

OCEAN STRATEGIES FOUNDER
FISHERMAN

MIGRATION IN HARMONY
RCN STEERING COMMITTEE





Brett Veerhusen has helped pioneer some of the most influential seafood and maritime initiatives this past decade. A lifelong commercial fisherman, Brett has fished extensively in the Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. He founded Ocean Strategies in 2013, providing expertise in maritime and natural resource industries to both the nonprofit and private sectors. Brett has helped build diverse coalitions, from Fortune 100 companies to grassroots fishermen's organizations. Previously, as the Executive Director of the Seafood Harvesters of America in Washington, D.C., Brett built the goto fishermen's organization in our nation's capital.

Brett has been featured in The New York Times and Forbes and written for The Hill, New Orleans Times-Picayune, National Fisherman and The Arctic Institute. He earned a Master of Marine Affairs degree from the University of Washington and bachelor's degrees in Business and Spanish from the University of Puget Sound.

We interviewed Brett to learn more about Arctic fisheries and the importance of coalition building.

Why do you do what you do?

"Fishing is in my blood. I have fished with my family throughout Alaska for my entire life. Responsible resource management protects heritage and provides harvest opportunities for each generation. I've taken this understanding to offer proven expertise in coalition management and strategic communications with my firm, Ocean Strategies."



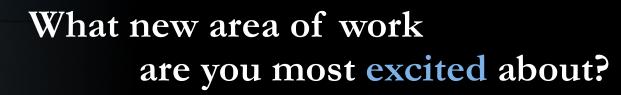
What are you are professionally proud of?

Through the beginnings of the Covid-19 pandemic, Ocean Strategies helped lead a coalition of the nation's preeminent fisheries, seafood and disease experts to develop rigorous health and safety standards to protect vulnerable Alaskan communities and essential seafood workers against Covid-19.

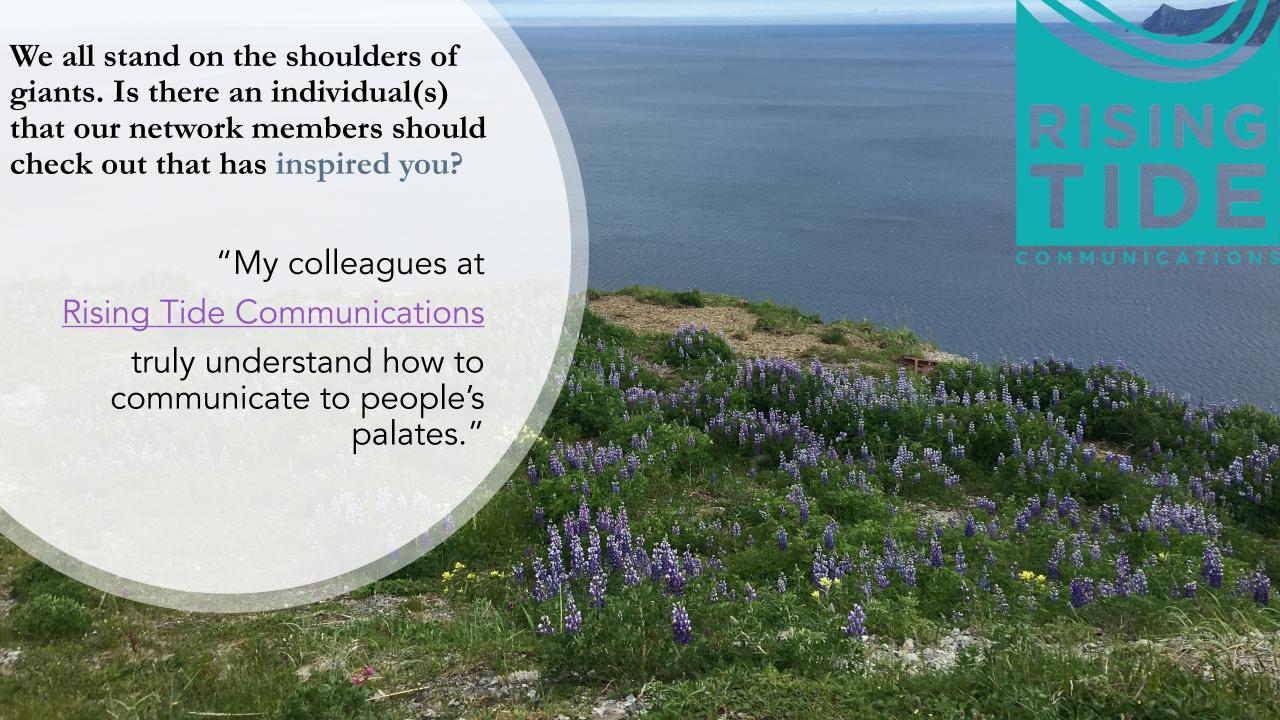
Why is coalition building important work?

