NINE STORY DIRECTIONS

Character

Proposed stories – participants and access to be developed through reporting.

FEATURED DIRECTION

A Net Has a Handwriting

In Cordova, a damaged fishing net lands on Teal’s workbench. Follow the net mender through one repair, from the fisher’s request to the moment the net changes hands again. The question is what Teal sees that the rest of us miss: a repair worth saving, a small change that matters on the water, or work that needs to be done again. As those decisions unfold, learn who taught Teal the trade and how trust with this fisher was earned. Close views of knots and hands at work give way to the people who depend on the result. We leave knowing a person whose judgment travels out to sea even when Teal stays ashore.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTION

Dinner Between Sets

Follow the person responsible for feeding a fishing crew through one actual meal. Long before anyone sits down, there are preferences to remember, space to negotiate and work that may interrupt the plan. Stay with the cook's decisions, then watch the room change when people finally gather. Who talks? Who goes quiet? What does the cook notice? Later, learn how this person came to the work and which meal they most want when someone else is cooking. The finished piece should leave us knowing a character, with the food carrying part of that introduction.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTION

There's Always Another Place

Find the person in an Alaskan community who keeps making room for people at a shared meal. Begin with the invitations: who do they call, who helps them remember somebody, and what makes them insist there is room? Follow one gathering through the food people contribute, the cooking, the arrivals and the washing up. Learn where the host's impulse to feed people comes from and how others return that care. If conservation matters to this person, ask what it changes in their decisions about seafood. The ending may be someone else taking over the dishes while the host finally eats.

NINE STORY DIRECTIONS

Culinary

Proposed stories – participants and access to be developed through reporting.

FEATURED DIRECTION

Nobody Wrote Down the Recipe

A beloved family seafood dish has never needed a recipe – until someone else tries to make it. For the first film, find a longtime cook known for a pan-cooked wild salmon dish and a younger relative who wants to learn it. Stay close to the fish as it sizzles, browns, and comes off the heat, translating instinct into cues viewers can use. On a second visit, the learner cooks for the person who taught them. With the teacher now a guest, the pauses, decisions, and tasting reveal what has been learned. At the table, ask who taught the dish to the teacher. A practical cooking lesson becomes a family story carried into another kitchen.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTION

The Farm Stand Meets the Sea

Take an Alaskan seafood cook to an inland farmers market, and put a local grower or home cook in charge of the shopping. In Iowa, that might mean building dinner around the produce someone is genuinely excited about that week. The visitor knows the fish; the local knows this place and these ingredients. Their choices lead to a meal neither would have made alone. Film the market conversation and the cooking with equal curiosity. The dish demonstrates how seafood from far away can belong beside food grown close to home, without treating local food as incomplete until the visitor arrives.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTION

The Dish That Didn't Make the Menu

Ask a chef for a seafood dish they loved enough to test but chose not to serve. Recreate it together and find the reason it stopped there. Was it the balance of flavors, a component that obscured the fish, or something that fell apart during service? Then let the chef revise the dish in front of us, including the possibility of removing the element they liked most. Taste the change. Viewers get delicious food and access to the judgment behind it, with a useful lesson about when simplifying a dish makes it better.

NINE STORY DIRECTIONS

Open

Proposed stories – participants and access to be developed through reporting.

FEATURED DIRECTION

The Wedding We Made

A couple returns to their small Alaskan coastal hometown to marry. They have a place for the ceremony but little money for a reception, so they ask people to bring something they can make or lend. Across town, preparations begin. In one kitchen, a neighbor prepares salmon with the practiced ease of decades; in another, a cook lets a younger relative in on a closely guarded family recipe. An elder tends the chowder while its cook changes into wedding clothes. Chairs come off a truck, borrowed tables find their places, tree lights go up, and local musicians tune their instruments. Through these small contributions, we discover how each household knows the couple. The gathering place fills with people whose care we have come to recognize. After the vows, the newlyweds move from table to table, laughing, embracing and thanking the people who have made this day possible. At the water's edge, the bride turns to toss her bouquet. The couple settles into a canoe and paddles away, with music and cheers carrying across the water. Behind them, the town keeps celebrating beneath the lights.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTION

A Recipe You Can Hear

Invite a blind or low-vision home cook to help a culinary host rebuild a seafood recipe that relies on phrases such as "until it looks right." Let the cook lead us through their own kitchen, tools and way of working. Which instructions are useful? Which leave something essential unsaid? Develop and record an audio recipe together, then ask a second willing cook to try it using the tools they normally use. The film follows the revision of the instructions and the pleasure of the resulting meal. Publish the audio and accessible written recipe alongside it.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTION

Same Dinner, Different Time Zones

Follow two people who already want to share a meal but cannot be in the same place. A parent and an adult child, old friends, or siblings choose a dish and cook it together over a call. Film both kitchens: the missed instruction, the ingredient one person cannot find, and the conversation that cooking makes easier than a formal catch-up. If a seafood gift is how the plan becomes possible, show that naturally. The meal gives their time together a shape, but neither person needs to deliver a speech about connection for the audience to feel it.