

MADE IN ALASKA

MARICULTURE

To: Representative Dan Ortiz
Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov

From: Julie Decker, Chair
Alaska Mariculture Task Force

RE: Support for HB 41 – allowing shellfish enhancement and restoration

Dear Representative Ortiz,

April 5, 2019

On behalf of the Alaska Mariculture Task Force (Task Force), I would like to express support for HB 41, which would allow for shellfish enhancement and restoration and is part of a larger plan to develop the mariculture industry in Alaska.

In 2016, Governor Walker established and appointed members to the Task Force by [Administrative Order No.280](#), with the directive to provide recommendations to develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry. In 2018, the Task Force completed a statewide comprehensive plan in order to accelerate the development of mariculture - the [Alaska Mariculture Development Plan](#) (attached is a [brief summary](#) of the full Plan). The Task Force was re-authorized in 2018 by [AO No. 297](#) in order to work towards implementation of the Plan. **The priority recommendations on page 22 of the Plan include passage of the HB 41.**



HB 41 creates a regulatory framework with which ADF&G can allow for and manage shellfish enhancement and restoration. This bill will allow interested stakeholders to either continue working towards enhancement and/or restoration of shellfish species such as Blue and Red King crab, sea cucumber, geoduck, abalone, razor clams, or others. HB 41 is also modeled after Alaska's salmon fishery enhancement program, which has proven to be successful resource development. This framework (HB 41) is absolutely necessary to continue moving forward with the development of mariculture related to shellfish enhancement and restoration.

Again, HB 41 is one of the priority recommendations contained within the statewide comprehensive plan with the goal to develop a \$100 million mariculture industry in Alaska in 20 years. The members of the Alaska Mariculture Task Force thank you for your sponsorship of this bill. [Please note - this letter was sent on behalf of the Task Force. The Administration has not taken a position on this bill.]

Sincerely,

Julie Decker, Chair, Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Cc: Alaska Mariculture Task Force, Liz Harpold, Office of Rep. Ortiz