

Legislative Lunch and
Learn
February 5, 2024

ALASKA MARICULTURE

Building a sustainable
future for coastal
Alaskans



Farms in Alaska at a glance

- Total Farms- 36
- Combination-14
- Kelp only farms- 9
- Acres for kelp- 746
- Processors in 2023- 2
- Processors in 2024- 5/6

Permit Type	Species Group	Southcentral		Southeast		Westward		Number of Permits	Total Permitted Acres
		Number of Permits	Total Permitted Acres	Number of Permits	Total Permitted Acres	Number of Permits	Total Permitted Acres		
Aquatic Farm Permit	Aquatic Plant Only	9	196.68	9	233.10	11	317.15	29	746.93
	Combination	14	80.30	12	196.69	1	19.80	27	296.79
	Shellfish Only	7	54.07	19	260.44			26	314.51
Aquatic Farm Permit Total		30	331.05	40	690.23	12	336.95	82	1358.23
Hatchery Permit	Aquatic Plant Only	5	0.05	2	0.11	2	0.05	9	0.21
	Combination	1	0.01	2	0.14			3	0.15
Hatchery Permit Total		6	0.06	4	0.25	2	0.05	12	0.36
Grand Total		36	331.11	44	690.48	14	337.00	94	1358.59



Alaska Historical kelp growth

Statewide Aquatic Farm Aquatic Plant Production
Number of pounds harvested from natural set and hatchery produced lines.



Year	Pounds Harvested
2022	872,286
2021	581,711
2020	231,015
2019	136,140
2018	89,278
2017	18,080
2016	Confidential
2015	Confidential
2014	Confidential
2013	Confidential





Processing

The Lack of Processors and Processing capacity, is limiting the ability for farmers to sell enough Kelp to sustain a viable business model.



Collaborations among current processors and kelp industry



Creative ways to make vertical integration possible



Multi-use facilities to share costs



Drying components shared regionally



Grow the overall market for the USA in food sector



Find more ways to use kelp in more existing products



Build relationships with new processors



Supply chain

Current options for shipping product at scale is far too expensive to allow most processors to do business in Alaska.

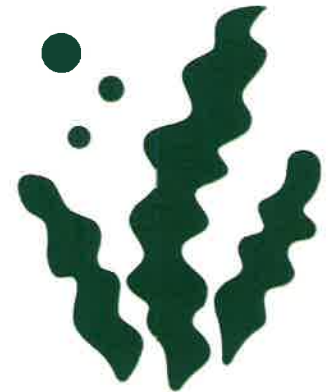
- Stabilize products through freezing, drying, fermentation
- Bring down shipping costs by reducing the water being shipped (drying large volumes)
- Addition of bio refinery's in the state
- Build cooperatives to increase available supply (regionally, statewide)

Things to remember

Alaskans do not have the opportunity to exploit niche markets in ways the East Coast does. 180 million people live within one days trucking of processors in Maine. Most Alaskans sites are a week from metropolitan areas.

In the short term small kelp only farms will not be able to turn a profit unless vertically integrated. Grant and legislative support are integral to their success.

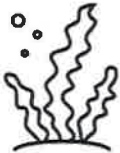
Funding provided through the EDA BBB grant will change the current abilities farmers currently have in Alaska.



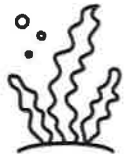
Mariculture Incentive Grant Program



ALASKA
MARICULTURE
ALLIANCE



Grant Program Background



Alaska State Legislature & Governor Dunleavy allocated \$5 million for the Alaska Mariculture Alliance to develop a mariculture grant program with three main objectives.



1. Aid with investments that expand existing or start new farming operations



2. Aid with the expansion of existing hatcheries or development of new hatcheries



3. Facilitate the purchase of new mariculture processing equipment



Round 1 recap

- \$1.5 million to release
- 28 applications
- Total requested \$2,132,000
- 12 micro requests for \$320,646
- 16 standard requests for \$1,811,000



Thank you for your support