

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



Re: Support for HB 41 – shellfish enhancement

Dear Representative Ortiz,

March 15, 2019

The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) would like to express support for HB 41 which creates a framework to manage and develop shellfish fishery enhancement and 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 opportunities common to the Alaska seafood industry and develop efficient, sustainable outcomes 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, the ***Alaska Mariculture Task Force*** was established in 2016. The Task Force completed a statewide comprehensive plan in 2018 called the [Alaska Mariculture Development Plan](#) with the goal of growing a \$100 million industry in 20 years.

HB 41 plays an important role in the development of mariculture in Alaska and is one of the priority recommendations in the comprehensive plan. HB 41 creates a regulatory framework with which Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) can manage shellfish fishery enhancement and restoration. This will allow interested stakeholders to either continue or begin enhancement and/or restoration efforts of species such as King crab, sea cucumber, geoduck, abalone, scallops or razor clams. Without this

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Chris Mierzejek
Service Sector
Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Assoc.

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Glenn Reed
Processor, At-large
Pacific Seafood Processors Assoc.

Keith Singleton
Harvester, At-large
Alaskan Leader Seafoods

John Sund
Service Sector
Stellar North LLC

regulatory framework, shellfish enhancement is NOT allowed in Alaska, and development progress is halted.

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 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 is currently certified as sustainable under for the Alaska RFM and MSC programs, 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, independent third-party 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 will manage shellfish enhancement with the same priority to wild stocks, therefore, AFDF supports SB22 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 juvenile stages to improve 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 economic opportunities by increasing opportunity to harvest shellfish for sport, subsistence, or commercial use. For example, during the years 2012-2017, salmon enhancement contributed approximately \$720 million in ex-vessel value and \$2.1 billion in first wholesale value to the state's economy. Similarly, shellfish enhancement could infuse the economies of Alaska communities once fully developed.

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: Liz Harpold, Staff for Representative Dan Ortiz

Attached: ***Alaska Mariculture Development Plan – In Brief***

IN BRIEF

Alaska Mariculture Development Plan

2018



"Aquatic plants and shellfish present a significant and sustainable economic opportunity for coastal Alaska communities....I support this comprehensive plan and commit the State of Alaska to work in partnership with stakeholders and agencies toward its implementation."

—Governor Bill Walker

"This plan is intended to increase profitability, expand participation, and provide coordination....the Task Force members remain committed and are enthusiastic about expanding Alaska's mariculture industry."

—Alaska Mariculture Task Force



What is Mariculture?

Enhancement, restoration, and farming of shellfish (marine invertebrates) and seaweeds (macroalgae). Finfish farming is not legal in Alaska waters, and therefore, it is not considered in this report.

Why Mariculture?

Economic Benefits

- 🌀 Adds jobs in primary, secondary, and support sectors.
- 🌀 Adds money and commerce flowing through coastal communities.
- 🌀 Increases trade domestically and internationally.

Environmental Benefits

- 🌀 Shellfish filter and clean the water allowing light to penetrate.
- 🌀 Shellfish and seaweed remove excess nutrients.
- 🌀 Shellfish and seaweed provide essential habitat and support diverse ecosystems.
- 🌀 Shellfish and seaweed help mitigate ocean acidification in local waters.

Cultural Benefits

- 🌀 Complements existing traditions and customs in coastal communities.
- 🌀 Complements existing skill sets.

This synopsis of the 2018 Alaska Mariculture Development Plan presents results of a two-year planning process by the Governor's Mariculture Task Force (MTF).

The MTF, including advisory committees, held public meetings, conducted outreach, and completed an economic analysis as part of the planning process. The economic analysis included case studies of successful mariculture industries, an economic framework for developing the Alaska mariculture industry, and a cost/benefit analysis of the economic impacts of mariculture industry development.

Vision

Develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska's economy, environment, and communities.

Goal

Grow a \$100 million mariculture industry in 20 years.

Guiding Principles

Coordination and Leadership

Effective implementation of this comprehensive plan requires coordination and commitment of time and resources from local, state, federal and tribal governments, industry, communities, the University, and other interested stakeholders.

Sustainability

Development of mariculture will be compatible with sustainability principles to maintain and improve environmental integrity, as required by the Alaska Constitution and ADF&G management practices.

Alaska Native Participation

Mariculture development will benefit from the involvement of Alaska Natives in every element of the process.

Innovation

Alaska presents many unique challenges, and developers will look globally to applicable research and solutions to apply to Alaska's circumstances and geography.

Compatibility

Implementation of this plan must protect existing marine uses, such as subsistence, commercial fishing, and recreation. It will also utilize Alaska assets and infrastructure.





