

Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Representative Daniel Ortiz
State Capitol, Room 513
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Ph: 907-465-3824
Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov

RE: Support for HB 128 – shellfish enhancement

Dear Representative Ortiz,

February 24, 2017

The Alaska Mariculture Task Force (Task Force) would like to express support for HB 128. *The Task Force recognizes that HB 128 is part of a larger effort to develop mariculture in Alaska.*

At the request of industry and communities, Governor Walker established the Task Force by [Administrative Order #280](#). The Governor recognized that a developed mariculture industry will have economic, environmental, cultural, industrial and food security benefits to Alaskans. Members of the Task Force were appointed in May, 2016. The Governor's directive to the Task Force is to provide recommendations for a comprehensive plan *to develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska's economy, environment, and communities*. The Task Force must complete its work by March 1, 2018.

The Task Force would like to highlight that we are using the following guiding principles in our work to develop the mariculture industry:

- 1) Mariculture is defined as enhancement of wild fisheries and aquatic farming of shellfish and aquatic plants. Mariculture does not include finfish farming, which is not allowed in Alaska.
- 2) The development of the mariculture industry will be compatible with Alaska's reputation as a world leader in responsible and sustainable management of its seafood resources.
- 3) The development of the mariculture industry will be stakeholder-driven.
- 4) The development of the mariculture industry will coordinate and integrate with those entities conducting ocean monitoring in order to inform research and management of changing ocean conditions.

HB 128 plays an important role in the development of mariculture in Alaska. HB 128 creates a regulatory framework with which ADF&G can allow for and manage shellfish fishery enhancement, restoration and hatcheries. 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. *This framework (HB 128) is absolutely necessary to continue moving forward with the development of mariculture related to wild shellfish enhancement.*

Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation. ***The Task Force supports HB 128 and appreciates your proactive role in introducing the legislation.*** If there are any questions, you may contact members of the [Task Force](#).

Sincerely,

Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Cc:

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



March 1, 2017

OceansAlaska
PO Box 6383
Ketchikan, AK 99901

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

Dear Representative Ortiz,

I am President of the Board of Directors for OceansAlaska which is a non-profit shellfish hatchery located in Ketchikan. 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 certain species. OceansAlaska supports HB 128 as it will diversify economic development, sustain cultural legacy and increase environmental stewardship through:

1. Enhancement of traditional and economically important shellfish species.
2. Enhancement of shellfish species integral to marine ecosystems and habitat restoration.
3. Enhancement of shellfish species that are vital to climate change and pollution mitigation.

Thank you for your support of HB 128 and the mariculture industry.

Best regards,

Tomi Marsh
Tomi Marsh
tomim Marsh@mindspring.com



Sitka ♦ Craig ♦ Valdez ♦ Naknek ♦ Metlakatla

210 S. Harbor Dr. / P.O. Box 1129 Valdez, AK

Phone: 907-835-8910 Fax: 907.835-8913

February 20, 2018

The Honorable Dan Ortiz
State Capitol, Room 513
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 128

Dear Representative Ortiz:

Silver Bay Seafoods, LLC (Silver Bay, or SBS) is writing to support Alaska House Bill 128, "An Act relating to the management of enhanced stocks of shellfish; authorizing certain nonprofit organizations to engage in shellfish enhancement projects; relating to application fees for salmon hatchery permits; and providing for an effective date"

SBS is a vertically integrated, primarily fishermen-owned processor of frozen salmon, herring, and other seafoods products for both domestic and export markets. Silver Bay began in 2007 as a single salmon processing facility in Sitka, Alaska, and has since grown into one of the largest seafoods companies in Alaska. Silver Bay has state of the art, high volume processing and freezing facilities throughout Alaska, currently operating in Sitka, Craig, Valdez, Naknek and Metlakatla. SBS also has aspirations for developing production-scale mariculture operations in Sitka Sound, and is currently in the design and permitting phase for a 182-acre aquatic farm site along the western shore of Krestof Island near Olga Point. At full production, this site would yield 20 million Pacific oysters per year, bringing year-round employment to the area along with the production of an environmentally friendly, sustainable, and healthy food source for sale and distribution both locally and worldwide.

