and providing written comments on a number of bills.

- CS SB 192 - Supported oil production tax reform
- Rallied Alaskans to oil production tax reform hearings
- CS SB 145, CS HB 276 – Supported New Basin Oil and Gas Tax Credits
- HB 168 - Supported Injunction Security: Industrial Operation
- SB 152 - Testimony opposing Legislative Approval of Bristol Bay Sulfide Mine
- CS SB 159 - Testimony in support of a Susitna State Forest
- SB 25 - Support of AIDEA Sustainable Energy Program
- HB 352 - An Act supporting integration of Resource Development Curriculum
- Support of Alaska Laborers' Training School
- HJR 29 - Urge BLM to clean-up Legacy Wells in NPR-A
- HJR 20 - Roadless Rule Tongass/Chugach National Forests
- HJR 31 - Support designation of Central Park as Wilderness
- HR 3407 - Open Coastal Plain of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil/gas development

## *Alaska Business Report Card*

RDC participated in the Alaska Business Report Card, which released performance grades of the 27th Alaska Legislature. The report card is issued to give the collective memberships of Alaska business and industry associations a clear sense of how each legislator, caucuses, and the Governor are working to create a healthy economic climate in Alaska. The Alaska Business Report Card was formed in 2010. For more information, please visit [alaskabusinessreportcard.com](http://alaskabusinessreportcard.com).

Visit [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org) for updates on these and other important issues

# *Endangered Species Act*

RDC members are significantly and directly impacted by the ESA. The preponderance of recent and pending listings of species and distinct population segments in Alaska is compounding the challenges of developing and managing the natural resources of Alaska that are critical to the economy, national security, and the general welfare of Alaskans. RDC continues to work on ESA listings and critical habitat designations, including the Cook Inlet beluga whales, polar bears, the Southwest Alaska sea otters, Steller sea lions, Ringed and Bearded seals, and a number of other species. RDC provided comments on a federal policy on the interpretation of “significant portion of range” as it applies to implementation of the ESA and cooperated with the State of Alaska in hosting an ESA forum in November 2011.

# *ACMP*

RDC recognizes the importance of an Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) and supports a long-term process to address local concerns. In 2011, RDC supported the passage of HB 106, which crafted a compromise that would have extended the then-existing ACMP. The bill passed the House by a unanimous 40-0 vote, but the Legislature failed to renew the program, which sunset June 2011. At the time of publication for this annual report, RDC was working with other groups to oppose a ballot initiative, which would establish an overreaching coastal management program that would be extremely problematic for resource development, suppress the economy and hinder job creation. RDC opposes a coastal program that shifts decision making authority from the State to other entities, adds process, duplicates state or federal requirements, or impedes or delays progress on resource development.

# *National Ocean Policy*

With more coastline than all other states combined, Alaska’s stake in the emerging National Ocean Policy, including Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP), is unmatched. Subsequently, the impact of any ocean policy will affect Alaska significantly. A large number of industries, including transportation, fishing, oil and gas, tourism, and mining, will likely be impacted from any new regulations, with no added benefit to the environment. Any ocean policy should not further hinder Alaska’s ability to responsibly develop its natural resources. RDC will continue to caution the National Ocean Council about ocean policy and push back against CMSP.



RDC Executive Director Rick Rogers testifies before a federal panel.

# *Emission Control Area*

RDC is engaged in the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Emission Control Area” (ECA) rule effective around the entire coastline of the U.S. and Canada on August 1, 2012, encompassing a 200 mile limit off shore. ECA will impact industries around Alaska, including tourism and transportation, with a disproportionately higher impact to Alaska. RDC will work closely with its members on this important issue.

# *Other issues*

RDC has also been engaged in a number of other issues, including the Long-Range Transportation Plan For Alaska Federal Lands, CEQ’s Draft Guidance on NEPA reviews, Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, NPDES Primacy, Knik Arm Bridge, Izembek Land Exchange, Alaska Railroad track extensions and federal funding, and State fiscal plan.



### **Community Outreach Trip – August 27-29, 2011**

Over 30 RDC board members, staff, and guests traveled the Dalton Highway (the Haul Road) from Fairbanks to Prudhoe Bay. The group visited the Tower Hill Mine in Livengood for a project presentation, as well as stopped at the Yukon River bridge to view the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. A stop at the Arctic Circle was necessary before heading further north to Cold Foot. The group toured oil and gas operations in Prudhoe, as well as the Deadhorse Aviation Center, the Lynden Terminal, and Cruz Companies facilities.

## *Events*

### *Online Tools*

Stay up to date with important issues to RDC members.

- **View action alerts and comment letters**
- **Access industry overviews**
- **Be in the know on RDC events**
- **Watch presentations**
- **View corporate and individual members**
- **View RDC board and staff**
- **Read RDC newsletters back to 1978**
- **Look over RDC policy positions**
- **See RDC's involvement in legislative issues**

*All this, and more at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org)*



### **Annual Meeting – June 28, 2011**

The 36th Annual Meeting featured guest speaker Karen Budd-Falen, addressing the cost of environmental litigation to Americans. Governor Sean Parnell gave brief remarks explaining what Alaska is doing to push back against environmental litigation.



### **Breakfast Meetings – September-May**

Breakfast forums on the first and third Thursday of the month feature current events and hot topics, including resource development project updates, renewable energy projects, legislative presentations, and more.

*Presentations and videos of all RDC events available at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org)*



### Alaska Resources Conference – November 16-17, 2011

The 32nd Annual Conference attended by over 1,100 people featured nearly 30 speakers from across Alaska's resource sectors. Legislators, state and federal agency officials, industry representatives and students attended two days of panel sessions, a multi-industry trade show, and a VIP reception open to all attendees. Above are Margie Brown, President and CEO, Cook Inlet Region, Inc., and Bill Ayer, Chairman, Alaska Airlines.



### Special Events

RDC coordinated and cosponsored several special events throughout the year. Forums included an Endangered Species Act Primer, BP's Statistical Review of World Energy, a luncheon featuring the Sackett family's litigation against the Environmental Protection Agency (photo below), a rally for oil tax reform, and more.



### Women In Resources Reception February 23, 2012

Women RDC board members and staff hosted the eighth annual reception in Juneau. Over 65 women legislators, administration officials, business leaders, and women policy makers, as well as U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, attended the event recognizing Women in Resources.



### Legislative Fly-in to Juneau January 23-24, 2012

RDC board members and staff traveled to Juneau and met with the Governor, legislators, and administration officials to discuss issues affecting RDC members. The two days of meetings included a reception to engage with legislators and policy makers.



(Photo by Frank Flavin)



## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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Oil and gas



Mining



Fishing



Forestry



Tourism