

2026 SWAMC Economic Summit & Membership Meeting, March 4-6

“Currents of Change, Waves of Opportunity”

The conference centers on how Southwest Alaska communities can navigate ongoing environmental, economic, and social changes while identifying new opportunities for growth and resilience. A strong emphasis is placed on collaboration across communities, agencies, and industries.

Community Resilience & Hazard Mitigation

- Discussions on shore erosion, slope failures, and extreme weather events
- Updates from state agencies on emergency response and mitigation planning
- Interactive sessions where communities shared challenges and solutions directly with agencies

Rural Health Transformation

- Overview of a \$272 million Rural Health Transformation Program
- Focus on improving access to healthcare in remote communities
- Emphasis on long-term sustainability of rural health systems

Membership & Regional Collaboration

- Annual membership meeting to:
 - Discuss organizational priorities
 - Review resolutions and initiatives
 - Elections
- Reinforces SWAMC’s role as a regional coordinating body

Arctic Opportunities

- Exploration of how climate and economic shifts in the Arctic create:
 - New development opportunities
 - Strategic importance for Southwest Alaska
- Focus on balancing economic growth with environmental and community impacts

Fisheries & Seafood Industry (“Fish Friday”)

- State of the seafood industry (economics, policy, markets)
- Perspectives from:

- Government regulators
 - Industry leaders
 - Regional organizations
- Scientific discussions on fish stock genetics and sustainability
- Focus on long-term viability and management of fisheries, a critical regional industry

Core Takeaways

- **Collaboration is essential:** Success depends on partnerships between communities, tribes, agencies, and businesses.
- **Resilience is a priority:** Climate change and environmental risks are central challenges.
- **Economic diversification matters:** Opportunities exist in healthcare, Arctic development, and fisheries innovation.
- **Science + policy integration:** Data-driven decision-making (e.g., fisheries genetics) is key to sustainability.

Alaska Legislative Delegation Update

Candidates Forums

Gubernatorial Candidates

US House of Representatives