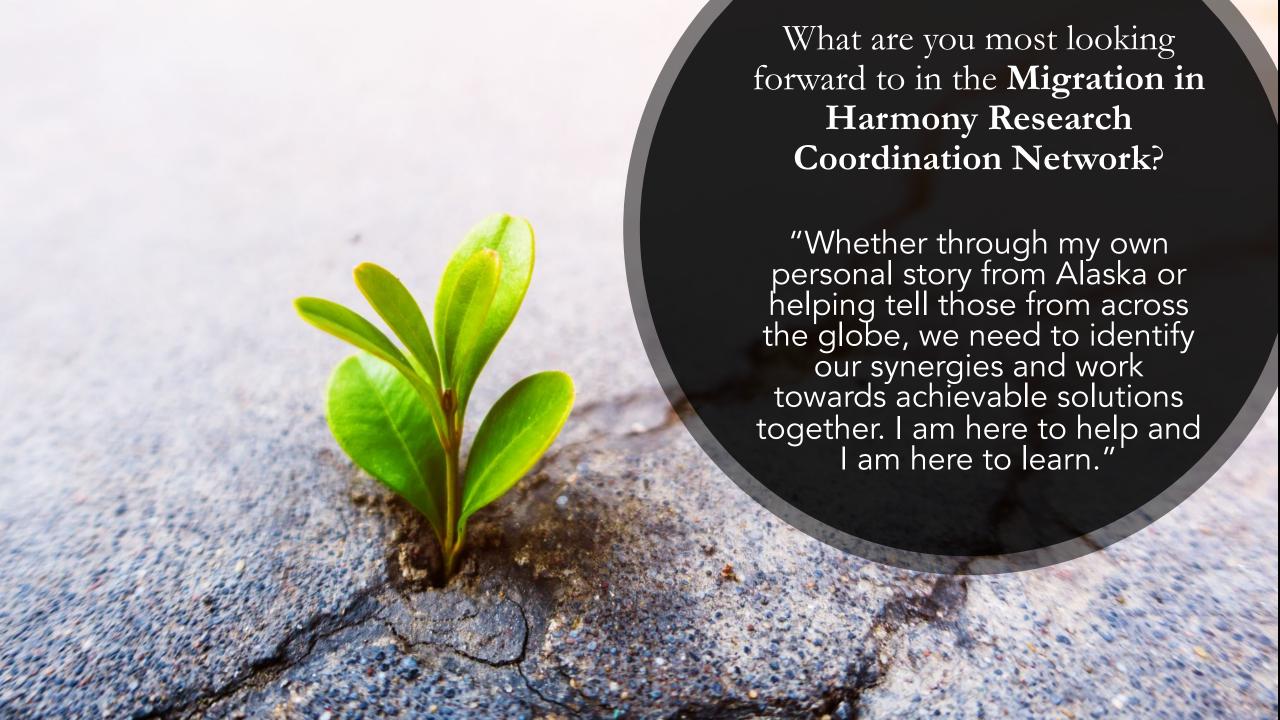
"One of the major things the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us is how intertwined our relationships, businesses and communities are both locally and globally. Forging strategic alliances helps strengthen humanity. When we are not all focused on a common goal, these alliances break down. Coalition building keeps oftentimes disparate groups focused on what we can agree on, rather than what we can't.





"Businesses across supply chains play critical roles in protecting and increasing food security. Ocean Strategies is leading partnerships and developing coalitions that aims to connect each link within the seafood supply chain like grocers, restaurants and shipping around common policy goals like climate change and reducing plastics."







Learn more about our members and join our research coordination network on Arctic migrations today at

www.migrationharmony.org