



CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL  
INCORPORATED MAY 30, 2008

*Office of the Borough Mayor*

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March 1, 2017

Representative Dan Ortiz  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov](mailto: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)