

Justin Sternberg | Director  
Alaska Blue Economy Center  
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# Alaska Blue Economy Center

Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force





**Alaska Blue Economy Center**  
**Founded 2019**

# Founding Units at UAF



College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS)



Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP)



College of Business and Security Management (CBSM)



Alaska Center For Innovation, Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship  
(Center ICE)

# Mission

*The Alaska Blue Economy Center (ABEC) combines UAF's extensive interdisciplinary research, instruction, and public engagement related to Alaska's offshore and inland aquatic resources and ecosystems to serve as a resource to the state and stimulate new external funding in fisheries, mariculture, energy, marine observing, technology, and training.*

# Org Chart



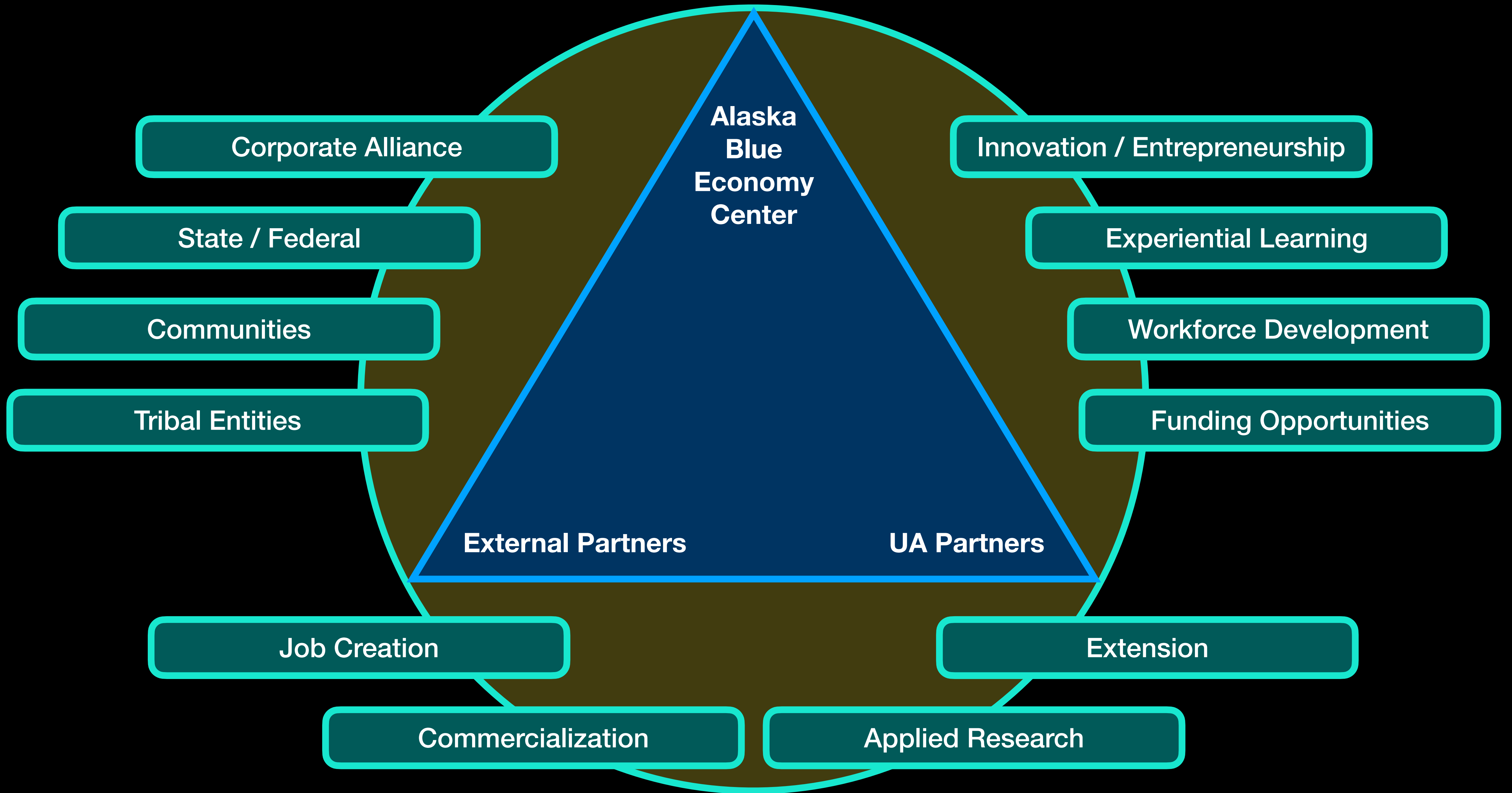
**Vice Chancellor for Research**  
Nettie La Belle-Hamer



