

# REPRESENTATIVE DAN ORTIZ

*Alaska State Legislature / Ketchikan, Saxman, Wrangell, Hydaburg, Metlakatla, Hyder, Loring and Meyers Chuck*

SESSION ADDRESS:

Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: 907-465-3824  
Toll Free: 1-800-686-3824  
Fax: 907-465-3175



INTERIM ADDRESS:

1900 First Avenue, Suite 310  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
Phone: 907-247-4672  
907-465-5269  
Fax: 907-225-8546

## Sponsor Statement

### House Bill 41

#### Shellfish Enhancement Projects; Hatcheries

Enhancement of Alaska's shellfish industry holds the potential of expanded economic opportunities in Alaska's coastal communities and increased resilience of the State's fisheries portfolio.

To tap this potential House Bill 41 allows qualified non-profits to pursue enhancement and/or restoration projects involving shellfish species including red and blue king crab, sea cucumber, abalone, and razor clams.

The bill creates a regulatory framework with which the Department of Fish & Game can manage shellfish enhancement projects and outlines criteria for issuance of permits. It sets out stringent safety standards to ensure sustainability and health of existing natural stocks. The commissioner of ADF&G must also make a determination of substantial public benefit before a project can proceed.

In addition, the bill allows the Department of Fish & Game to set the application fee for a shellfish enhancement project permit and grants the similar authority over the application fee for a salmon enhancement project permit.

House Bill 41 plays an important role in the development of mariculture in Alaska by providing a method to increase the available harvest of shellfish for public use in an environmentally safe and responsible manner.