



CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
INCORPORATED MAY 30, 2008

Office of the Borough Mayor

P.O. Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

907-874-2381
907-874-3952

March 1, 2017

Representative Dan Ortiz
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov

Re: Support for HB 128 – Shellfish Enhancement

Dear Representative Ortiz:

On behalf of the City and Borough of Wrangell, I would like to express support for HB 128 which creates a framework to manage and develop shellfish fishery enhancement which will benefit the State's economy by providing a method to increase the available harvest of shellfish for public use in an environmentally safe manner.

HB 128 plays an important role in the development of mariculture in Alaska. HB 128 creates a regulatory framework with which ADF&G can manage shellfish fishery enhancement, restoration and shellfish hatcheries. This will allow interested stakeholders to either continue or begin enhancement and/or restoration of species such as King crab, sea cucumber, geoduck, abalone, or razor clams.

Another benefit of developing shellfish fishery enhancement is the important role that shellfish hatcheries can play in adapting to ocean changes and acidification, and the ecosystem services that shellfish provide to the marine environment.

Shellfish enhancement can diversify and expand opportunities in coastal communities and increase the resiliency of Alaska's wild shellfish. The City and Borough of Wrangell Assembly supports HB 128 and appreciates your work to provide additional economic opportunities in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Dave Jack
Mayor

cc: Governor Bill Walker
Representative Louise Stutes, Chair, House Fisheries Committee
NRC Alaska
Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. (AFDF)
Alaska Maritime Task Force (AMTF)