**Associate Vice Chancellor of Research  
for Innovation and Industry Partnerships**  
Gwen Holdmann

**Alaska Blue  
Economy Center**





# Alaska's Blue Economy

## Existing

Commercial Fisheries

Seafood Processing

Coastal Tourism

Shipbuilding & Repair

Transportation

Research

Homeland Security

## Emerging

Mariculture

Co-product  
Innovations

Automation

Vessel Efficiency

Coastal Infrastructure

Data Innovations

Unmanned Surface &  
Underwater Vehicles

## Nascent

Traditional Ecological  
Knowledge

Bioprospecting

Biorefineries

Stranded Renewables

Hydrokinetic Energy

Carbon Markets

Ecosystem Services

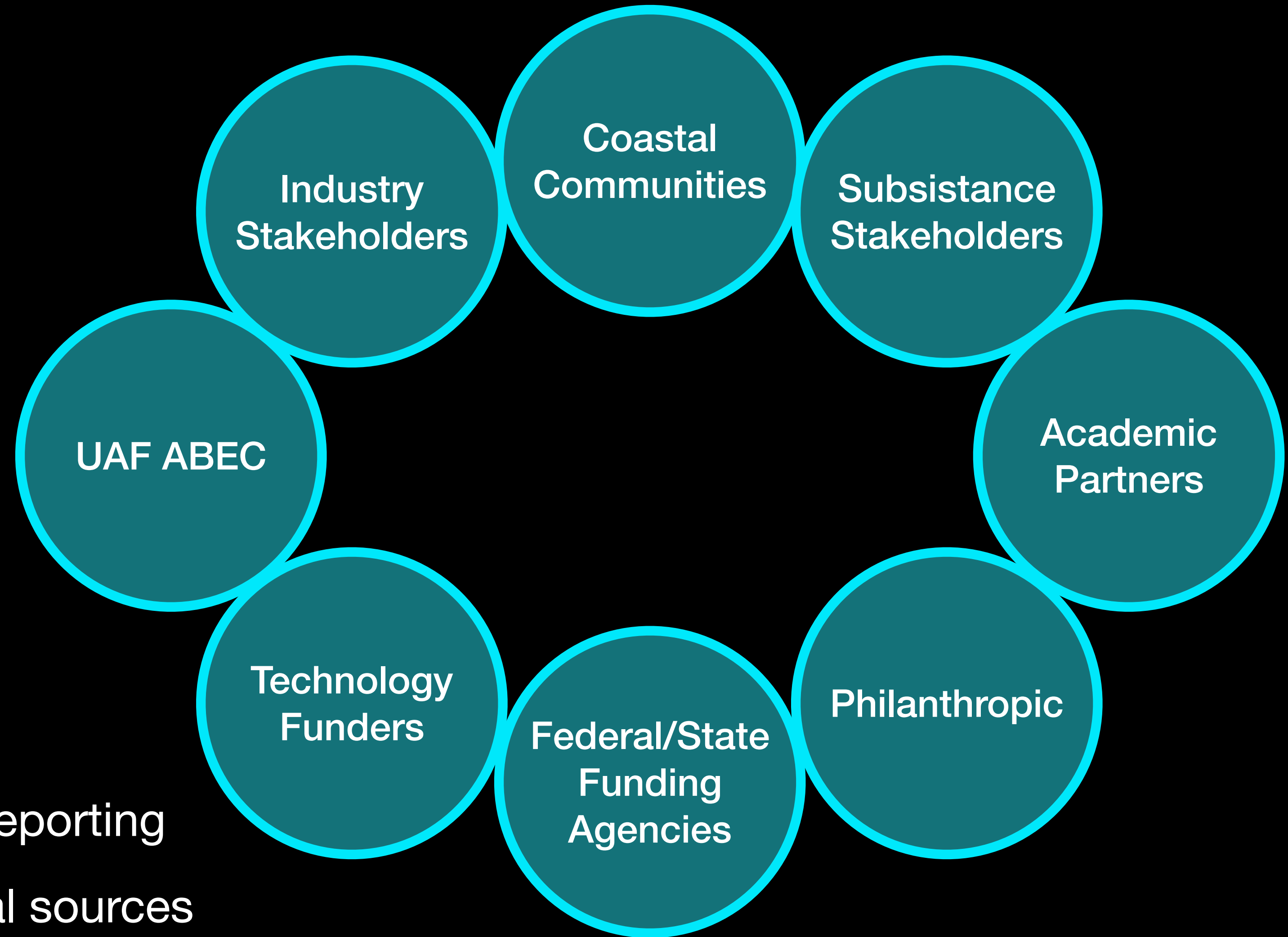
# **Alaska Blue Economy Center**

## **Bycatch Innovation Research Fund**

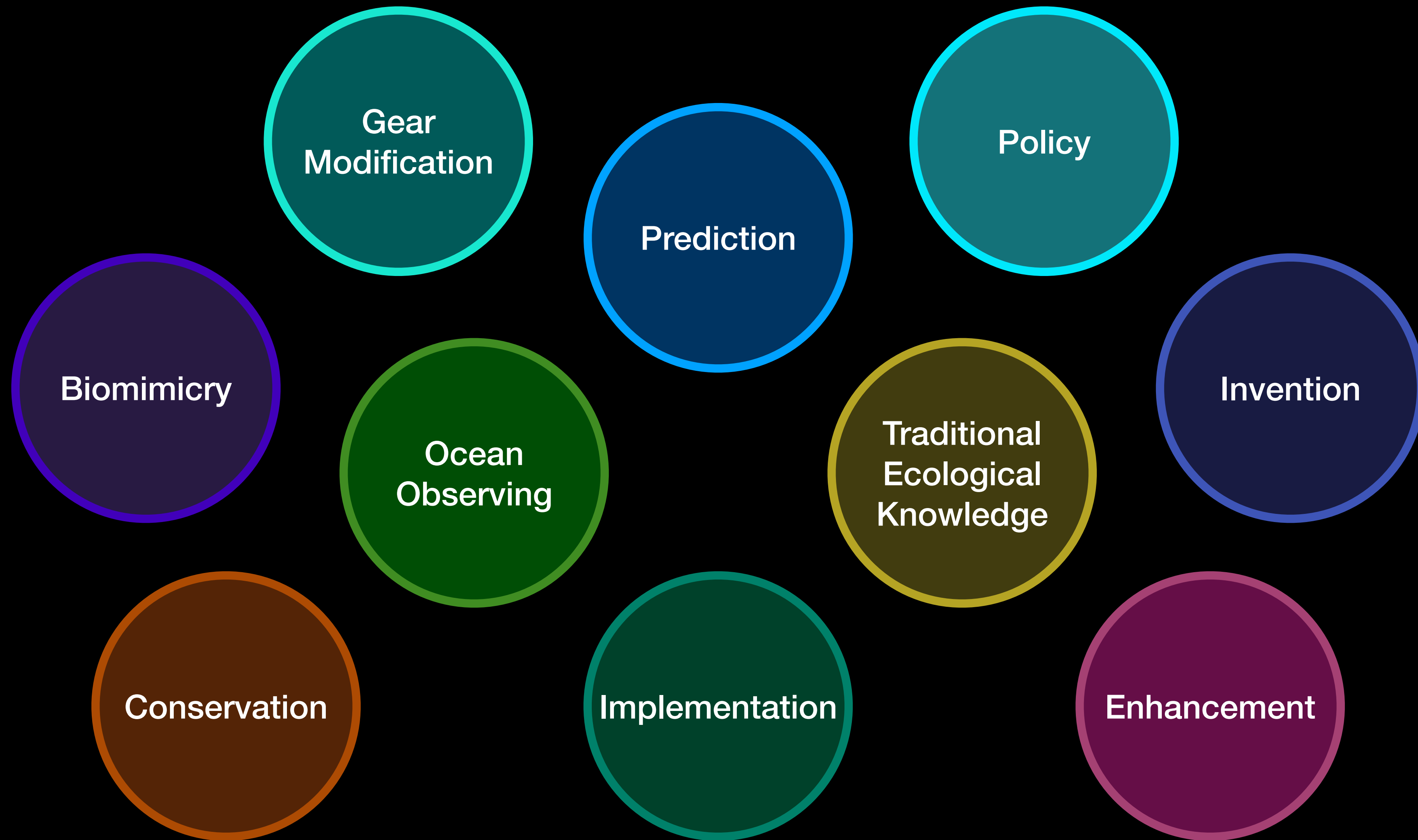


# Bycatch Innovation Research Fund

- State of Alaska seeds fund with \$2M
- Managed by UAF ABEC
- Board of Advisors led by industry
  - Identify stakeholder priorities
  - Create “challenges”
- To apply, researchers partner with industry stakeholders
- Funds are competitively awarded
- Implementation of projects
- Monitor and verify for outcomes and reporting
- Sustainment of funding from additional sources
  - State funds used as match for federal grants



# Addressing Bycatch Through Innovation Research



# Successful Precedent

- Coastal Marine Institute (CMI)
  - UAF partnership with US DOI BOEM
  - Study coastal topics associated with the development of natural resources in Alaska's outer continental shelf
  - <https://uaf.edu/cfos/research/cmi/index.php>
- UAF Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center (PCCRC)
  - Public private partnership between UAF and pollock industry stakeholders
  - Extensive R&D for bycatch avoidance
  - <https://www.pccrc.org/>
- Mariculture Innovation Research Fund led by UAF ABEC established in 2022





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