HB 128 creates a regulatory framework for the effective management of shellfish fishery enhancement, shellfish restoration activities, and shellfish hatcheries. This act will allow interested stakeholders to either begin or continue with the enhancement and/or restoration of species such as King crab, sea cucumber, geoduck, abalone, or razor clams.

An added benefit of developing shellfish fishery enhancement in Alaska is the role that shellfish hatcheries can play in developing strategies to adapt to ocean acidification and other changes to our coastal waters. As we develop shellfish hatcheries and related techniques, we learn more about the effects of ocean acidification and our ability to mitigate for these effects in a hatchery setting. Thus, shellfish hatcheries can play a critical role in positioning Alaska to better protect its wild stocks in response to changing environmental conditions, while also ensuring seed production for aquatic farmers.

Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation. Silver Bay Seafoods supports HB 128, and appreciates your proactive role in introducing this legislation. Please feel free to call on me if you have any questions whatsoever.

Sincerely,

Tommy Sheridan
Director of Government Affairs
Silver Bay Seafoods
Email: tommy.sheridan@silverbayseafoods.com
Cell: (907) 738-7202

Cc: Senator Hoffman, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee: Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov
Senator MacKinnon, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee: Senator.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov
Senator Stevens, Member, Senate Finance Committee: Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov
Representative Stutes, Chair, House Fisheries Committee: Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov



PO Box 1758
Homer, AK 99603
907-299-3351
info@alaskashellfish.org
www.alaskashellfish.org

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".

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

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



Re: Support for HB 128

March 1, 2017

Dear Representative Ortiz:

The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) 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.

AFDF's membership is comprised of seafood harvesters, seafood processors, and support sector businesses. Founded in 1978, AFDF's mission is *to identify problems common to the Alaska seafood industry and develop efficient, sustainable solutions that provide benefits to the economy, environment and communities.*

One of AFDF's recent areas of work is spearheading the *Alaska Mariculture Initiative*, which is meant to expedite the development of mariculture in Alaska with the vision to grow a \$1 billion industry in 30 years. Many organizations across the state have endorsed this initiative (i.e. Alaska Chamber, Alaska Shellfish Growers Association, Southeast Conference, SE AK Regional Dive Fisheries Association, Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, United Fishermen of Alaska, and others).

As a direct result of this initiative, Governor Walker established the ***Alaska Mariculture Task Force*** by [Administrative Order #280](#). The purpose of the Task Force is to provide recommendations for a comprehensive plan to develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska's economy, environment, and communities.

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

Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc.

Board of Directors

Jan Jacobs – President
Harvester, Region IV
American Seafoods Company

Ken Simpson – Vice President
Harvester, Region II
F/V Lady Simpson

Trevor Sande - Treasurer
Harvester, Region I
Marble Seafoods

Mark Scheer - Secretary
Service Sector
Williams Kastner

Al Burch
Harvester, Region III
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association

Jim Denning
Service Sector
Marel, Inc.

Tom Enlow
Processor, At-large
UniSea

Buck Laukitis
Harvester, At-Large
Magic Fish Company

Chris Mierzejek
Service Sector
Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Assoc.

Stefanie Moreland
Processor, At-large
Trident Seafoods

John Sund
Service Sector
Stellar North LLC

Mark Tupper
Processor, At-large
Triad Fisheries, LTD

cucumber, geoduck, abalone, or razor clams.

