



MEILANI SCHIJVENS

Rain Coast Data

Professional Background

Ms. Schijvens is the owner and Director of Rain Coast Data, a Juneau-based research and consulting firm specializing in Alaska economic analysis, publications, socioeconomic impact studies, survey research, and public outreach. Ms. Schijvens is a lifelong Alaskan and has dedicated her professional career to coastal Alaska economic development. Her work has been cited by national organizations. Ms. Schijvens has authored hundreds of Alaska economic development planning and economic analysis publications and has been conducting public and community surveys since the 1990s. Rain Coast Data has worked in nearly every Southeast community, telling their economic stories and providing clients with digestible but effective documents they can use to advocate and plan for their community, tribe, project, or organization.

Education

Master of Science, University of Oregon,
1999
Bachelor of Arts, History, Colby College,
1995

References

Jacqueline Kus. een Pata
President/CEO Tlingit Haida Regional
Housing Authority
Jared Kosin, President and CEO, Alaska
Hospital and Healthcare Association
Shirley Kelly, Alaska EDR, Economic
Development Administration,
U.S. Department of Commerce

Volunteer Work

Southeast Constitutional Convention
Steering Committee: 2022
Mayor's Juneau Visitor Industry Task
Force member: 2019 to 2021
Juneau Blueprint Downtown Steering
Committee member: 2018-2019
State Northern Opportunity Strategy
Committee member: 2016-2019
Marine Transportation Advisory Board
Committee member: 2003-2004
Governor's Transition Team
Transportation Chair: 2002
Pro bono economic study for
the Glory Hall Homeless Shelter
Awards
Golden Gumboot Award 2024
for steadfast support and dedication to
Southeast Alaska, from Southeast
Conference
National Association of Development
Organizations 2021 Impact Award for the
Southeast Alaska 2025 CEDS

Relevant Experience

Southeast Alaska Five-Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, 2020, 2025, & 2030

Rain Coast Data developed the 2025 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeast Alaska on behalf of Southeast Conference. The planning process integrated economic analysis, stakeholder input, priority objective development, resilience, and an evaluation framework. The 2025 plan was called one of the best CEDS in the country by the United State by the US Economic Development Administration, and received a national award from NADO. Rain Coast Data previously developed the 2020 CEDS, and is currently working to develop the 2030 CEDS.

Southeast Regional Tribal Housing Survey Analysis and Plan, 2024 and 2019

On behalf to the Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority, Ms. Schijvens developed and conducted a tribal housing needs assessment in twelve tribal partner communities, and provided a regional tribal housing analysis. Half of the 3.300 households completed the survey. The study provided valuable information that was used to develop unique and comprehensive long-term housing plans for each community, and also supported THRHA in successfully applying for federal grants. The 2024 analysis allowed a longitudinal analysis to compare per community housing needs changes over a five year period.

Wrangell Harbor RAISE Grant, 2024

Rain Coast Data developed a RAISE grant benefit-cost analysis (BCA) on behalf of the City and Borough of Wrangell to develop and construct a new Wrangell Harbor Basin. The analysis included a user survey to measure safety impact, air emissions reductions over a 20-year period, along with the monetary benefit of those reductions. Wrangell received a \$25 million grant. Rain Coast Data has developed similar BCAs for RAISE and PIDP projects across the region, including Cordova, which received a \$20 million grant for harbor improvements.

Alaska Healthcare Workforce Analysis, 2022, 2023, 2024

The Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association commissioned a health care workforce statistical analysis. The report includes data and analysis of Alaska health care jobs, earnings, and wages; growth projections; and workforce demographics. The study is published annually.

Southeast Alaska by the Numbers, 2012 to 2024

Southeast Alaska by the Numbers, a widely used document that provides a comprehensive assessment of the socioeconomic, demographic, and industry data impacting the regional economy, along with industry forecasting. Ms. Schijvens is in her 13th year of publishing this study on behalf of Southeast Conference.

Other Relevant Projects

- Economic Impact of USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy Investment Spending 2024
- Valdez 2030 Economic Strategic Action Plan
- Comprehensive Plan work in Valdez, Haines, Yakutat
- Wrangell Marine Service Center 30-Year Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Kodiak Business Climate Assessment
- Juneau Transit Study City and Borough of Juneau Capital Transit

