



**SEWARD ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF MARINE SCIENCE**

Federal Financial Assistance Reports

Year ended September 30, 2024

(With Independent Auditors' Reports Thereon)

**SEWARD ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF MARINE SCIENCE**

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KPMG LLP
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**Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

The Board of Directors
Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science (SAAMS), which comprise SAAMS' statement of financial position as of September 30, 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated August 28, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered SAAMS' internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of SAAMS' internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of SAAMS' internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2024-01 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether SAAMS' financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.



SAAMS' Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on SAAMS' response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. SAAMS' response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of SAAMS' internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering SAAMS' internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

KPMG LLP

Anchorage, Alaska
August 28, 2025



KPMG LLP
Suite 200
3800 Centerpoint Drive
Anchorage, AK 99503

**Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program;
Report on Internal Control Over Compliance; and Report on Schedule of
Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance**

The Board of Directors
Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on The Major Federal Program

We have audited Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science's (SAAMS) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on SAAMS's major federal program for the year ended September 30, 2024. SAAMS's major federal program is identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, SAAMS complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended September 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

We are required to be independent of SAAMS and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of SAAMS's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to SAAMS's federal programs.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on SAAMS's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government*



Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about SAAMS's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding SAAMS's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of SAAMS's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of SAAMS's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we did identify certain deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiencies in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2024-02 to be a significant deficiency.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.



Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on SAAMS's response to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. SAAMS is also responsible for preparing a corrective action plan to address each audit finding included in our auditors' report. SAAMS's response and corrective action plan were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response or the corrective action plan.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of SAAMS as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated August 28, 2025, which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements. Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

KPMG LLP

Anchorage, Alaska
August 28, 2025

**SEWARD ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF MARINE SCIENCE**

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

Year ended September 30, 2024

<u>Federal grantor/pass-through grantor program title</u>	<u>Assistance Listing Number (ALN)</u>	<u>Grant number</u>	<u>Subrecipient expenditures</u>	<u>Federal expenditures</u>
Research and Development:				
Department of Interior:				
U.S. Geological Survey:				
Assessing the Effects of Saxitoxin Ingestion by Common Murres	15.808	G20AC00237	—	2,183
Total Research and Development:			—	2,183
Non-Research and Development:				
Department of Commerce:				
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:				
Passed through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission:				
Steller Sea Lion Monitoring	11.437	NA22NMF4370355/23-064G	—	174,199
National Marine Fisheries Service:				
Prescott Live Marine Mammal Response in Alaska	11.439	NA22NMF4390280	—	99,201
Department of the Interior:				
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:				
Marine Animal Health in Changing Oceans	15.655	F23AP00636-00	24,756	212,855
Prescott Live Marine Mammal Response in Alaska	15.683	F23AP02092-00	—	114,706
Prescott Correlations between Pathogen Presence, Harmful Algal Bloom Toxins, and Prey Selection in Apparently Healthy and Stranded Northern Sea Otters	15.683	F20AP11046-00	—	48,732
			—	163,438
Seabird Surveys & Outreach in Resurrection Bay	15.944	P19AC00200	—	47,170
National Park Service:				
Teacher Professional Development Workshop	15.945	P19AC00160	—	14,809
Changing Tides – Population Changes in Popular Clams	15.945	P19AC00407	—	8,947
SeeBird: High School Citizen Scientists Monitor Seabirds	15.945	P21AC10238	—	13,032
			—	36,788
Department of Education:				
Passed through the State of Alaska: Department of Education & Early Development:				
COVID-19 Access for All: Enhancing Access and Inclusion of ASLC Programs	84.425V	CO23.244.01/1004 052132102 2211	—	484,226
Total federal expenditures			\$ 24,756	1,220,060

See accompanying notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

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Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

Year ended September 30, 2024

(1) General

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the schedule) includes the federal award activity of the Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science (SAAMS) under programs of the federal government for the year ended September 30, 2024. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Federal awards received directly from federal agencies as well as federal awards passed through other organizations are included on the schedule. Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of SAAMS, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of SAAMS.

(2) Basis of Accounting

The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Subrecipient expenditures are recognized when disbursed.

(3) Loan Programs

SAAMS has not entered into any federal loan programs.

(4) Cost Rate

SAAMS has not elected to use the de minimis 10% indirect cost rate.

**SEWARD ASSOCIATION FOR THE
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Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

Year ended September 30, 2024

(1) Summary of Auditors' Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditors' report issued on whether the financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? X Yes No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified not considered to be material weakness(es)? Yes X None reported

Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted?