I would like to briefly address concerns of the potential for negative impacts to wild shellfish from hatchery shellfish. AFDF is the Client for seafood sustainability certification programs such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) program. As the Client and facilitator for these certification programs, AFDF has a unique viewpoint on this issue. As a part of these certifications, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) management of the salmon fishery (including salmon enhancement) is reviewed every year by independent third-party experts to determine whether it meets internationally accepted standards for sustainably managed fisheries. ***Alaska salmon maintains the Alaska RFM certification, because ADF&G's management incorporates a precautionary approach that prioritizes wild fish and minimizes adverse impacts to wild stocks.*** ADF&G has extensive enhancement policies which protect wild stocks (e.g. genetics, marking, and disease). Given these policies, AFDF and independent third-parties experts have confidence that ADF&G is fulfilling its constitutional mandate to manage the State's fishery resources for sustainability. ***AFDF is confident that ADF&G would manage shellfish enhancement with the same priority to wild stocks, therefore, AFDF support HB 128 which will give ADF&G the authority and regulatory framework to manage shellfish enhancement.***

Another benefit of developing shellfish fishery enhancement is the important role that shellfish hatcheries can play in adapting to ocean changes and acidification. As we develop shellfish hatcheries and techniques, we also learn more about the effects of ocean acidification and our abilities to mitigate these effects in a hatchery setting (e.g. adjusting pH levels at critical stages of survival). Shellfish hatcheries can play a critical role in the future and position Alaska to better protect its wild stocks.

Shellfish enhancement can diversify and expand opportunities in coastal communities and increase the resiliency of Alaska's wild shellfish.

If there are any questions, I am happy to answer them. Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.

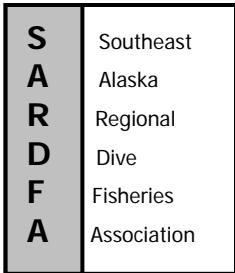
Sincerely,



Julie Decker, Executive Director

Cc:

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



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

Kate Sullivan Co- Executive Director
Phil Doherty Co- Executive Director
PO Box 5417
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
1-907-225-2853
info@sardfa.org
www.sardfa.org

March 6, 2017

Support for HB 128 – Shellfish Enhancement

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 with an end goal of producing hatchery raised sea cucumbers to out-plant and supplement wild stocks. In the summer of 2017 we conducted our first high controlled outplanting of hatchery raised sea cucumbers. HB 128 is an important element to have in place so that SARDFA may someday be able to enhance wild stocks. Without HB 128, the State of Alaska lacks the statutory authority to manage invertebrate enhancement.

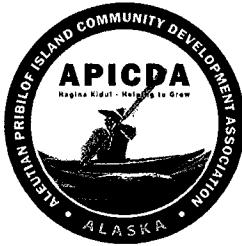
HB 128 is critical to furthering invertebrate aquaculture and enhancement in Alaska. SARDFA fully supports HB 128.

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



Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA)

302 Gold Street, Suite 202 | Juneau, Alaska 99801 | Phone: (907) 586-0161 | Fax: (907) 586-0165

717 K Street | Anchorage, Alaska 99501 | (907) 929-5273 | Fax: (907) 929-5275 | www.apicda.com

March 3, 2017

Representative Daniel Ortiz
State Capitol, room 513
Juneau, AK 99801
Ph: 907-465-3824
Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov

RE: Support for HB 76-Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund
Support for HB 128- Shellfish Enhancement

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) appreciates the introduction of HB 76 and HB 128. We believe these bills are complementary and advancing both will be necessary to support a viable and sustainable mariculture industry in Alaska.

APICDA is a Community Development Quota (CDQ) organization that works with six remote coastal communities to support long term economic sustainability through increasing direct participation and local investment in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. For over 25 years, we have worked in partnership with our communities to invest in shore-side processing plants, vessels, quota purchases, local support infrastructure, workforce development and scholarship programs. These investments have resulted in meaningful employment and social programs in areas where very limited economic opportunities exist.

Our constituents, as well as many other stakeholders, both new and already heavily involved in the seafood industry have expressed interest in investing in or diversifying their existing operations to include mariculture projects. Many have recognized gaps in funding and limitations in seed availability as barriers to entry. HB 76 simply increases the eligibility of an existing, dedicated loan fund to allow for the funding of hatchery operations. This bill would fill a critical gap in capital needs for the development of the infrastructure needed to support mariculture farming operations. We believe that any modifications to the Mariculture Revolving Loan fund should provide enough flexibility to respond to the unique characteristics of hatchery operations in order to successfully increase the accessibility of the program and advance the industry.