MADE IN ALASKA

MARICULTURE

PATHWAY TO A VIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY

Priority Recommendations Highlighted in Red

Secure and Promote Investment In Mariculture

- ☞ Increase the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund principal as utilization increases.
- ☞ Secure private investment.
- ☞ Coordinate federal and state funding sources.
- ☞ Fund business planning, start-ups, and structures.
- ☞ Leverage utilization of existing coastal infrastructure.
- ☞ Develop a web-based mapping tool.
- ☞ Encourage financial support for State agencies to properly manage and timely process farm applications.
- ☞ Develop options for self-assessments, taxation, or other fee mechanisms to support growth.

Establish an Alaska Mariculture Development Council (AMDC)

- ☞ **Extend the MTF and its advisory committees for three years, with a new directive to begin implementation of the comprehensive plan and creation of the AMDC.**

Maximize Innovation and Growth Through Research

- ☞ **Establish a Mariculture Research Center to address research priorities and continually update needs.**
- ☞ **Fill the UAF Alaska Sea Grant Mariculture Specialist position.**
- ☞ **Fill the Alaska Region NOAA Aquaculture Coordinator position.**

Develop New Mariculture Markets and Products

- ☞ Coordinate mariculture marketing through trade associations and consider joining with ASMI through self-assessment.
- ☞ Encourage ASMI to expand marketing to include mariculture products.
- ☞ Engage in product form research and development and market research.
- ☞ Support economic data collection and research.

Build Public Understanding and Support for Mariculture

- ☞ Inform about maintaining existing uses, preserving the environment, preventing genetic issues, and avoiding market competition with wild-caught seafood.
- ☞ Conduct public outreach to multiple audiences.
- ☞ Identify and communicate with all community stakeholders early in the process.
- ☞ Coordinate information and advocacy through a central body.

Promote Success Through Alaska Native Participation

- ☞ Conduct outreach to Alaska Native organizations related to mariculture opportunities and relevant technical and financial support.
- ☞ Seek tribal engagement through local outreach during the farm permitting process.
- ☞ Develop collaborative workforce development programs between tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, industry, and other relevant partners.
- ☞ Integrate mariculture topics and studies in relevant educational programs.

Align Laws, Regulations, and Agency Practices with Stakeholder Needs

- ☞ **Allow restoration, rehabilitation, and enhancement of shellfish stocks.**
- ☞ Create a single point of contact for permitting processes.
- ☞ Modify farm site lease requirements, including bonding requirements, lease fee structures, risk reduction, and best practices.
- ☞ Provide resources necessary to ADEC.
- ☞ Pursue clarification of regulations.

Secure Seed Supply Through Shellfish and Seaweed Hatcheries

- ☞ **Fund hatchery operating costs until the industry is self-sustaining.**
- ☞ Develop long-term funding options to support hatchery production.
- ☞ **Allow and encourage shellfish and seaweed hatcheries to utilize the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund.**
- ☞ Provide technical assistance to existing and new hatcheries.

Grow and Develop the Mariculture Workforce

- ☞ Provide mariculture skill-building resources and professional development opportunities to growers, available both remotely and in-person.
- ☞ Offer an "Introduction to Shellfish/ Seaweed Farming" boot camp.
- ☞ Utilize the University of Alaska's Sea Grant Mariculture Specialist position.
- ☞ Develop a mariculture apprenticeship/mentorship program.
- ☞ Participate in industry career awareness activities.
- ☞ Evaluate and track participant progress and include mariculture workforce impacts in economic and employment analyses.

'Made in Alaska Mariculture' graphic provided by Alaska Department of Commerce, Division of Economic Development and artist Craig Updegrave.

\$100 Million Alaska Mariculture Industry in 20 Years



Long-Range (20-Year) Annual Production Goals

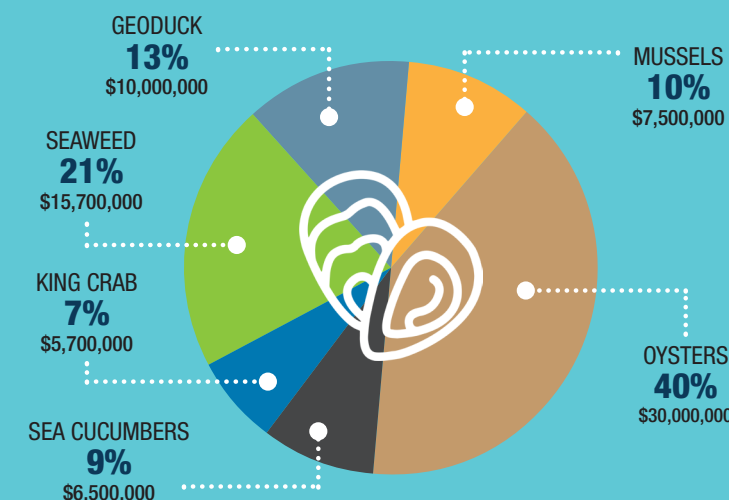
45 million	Pacific oysters (count)
500,000	Geoducks (count)
48 million	Kelp (lbs.–wet)
1.8 million	Blue mussels (lbs.)
565,000	Red king crab (lbs.)
1.9 million	Sea cucumbers (lbs.)