 Yes X No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? Yes X No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified not considered to be material weakness(es)? X Yes None reported

Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major programs:

Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Section 200.516(a)?

 Yes X No

Identification of Major Programs

<u>Assistance listing number</u>	<u>Name of federal program</u>
84.425V	Education Stabilization Fund

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:

\$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

 X Yes No

(2) Reportable findings related to the financial statements reported in accordance with Government Auditing Standards:

Finding number: 2024-01

**SEWARD ASSOCIATION FOR THE
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Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

Year ended September 30, 2024

Criteria: Principles of internal control require an effective control system be designed and operating to ensure reliable financial reporting.

Condition: Over the past two years SAAMS experienced significant turnover and delays in hiring qualified personnel for finance leadership roles and was unable to assign these responsibilities to existing staff. Vacancies and lack of supervision have caused a lack of transaction-level review, delays in recording of transactions, untimely preparation of account reconciliations, and significant annual financial reporting delays.

Context: This deficiency impacts all financial reporting processes of SAAMS.

Cause: SAAMS did not have an appropriate control environment to attract, develop, and retain adequate competent staff to ensure reliable financial reporting.

Effect: Inadequate internal controls could result in a material misstatement to the financial statements. During our audit, we identified multiple misstatements in accounts. As a result, SAAMS recorded financial statement adjustments. Additionally, we noted significant delays in financial reporting, which could cause SAAMS to be out of compliance with grant and other agreements.

Recommendations: We recommend that SAAMS prioritize filling finance department roles and implement interim oversight procedures, such as cross-departmental reviews or external support, to ensure timely and accurate financial reporting. We also recommend SAAMS cross-train staff and document procedures to reduce the time it takes to onboard new personnel.

Views of responsible officials: SAAMS acknowledges the audit finding regarding the control environment within the finance department and the importance of ensuring timely and accurate financial reporting. To address this deficiency, SAAMS will prioritize the recruitment of qualified finance personnel by increasing wages to remain competitive in attracting and retaining skilled staff. In addition, SAAMS will engage external contractors to provide immediate capacity and oversight while permanent roles are being filled. SAAMS will also implement interim oversight procedures, including cross-departmental reviews, to strengthen accountability during the transition period. To improve resilience and reduce onboarding time, SAAMS will cross-train finance staff and document key procedures, ensuring consistency and continuity of operations regardless of staffing changes. These corrective actions will enhance SAAMS's ability to maintain a strong control environment, provide reliable financial reporting, and ensure that the organization has the staff and systems necessary to meet its financial responsibilities.

(3) Reportable findings and questioned costs related to federal awards.

Finding number: 2024-02

Program: ALN 84.425V, Department of Education, Education Stabilization Fund, Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools, passed through the State of Alaska, grant number CO23.244.01/1004 052132102 2211

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Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

Year ended September 30, 2024

Criteria: 2 CFR section 200.303(d)(2), states that a non-federal entity must establish and maintain effective internal control over the federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-federal entity is managing the federal award in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. 2 CFR section 200.430(g)(1), states that charges to Federal awards for salaries and wages must be supported by a system of internal control that provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated.

Condition: SAAMS' policies require a payroll batch report be reviewed prior to issuing payroll. This payroll batch report specifies employee name, program charged, amount charged to each program, hours, and pay rate. During our testing, we identified that the payroll batch report did not always contain amounts charged to each program or pay rates, making the review ineffective.

Cause: Turnover in personnel during the fiscal year led to inadequate training and inconsistent performance of the payroll batch report review.

Effect: Unallowable payroll costs may be charged to a federal program.

Questioned costs: None

Context: During our testing of 11 payroll batch reports, 5 did not contain pay rates or amounts charged to each program.

Statistical sampling: No

Repeat finding: No

Recommendation: We recommend the entity develop policies that incorporate standardized reporting and description of the review objective, along with training to staff.

Views of responsible officials: SAAMS recognizes the importance of accurate and complete payroll reporting to ensure proper review and compliance with financial policies. To address the identified deficiency, SAAMS will revise its payroll procedures to require that all payroll batch reports consistently include employee name, program charged, amounts charged to each program, hours, and pay rate. A standardized reporting format will be developed to ensure completeness and consistency of information. In addition, ASLC will update its policies to clearly describe the review objectives and responsibilities of staff conducting payroll reviews. Training will be provided to relevant staff to ensure proper understanding and execution of the updated procedures. These measures will ensure payroll reviews are accurate, effective, and aligned with best practices.