HB 128 will provide an important framework for agencies to permit and manage shellfish enhancement projects. Any future enhancement programs will be consistent with Alaska's sustainably managed fisheries and will have to comply with the same stringent regulatory and environmental requirements as the state's healthy and well established salmon enhancement programs. These programs have significant oversight to protect wild salmon runs and have provided hugely successful economic benefits to Alaska's commercial salmon fleets and important revenue streams back to communities. We believe the

passage of HB 128 is essential in order for Alaska to meaningfully explore the full potential of a mariculture industry to provide new economic generation during a critically important time for the state.

Advancing environmentally sound mariculture projects will provide an additive economic branch to Alaska's robust commercial fisheries and could provide important future monitoring tools and adaptive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change. We believe that the passage of these bills will result in substantial benefits to coastal fisheries dependent communities and we fully support moving both forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Cotter".

Larry Cotter
Chief Executive Officer, APICDA



Southwest Alaska Conference

3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99503
907.562.7380 • www.SWAMC.org

Alaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

March 4, 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 Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, 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.

As a representative of 40+ marine economies of Southwest Alaska, opportunity for developing available resources is critical to sustainable economies. While some of the richest waters in the world lie at our doorsteps, the necessary management measures meant to protect the long-term viability of the resource has led to reduced opportunity, particularly for the crab industry. This legislation will provide a regulatory framework to manage crab fishery enhancement, or other species of shellfish, if pursued by interested stakeholders. This could allow for additional fishing opportunity and crab processing while maintaining stocks at healthy levels. We see mariculture as a healthy, viable economic model for the coastal communities that will allow individuals to once again access a new and growing opportunity with limited up-front restrictions.

SWAMC's vision, to promote vibrant and livable communities across Southwest Alaska, is fully realized by a fully developed mariculture industry which creates jobs, improves the natural environment and improves access to usable resources. I look forward to collaborating with your efforts to support this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug B. Griffin".

Doug Griffin,
Executive Director, SWAMC



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801

Phone: (907) 586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545

Email: ufa@ufafish.org **Website:** www.ufafish.org

March 3, 2017

Representative Louise Stutes, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Support for HB128 –Shellfish Enhancement

Dear Chairman Stutes and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 34 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

In our 2014 resolution (attached), UFA supported the Alaska Mariculture Initiative as a method to facilitate expansion of the mariculture industry for marine plants and shellfish farming, enhancement and restoration, to increase jobs and economic opportunity for fishermen, farmers and support businesses. We support HB 128 to help implement the goals of the state's Mariculture Task Force as a step towards providing new economic opportunity in Alaska's coastal communities.

HB 128 creates a regulatory framework with which ADF&G can allow for and manage shellfish fishery enhancement, restoration and hatcheries. This would allow interested stakeholders to continue or begin enhancement and/or restoration of species such as King crab, sea cucumber, geoduck, abalone, razor clams, or others. This framework is essential to allow the development of mariculture related to wild shellfish enhancement.

Although we include eight salmon aquaculture associations that will each be subject to the increase of their fee on new hatchery facilities to \$1000, we support HB 128 because of the broader need to help develop shellfish aquaculture beyond only producing broodstock.

UFA strongly supports Alaska's salmon enhancement programs that are carefully regulated to provide salmon for common property harvest by subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries without detriment to wild stocks. We believe the state can carefully develop opportunities for additional enhancement of shellfish, and passage of HB 128 will help in this effort.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President

Mark Vinsel
Executive Administrator

CC: Representative Daniel Ortiz
Attachment



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229
Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801
Phone: (907)586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545
Email: ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

UFA Resolution 2014 – 03

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA SUPPORTING THE ALASKA MARICULTURE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS Alaska banned finfish farming, but allowed for aquatic farming of shellfish and marine plants with the passage of the Aquatic Farm Act in 1988; and