20-Year Annual Economic Impact

\$100 million+	\$75 million in industry sales
Annual output, including all direct, indirect, and induced effects	1,500 total jobs
	\$38 million in direct wages
	\$49 million in total labor income

Note: 2017 dollars

20-Year Annual Revenue Goals





ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE,
COMMUNITY,
AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska



Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association



OceansAlaska
MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

ALASKA MARICULTURE TASK FORCE

Governor Bill Walker established the Alaska Mariculture Task Force (MTF) in 2016 to create a comprehensive plan for development of a viable and sustainable mariculture industry in Alaska. Eleven representatives of communities, tribes, industry, hatcheries, researchers, and state government comprise the MTF.

Julie Decker, MTF Chair, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation

Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant

Angel Drobnic, Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

Jeff Hetrick, Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery

Heather McCarty, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and Alaska King Crab Research, Rehabilitation and Biology Program

Mike Navarre (current Commissioner)/Chris Hladick (former Commissioner), Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Sam Rabung, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Dr. Michael Stekoll, University of Alaska Southeast and University of Alaska Fairbanks

Kate Sullivan, Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association

Christopher Whitehead, Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research

Eric Wyatt, OceansAlaska and Blue Starr Oyster Company

The full plan may be accessed through the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation www.afdf.org and the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game www.adfg.alaska.gov



This briefing document was prepared by McDowell Group with funds provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, State of Alaska, and industry groups.

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

April 6, 2019

Representative Dan Ortiz
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 41

Dear Representative Ortiz:

The Steering Committee of the Alaska King Crab Research, Rehabilitation and Biology (AKCRRAB) program would like to express appreciation and support for House Bill 41.

The AKCRRAB program is a coalition of university, federal and stakeholder groups, formed in 2006 with the goals of adding to the scientific understanding of crab life history and ecology, as well as the eventual rehabilitation of depressed king crab stocks in Alaska. AKCRRAB is developing scientifically sound strategies for hatching, rearing and outplanting king crab in Alaska, in order to help restore populations to self-sustainable levels.

In phase one, from 2006 to 2011, AKCRRAB researchers made significant accomplishments in developing and improving methods of hatchery rearing of larval and juvenile king crab from wild-caught broodstock, to the point where large-scale production is feasible. Parallel field and laboratory studies of crab ecology and population genetics were also conducted during this time.

In the second and current phase, hatchery studies have been complemented by studies essential to understanding optimal release strategies, appropriate habitat, and potential impact on existing ecosystems. This research is providing the science necessary for informing the responsible release of hatchery-reared animals. Increased knowledge will allow scientists and managers to assess the feasibility of ecologically sound rehabilitation of depressed stocks, with potentially substantial benefits to Alaska.

In the third and final phase, AKCRRAB is evolving from a research-oriented coalition to an entity focused on transitioning hatchery techniques and outplanting technologies to communities and industry as part of statewide

efforts to help rehabilitate depleted king crab stocks. As phase three develops, the program will require support and guidance from the State of Alaska, as the transition from feasibility to implementation will need to be guided by a new regulatory structure.

House Bill 41 is a response to the need for new regulations for shellfish culture. The AKCRRAB Steering Committee is pleased that the Legislature is addressing this need. The continued forward progress of our efforts depends on the passage of HB 41.

We intend to participate in further discussions and hearings on this important legislation. The AKCRRAB Steering Committee stands ready to interact with Committee members and staff as needed. Please let us know how we can be of help.

Best regards,

Dr. Ginny Eckert, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, UAF, Juneau Division

Heather McCarty, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
AKCRRAB Steering Committee Co-chairs

Steering Committee members: Jeff Hetrick, Alutiq Pride Hatchery, Seward; Jeff Stephan, United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Kodiak; Dr. Bob Foy, NMFS, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Kodiak; Chris Mierzejek, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association, Anchorage; Lauren Divine, Tribal Government of St. Paul.



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Phone (907) 586-4360
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Email info@seconference.org
SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

March 11, 2019

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

Re: Support for HB 41 – Shellfish Enhancement

Dear Representative Ortiz,

On behalf of the Southeast Conference, I would like to express support for HB 41 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.

