



**CITY AND BOROUGH
OF WRANGELL**
INCORPORATED MAY 30, 2008

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March 11, 2019

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

Re: Support for HB41 – Shellfish Enhancement

Dear Representative Ortiz:

The City & Borough of Wrangell fully supports HB41 which creates a framework to manage and develop shellfish fishery enhancement. HB41 plays a critical role in the development of mariculture in Alaska by creating regulatory structure with which ADF&G can manage shellfish fishery restoration and enhancement. This will allow interested stakeholders the ability to continue or begin restoration or enhancement of species like King crab, sea cucumber, goeduck or razor clams, or abalone.

The proposed legislation will help the State's economy by providing a method to increase the available harvest of shellfish for public use in an environmentally safe manner. An added benefit of shellfish fishery enhancement is the important role that shellfish hatcheries can play in adapting to ocean changes and acidification.

The ecosystem services shellfish provide to the marine environment, as well as the economic development opportunities, make passage of this legislation very important.

Shellfish enhancement can diversify and expand the opportunities in coastal communities and increase the resiliency of Alaska's wild shellfish. The Assembly of the City & Borough of Wrangell supports HB41 and appreciates your work to provide greater economic opportunity in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Stephen Prysunka
City & Borough of Wrangell, Mayor