WHEREAS United Fishermen of Alaska supports Alaska's ban on finfish farming; and

WHEREAS United Fishermen of Alaska supports priority consideration of historic uses, especially fishing areas and anchorages, during citing of aquatic farms; and

WHEREAS United Fishermen of Alaska supports the Alaska Supreme Court's decision to deny use of significant amount of wild stocks for aquatic farming; and

WHEREAS United Fishermen of Alaska supports environmentally sound programs for the aquatic farming of shellfish and marine plants; and

WHEREAS Since 1988, Alaska's shellfish farming industry has struggled to grow beyond existing annual production of \$200,000 to \$600,000 and 10 to 30 commercially producing farms; and

WHEREAS In 2011, NOAA adopted a *National Shellfish Initiative* to increase populations of bivalve shellfish in our nation's coast through commercial production and conservation activities; and

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association

Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association

Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance

Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association

WHEREAS The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations reports that, in 2010, world aquaculture production attained another all-time high (60 million metric tons worth \$119 billion) of which 20% was bivalves that were non-fed (or grown on food materials that exist naturally in their marine environment); and

WHEREAS British Columbia reports that the shellfish growing industry provides over 1,000 full-time jobs in rural coastal communities and produces over \$33 million in annual sales across 16,000 miles of coastline; and

WHEREAS the State of Washington is the largest producer of farmed shellfish in the U.S. with annual sales values which exceed \$100 million, employing directly and indirectly over 3,200 people with over \$27 million in payroll and an estimated total economic contribution of \$270 million; and

WHEREAS In 2011, New Zealand's annual aquaculture production reached \$400 million, and the industry goal is to reach \$1 billion by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS NOAA recognizes the broad suite of economic, social, and environmental benefits provided by sustainably increasing shellfish, including new jobs and business opportunities, meeting the growing demand for seafood, habitat for important commercial, recreational, endangered and threatened species, species recovery, cleaner water and excess nutrient removal, and shoreline protection; and

WHEREAS Washington responded to NOAA with a *Washington Shellfish Initiative* to restore and expand shellfish resources through protection, restoration and enhancement efforts; and

WHEREAS The document titled, *USDA Investment Strategy in Support of Rural Communities in Southeast Alaska (2011-2013)*, identified mariculture as an area consistent with its goals in the Southeast region and worthy of investment; and

WHEREAS In June, 2013, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (ADCCED) published a draft *Alaska Mariculture Development Prospectus* in an attempt to establish a formal initiative focused on expediting the development of the mariculture industry; and

WHEREAS The University of Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program consistently provides support to the shellfish farming industry through education, outreach and training; and

WHEREAS Alaska's salmon enhancement program offers a comparison of the potential for mariculture to grow the economy of coastal Alaska; and

WHEREAS In 2010-2012, the ex-vessel values of hatchery salmon commercially harvested were worth approximately \$250 million, \$110 million, and \$150 million; and

WHEREAS According to a recent economic study conducted for the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Association, the rate of return on investment from hatchery salmon in Prince William Sound is 271:1 for the State and 23:1 for commercial fishermen; and

WHEREAS On September, 25, 2013, NOAA researchers achieved the first experimental release of hatchery-reared red king crabs in Alaska, as a part of the Alaska King Crab Research, Rehabilitation, and Biology Program (AKCRRAB); and

WHEREAS the Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) is working with the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery to spawn sea cucumbers as a part of ongoing research into production of juveniles to support enhancement of wild sea cucumber populations; and

WHEREAS shellfish enhancement programs could prove to be of value to Alaska's seafood sector and coastal communities; and

WHEREAS In summer of 2013, NOAA was petitioned to list the pinto abalone under the Endangered Species Act and the petition is under review; and

WHEREAS shellfish restoration programs may ultimately be an effective tool to assist in the recovery of depleted wild shellfish stocks; and

WHEREAS the farming of aquatic plants could provide diverse social, environmental, and economic benefits for Alaska residents; and

WHEREAS aquatic plant culture can produce healthy foods and supplements, increase and preserve habitat for fish and invertebrates, and assist with bioremediation efforts in areas that contain excess nutrient loads; and

