

Federal Cuts Hitting Fish Byproduct Program at FITC

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

Federal funding for one of the programs at the Fishery Industrial Technology Center in Kodiak was eliminated by congress when it passed the "Mini-Bus" spending package earlier this month. Keith Criddle, director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Fisheries Division, said the cut was to the Agriculture Research Service arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

-- (FITC 1 37 sec "This didn't single out FITC ... food processing waste.")

He said the cuts were going to cause some very serious challenges for the university:

-- (FITC 2 26 sec "We've been receiving somewhere ... the food science group.")

The program creates ways to turn fish processing waste into saleable products, while eliminating a waste disposal problem:

-- (FITC 3 27 sec "They're neat programs ... derive from a fish carcass.")

Criddle will be in Kodiak for the next couple of weeks, and the funding cut has put a different focus on the visit to the FITC:

-- (FITC 4 36 sec "Well, I don't want to be gloomy ... do we go from here.")

Together with Paula Cullenberg, Criddle co-directs the FITC. The other programs at the center were not affected by the cuts.