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 has redesignated the Alaska Maritime Education Consortium (AMEC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE), recognizing its statewide infrastructure, Arctic capabilities, and public-private partnerships. Led by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development on behalf of AVTEC and the University of Alaska system, with support from the Alaska Workforce Alliance, AMEC anchors workforce development across 34,000 miles of coastline. From hubs in Dillingham, Homer, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Seward, and Valdez, the consortium delivers targeted instruction in commercial fishing, vessel operations, marine transport, and ship repair, supporting coastal communities while bolstering national maritime resilience.

Operational Footprint & Assets

• **Prince William Sound College, Valdez:** Relocated marine training to the Valdez National Guard Armory, gaining a 3,605-square-foot shop and adjacent 12-seat classroom. More than 40 outboard engines, 12 ATech Applied Electrical Trainers, and a purpose-built boat-section rigging and plumbing trainer, supported by TVEP and NOAA funding, expand practical training capacity.
• **Kodiak College:** Operates a Yamaha laboratory equipped for training Levels 1-4. A navigation simulator has been purchased and is awaiting delivery; curriculum-aligned equipment inventory work is scheduled.
• **Kenai Peninsula College:** Operates marine technology facilities supporting CAD, DC electrical work, gel coat repair and marine welding, alongside a 1,200-square-foot outboard maintenance lab with more than 16 engines.
• **UAS Ketchikan:** Maintains four classrooms, power technology and welding laboratories, a Professional 5000 full-mission bridge simulator, and access to a fire-training field. An engineering simulator is in development to support QMED instruction.
• **AVTEC:** Has progressively modernized its bridge simulator with Kongsberg consoles, graphics computers, K-Sim Navigation software and sea-ice capability, plus critical spare parts and ongoing technical support. Further graphics-card replacement is being tested as funding allows.

Workforce & Regional Impact

• **UAS Maritime Training Center, Ketchikan:** Serves more than 500 students annually through employment-driven maritime and skilled-trades training, with pathways from short-term credentials and occupational endorsements to associate and bachelor's degrees through articulation and online options.
• **Kenai Peninsula College, Kenai River and Kachemak Bay campuses:** Reports 241 program

completions over five years, which includes training outcomes of 111 Yamaha Marine Certification Program outboard technician certificates.
• **UAF Bristol Bay Campus, Dillingham:** Served 248 maritime students over five years. Reported post-training employment rates averaging 77% for afloat pathways and between 49% and 64% for ashore pathways. Localized evening and weekend instruction supports working fishermen and rural coastal residents.
• **Kodiak College:** All students enrolled in the full spring 2026 Marine Service Technology program completed its required courses, and all students in that cohort were employed as of program completion. Two employers hired students before the session ended while supporting continued coursework and pay increases upon completion. From March through September 2026, three mariner-licensing preparation sessions served 34 students.
• **AVTEC, Seward:** Issued 405 maritime course certificates in FY26. Rotating short courses support progression from entry-level safety and Able Seaman training through Master 100 Ton, Master/Mate 500/1600 Ton preparation, OUPV, and specialized Basic Polar Code Operations.

Strategic Vision | Industry Partnerships & Supply Chain Resilience
Guided by the *Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan* and the *Alaska's Workforce Future* plan, AMEC delivers flexible, equipment-based training directly alongside working fleets and coastal employers. The consortium establishes responsive career pathways for students, new entrants, and incumbent workers through stackable credentials that articulate non-credit USCG licenses into university degree programs. This pipeline strengthens critical afloat and shoreside operations powering commercial fishing fleets, ship repair, maritime transport, and the Alaska Marine Highway System. Furthermore, by maintaining specialized instruction in Arctic navigation and emergency oil spill response, AMEC safeguards regional operational readiness. Ultimately, the consortium stands as an indispensable strategic asset for national security, emergency mobilization, and domestic supply chain sovereignty across the North Pacific and Arctic oceans.

• **Southeast Alaska:** UAS Ketchikan partners with the Alaska Marine Highway System, Interisland Ferry Authority, JAG Shipyards, NOAA, Tribal corporations, the U.S. Coast Guard, and regional ports to deliver marine electrical training, fall 2027 QMED test prep, and a Maritime Multi-Skilled Worker pathway.
• **Southcentral Alaska:** KPC collaborates with the Homer Marine Trades Association and regional businesses to provide just-in-time training, dual enrollment, and scholarships. Kodiak College teams with the local school district, Kodiak Powersports, and Water's Edge Marine to link technical coursework directly to recruitment and hiring.
• **Western Alaska & Bristol Bay:** UAF Bristol Bay Campus coordinates with the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Bristol Bay Regional CTE, and Alaska Sea Grant to pool instructional resources and deliver targeted, place-based training to rural communities.
• **Statewide Specialized Readiness:** AVTEC delivers USCG-approved safety, deck, officer-prep, and Polar Code ice-navigation training, while PWSC's expanded facilities add Prince William Sound capacity for marine outboard, electrical, rigging, and plumbing instruction.