WHEREAS The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) is spearheading the *Alaska Mariculture Initiative* which will expedite the development of mariculture in Alaska, including marine plants and shellfish farming, enhancement, and restoration; and

WHEREAS The *Alaska Mariculture Initiative* will complete the following objectives: broaden the vision and constituency of the mariculture industry from shellfish farming to also include enhancement and restoration; coordinate efforts to develop the mariculture industry; convene a planning conference in Alaska; develop a strategic plan; and, gain a commitment by all participating agencies and stakeholders regarding implementation of the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

United Fishermen of Alaska supports the *Alaska Mariculture Initiative* as a method to facilitate expansion of the mariculture industry for marine plants and shellfish farming, enhancement and restoration, to increase jobs and economic opportunity for fishermen, farmers and support businesses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

Copies of this Resolution will be sent to the Alaska Legislature, Governor Parnell, ADF&G, A D C C E D , USDA Rural Development, NOAA Fisheries, and Alaska's Congressional Delegation

By UFA Board of Directors, May 6th, 2014.



Jerry McCune, President



Attest: Julianne Curry,
Executive Director

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2621

A Resolution of the Assembly of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Urging the State of Alaska to Amend the Statutory Requirements for the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund and Submitting a Resolution for Adoption by the Alaska Municipal League (AML)

RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS**, the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund was established by AS 16.10.900-945 and 3 AAC 80.410-480 to make loans for the purpose of planning, construction , and operation of a mariculture business; and,
- B. WHEREAS**, under AS 16.10.910 eligible applicants for a loan must have a permitted mariculture farm located within the State of Alaska; and
- C. WHEREAS**, AS 16.10.915 limits the loan amount to \$100,000 a year, not to exceed a total loan of \$300,000; and
- D. WHEREAS**, shellfish and aquatic plant seed (i.e. oyster and geoduck) are needed for mariculture farms to succeed and therefore, hatcheries are vital component for the industry to succeed within the State of Alaska; and
- E. WHEREAS**, per Alaska Department of Fish and Game, all species of native shellfish and aquatic plant seed are required to be produced within the State of Alaska (oyster is the only exception to this requirement); and
- F. WHEREAS**, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough understands the need for hatcheries and has provided a loan to OceansAlaska for the purpose of a shellfish hatchery to fill this void; and
- G. WHEREAS**, the Assembly believes that the State of Alaska Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund is an appropriate mechanism for funding mariculture hatcheries as well as farms within the state; and
- H. WHEREAS**, the current revolving loan fund needs to be amended to allow non-profit shellfish hatcheries to apply for loans with the state following a similar administrative model as Alaska's salmon hatcheries which utilize the Fisheries Enhancement Revolving Loan Fund; and
- I. WHEREAS**, the Assembly believes that it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska and the mariculture industry that non-profit shellfish hatcheries be eligible to utilize the fund in an amount not to exceed up to \$2 million of the principle of the fund as an efficient and effective way to encourage economic

development in communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FACTS, IT IS RESOLVED
BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH as follows:**

Section 1. The Assembly supports, and urges AML to support, a change to Alaska law that would statutorily amend the existing Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund to allow for non-profit shellfish hatcheries to also utilize the fund in an amount not to exceed up to \$2 million of the principle of the fund.

Section 2. The Borough Clerk is directed to forward this resolution to the AML with the request that the draft AML Resolution included as Exhibit A be considered at the 2015 AML Annual Local Government Conference.

Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 5th day of October, 2015.



David Landis, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Scott A. Brandt-Erichsen, Borough Attorney



Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery
PO Box 369
Seward, AK 99664
907 224-5181

Representative Dan Ortiz

State Capitol Room 513
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov

Re: HB 128-Shellfish Enhancement
HB 76- Revolving Loan Fund

March 28, 2017

Dear Representative Ortiz,

Thank you for sponsoring the two shellfish bills to the 30th Alaska State Legislature. As Director of the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery I would like to express the importance of these two bills.

