

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

**Alaska Maritime Education Consortium –  
Seward, Dillingham, Kodiak, Homer, Valdez & Ketchikan, Alaska**

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates the Alaska Maritime Education Consortium (AMEC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its statewide training infrastructure, Arctic maritime capabilities, and public-private industry partnerships. Led by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), on behalf of the Alaska Maritime Training Center at AVTEC in Seward, and the University of Alaska (UA) system (including campuses in Ketchikan, Valdez, Kodiak, Homer, and Dillingham), AMEC serves as the primary maritime training engine across 34,000 miles of Alaska coastline.

**Operational Footprint & Assets**

Integrates six specialized postsecondary training nodes to deliver over 40 USCG-approved courses and 125 individual maritime tracks across afloat and ashore disciplines:

- **Simulator & Navigation Infrastructure:** Operates 4 Transas/Wärtsilä Full-Mission Bridge Simulators (3 in Seward, 1 in Ketchikan), computer-based radar/ECDIS navigation labs, and an industry-recognized marine firefighting grounds.
- **Afloat Mariner Pipelines:** Provides USCG/STCW hawsepipeline advancement tracks for Captains, Mates, Able Seamen, Towing Assistance, Fast Rescue Boat operators, and Qualified Members of the Engine Department (QMED).
- **Ashore Marine Mechanical & Trades Arrays:** Features ABYC-certified Marine Service Technology diagnostic bays (Kodiak), AWS D1.1 structural welding complexes (Kodiak, Homer, Ketchikan), and NCCER-certified millwright mechanical laboratories (Valdez).
- **Polar Code Leadership:** Serves as one of the few U.S. training entities approved to deliver comprehensive IMO Polar Code Operations (Basic and Advanced) for Arctic mariners.
- **Hybrid & Strategic Partnerships:** Partnered with Yamaha Motor Corporation for statewide marine technician training, Northeast Maritime Online (NEMO) for hybrid mariner courses, and Vigor Alaska Shipyard for employer-sponsored Registered Apprenticeships.

**Workforce & Regional Impact**

Supports Alaska's largest private employment sector (70,000 maritime-related workers/500 firms).

- **USCG Certification Output:** Issued 3,959 total USCG completion certificates from FY21 to FY24 (1,094 in FY24 alone).
- **Student Volume & Completion:** Enrolled 14,096 participants over five years with a 98% program completion rate (~2,800 students annually).
- **High Employment & Wage Outcomes:** State analysis shows 70% to 100% post-graduation employment rates across member programs, with graduate wages increasing between 7% and

222% post-completion.

- **Indigenous & Rural Access:** Serves 190 Alaskan communities across all six economic regions; Alaska Native students represent the largest minority demographic, and women account for nearly one-third of all participants.

- **K-12 & Youth Pathways:** Reaches secondary students statewide via the Young Mariner Training Program (*Introduction to Nautical Skills*) and dual-enrollment CTE pathways in marine trades.

## **Strategic Outlook**

Guided by the *Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan* and its *2020–2025 Action Agenda*, AMEC maintains a vital workforce pipeline powering Alaska's blue economy, commercial fishing fleets, and the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). By establishing stackable credentials that articulate non-credit USCG licenses into university degree programs, and by maintaining defense-ready Arctic navigation and emergency oil spill response capabilities, AMEC stands as a critical strategic asset for national security, emergency mobilization, and domestic supply chain sovereignty across the North Pacific and Arctic oceans.