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March 1, 2017

Representative Daniel Ortiz
State Capitol, Room 513
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for HB 128 – shellfish enhancement

Dear Representative Ortiz,

The Alaska Shellfish Growers Association (ASGA) would like to express support for HB 128. We recognize that HB 128 is part of a larger effort to develop mariculture in Alaska.

While the focus of this bill supports enhancement efforts, we believe that the mariculture industry overall will benefit overall from a healthy base of infrastructure that supports both growers and enhancement efforts.

HB 128 plays an important role in the development of mariculture in Alaska, creating a regulatory framework that supports ADF&G in management and enhancement efforts. This would allow interested stakeholders to either continue or begin enhancement and/or restoration of species such as King crab, sea cucumber, geoduck, abalone, razor clams, or others, some of which have been successfully farmed in other areas. This framework (HB 128) is absolutely necessary to continue moving forward with the development of mariculture.

Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Reveil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margo Reveil, President
Alaska Shellfish Growers Association

Cc: Representative Stutes, Chair, House Fisheries Committee: Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov
Reid Harris, Staff, House Fisheries Committee: Reid.Harris@akleg.gov