HB89 would allow us to expand on the work we have been doing on many of the shellfish stocks in Alaska. We have developed hatchery techniques for red and blue king crab, little neck and butter clams, cockles and most recently abalone. We have done experimental out stocking experiments with some of these species but need the legal mechanism to do large scale projects that could make a difference.

HB 128 supports the industry from a different angle. In my opinion, the relatively slow growth of the mariculture industry in Alaska is because of under capitalization. This loan program is specifically designed to take into account the delayed return on investment for growers and operators and should help spur the expansion of our industry. As the operator of the shellfish hatchery this is extremely important since I need more customers to keep our operation financially solvent.

I understand the turmoil in Juneau with the fiscal situation and other priorities but would hope you could convince your colleagues to give these bills fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hetrick
Director



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Jack".

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)



JEDC.org
612 West Willoughby Ave. Suite A
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone 907-523-2300
Fax 907-463-3929

March 24, 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:

The Juneau Economic Development Council fosters a healthy and sustainable economic climate in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. In collaboration with other organizations, the council implements initiatives to maintain, expand, and create economic opportunities.

On behalf of the Juneau Economic Development Council, I would like to express support for HB 128 which allows qualified non-profits to pursue enhancement and/or restoration projects involving shellfish species. HB 128 is part of a larger effort to develop mariculture in Alaska by creating a regulatory framework with which ADF&G can allow for and manage shellfish fishery enhancement, restoration and hatcheries. It will bring mariculture one step closer to its potential to become an economic engine for Southeast Alaska.

Thank you for your efforts to support mariculture development in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Brian Holst
Executive Director
Juneau Economic Development Council

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2702

A Resolution of the Assembly of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Urging the State of Alaska Legislature to Pass HB 128 Allowing for Shellfish Fishery Enhancement

R E C I T A L S

- A. WHEREAS**, enhancement of the State's shellfish fisheries 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; and
- B. WHEREAS**, in January, 2017, Representative Dan Ortiz introduced House Bill 128, an act relating to management of enhanced stocks of shellfish and authorizing certain nonprofit organizations to engage in shellfish enhancement projects; and
- C. WHEREAS**, HB 128 authorizes the Commissioner of Fish and Game to issue permits to nonprofit organizations for shellfish enhancement projects and outlines criteria for issuance of permits. These requirements include determination of substantial public benefit while also ensuring safety and security of existing natural; and
- D. WHEREAS**, HB 128 creates a regulatory framework similar to that of salmon fishery enhancement and allows interested stakeholders to either pursue enhancement and/or restoration projects of species such as sea cucumber, abalone, geoduck, King crab, or razor clams with the end goal to augment the yield and harvest of shellfish species, rehabilitate shellfish stocks, or to increase the area of natural shellfish habitat; and
- E. WHEREAS**, under HB 128, shellfish released into the wild by a permit holder are a common property resource available for common use and subject to the same rules as shellfish occurring in the natural state except when a designated harvest area is authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game; and
- F. WHEREAS**, HB 128 will allow for collaboration between existing shellfish hatcheries, such as OceansAlaska or Alutiiq Pride, and industry-based non-profit organizations towards implementation of shellfish fishery enhancement projects; and
- G. WHEREAS**, shellfish enhancement projects stand to diversify and expand opportunities in local fisheries and increases the resiliency of Alaska's shellfish fisheries; and
- H. WHEREAS**, HB 128 is essentially identical to legislation introduced by Governor

Walker in 2016; and,

I. WHEREAS, the Assembly finds that HB 128 would provide necessary shellfish fishery enhancements in the best interests of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FACTS, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH as follows:

Section 1. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough urges the Alaska Legislature to pass HB 128 during the 2017 session.

Section 2. The Borough Clerk is directed to submit a copy of this resolution to Representative Dan Ortiz, Representative Louise Stutes, and the Executive Director of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2017.



David Landis, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Scott A. Brandt-Erichsen, Borough Attorney



CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
INCORPORATED MAY 30, 2008

Office of the Borough Mayor

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907-874-2381
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March 1, 2017

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

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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,

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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)