



Mission Statement: To develop, expand, and enhance new and existing dive fisheries in Southeast Alaska.

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Support for HB 76 – Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund

Representative Dan Ortiz
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 513
Juneau Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Ortiz,

The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) appreciates your efforts to assist the emerging mariculture industry in Alaska. SARDFA has been involved in sea cucumber enhancement work for several years and relies on hatcheries to pilot research on hatchery spawning techniques for sea cucumbers. Without viable hatchery facilities in Alaska, we would not be able to do enhancement work of any kind.

Running hatcheries is costly and at times there are funding shortfalls that could affect many different mariculture related projects. By adapting the mariculture revolving loan fund to allow for hatcheries to receive funds will help stabilize Alaska's mariculture industry. We fully support the inclusion of hatcheries, enhancement projects, as well as farmers to be able to access these funds.

We fully support the proposed changes to the Mariculture Revolving Loan fund as presented in HB 76.

Again, thank you for your efforts to support mariculture development in Alaska.

Sincerely

Kate Sullivan
Phil Doherty

Member of:
Southeast Conference
United Fishermen of Alaska
PACRIM Shellfish Sanitation Association
Interstate Shellfish Sanitation
Conference