Southeast Conference is a state and federally designated regional economic development organization for Southeast Alaska. For nearly 60 years, Southeast Conference has served as the collective voice for advancing the region's economy. Southeast Conference has over 200 members from organizations representing business and governments from 32 regional communities. The mission of Southeast Conference is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

HB 41 plays an important role in the development of mariculture in Alaska. It creates a regulatory framework with which ADF&G can manage shellfish fishery enhancement and restoration. 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 Southeast Conference supports HB 41 and appreciates your work to provide additional economic opportunities in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Robert Venables
Executive Director
Southeast Conference



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 12, 2019

Representative Dan Ortiz
State Capital Room 513
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 41 –Shellfish Enhancement

Dear Representative Ortiz,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 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 41 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 41 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 SB 22 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 41 will help in this effort.

Sincerely,

Matt Alward
President

Frances H. Leach
Executive Director



Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

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 20, 2019

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

RE: Support for HB41-Shellfish Enhancement Projects; Hatcheries

Dear Representative Ortiz,

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) appreciates the introduction of HB 41. This bill will provide a vehicle for continuing discussion on the development and support of 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 in the Aleutian-Pribilof region through increasing direct participation and local investment in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. For 27 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 CDQ residents, and many other stakeholders, both new to and those already heavily involved in the seafood industry, have expressed interest in investing in or diversifying their existing operations to include mariculture projects.

HB 41 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 41 is essential in order for Alaska to meaningfully explore the full potential of a mariculture industry to provide new economic growth during a critically important time for the state.

Advancing environmentally sound mariculture projects will provide a new 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 this bill will result in substantial benefits to coastal fisheries-dependent communities and we fully support moving both forward.

Sincerely,

Angel Drobnica
Fisheries and Government Affairs Director



Sitka ♦ Craig ♦ Valdez ♦ Naknek ♦ False Pass

P.O. Box 1742 Cordova, AK 99574

Phone: (907) 738-7202

March 19, 2019

The Honorable Dan Ortiz
State Capitol Room 513
Juneau AK, 99801
RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 41

Dear Representative Ortiz:

Silver Bay Seafoods, LLC (Silver Bay, or SBS) is writing to support Alaska House Bill 41, "An Act relating to 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 seafood 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 seafood 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 False Pass. Silver Bay has identified mariculture as a viable opportunity to diversify its operations. Silver Bay 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 in Sitka Sound. 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 41 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 41 as it is currently written and appreciates your proactive role in introducing this legislation. Please feel free to call on me if you have any questions whatsoever.

Sincerely,

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tommy Sheridan
External Affairs
Silver Bay Seafoods
tommy.sheridan@silverbayseafoods.com



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

Representative Dan Ortiz
State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov

Re: HB 41-Shellfish Enhancement

March 11, 2019

Dear Representative Ortiz,

Thank you for co-sponsoring the Shellfish Enhancement legislation to the 31st Alaska State Legislature. As Director of the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery I would like to express the importance of this bill.

HB41 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 conducted experimental out stocking experiments with some of these species with great success. We now need the legal mechanism to do large scale projects to determine if we could make a significant difference.

Specifically, we would like to begin the application of the techniques we have developed for Red King Crab (RKC). Although we make no claim that we will be able to resurrect the RKC populations throughout Alaska we do believe, based on our preliminary work, that we will be able to contribute to localized populations.

This legislation has been through extensive revisions and I believe it is now in the form that could move our industry forward.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hetrick
Director



March 21, 2019

Representative Dan Ortiz
State Capitol Room 513
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Support for HB 41 - Shellfish Enhancement; Hatcheries

Dear Representative Ortiz,

CDFU is a non-profit membership organization representing over 900 commercial fishing families who participate in commercial fisheries in Alaska's Area E, which includes Prince William Sound, the Copper River region, and the northern-central Gulf. It is our mission to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the commercial fishing industry in Area E and to further promote safety at sea, legislation, conservation, management, and general welfare for the mutual benefit of all our members.

The commercial fishermen of Area E have a strong and historic relationship with the Alaska State Legislature and State of Alaska Departments that we foster with great care, proactive communications and representation. CDFU would like to formally state our strong support for HB 41 and the regulatory framework it creates for ADFG to allow and manage wild shellfish enhancement within the State of Alaska.

We believe shellfish mariculture has the potential to restore wild species and historic fisheries such as King crab, Dungeness crab, razor clams, and sea cucumber, etc. to their historic range within the Prince William Sound region, and create additional economic opportunity for commercial fishermen and their coastal communities within Area E.

CDFU continues to support Alaska's salmon enhancement and hatchery programs, which have been implemented for decades through careful regulation and which provide salmon for use by subsistence, commercial, sport, and personal use fishermen. We believe shellfish enhancement projects can be carried out in a similar manner and that HB 41 will support the state in the development and enhancement of shellfish fisheries.

Gerald McCune
President

Chelsea Haisman
Executive Director



OceansAlaska

MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

March 1, 2017

OceansAlaska
PO Box 6383
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Representative Ortiz
State Capitol, Room 513
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Ortiz,

Good afternoon, I am the President of the Board of Directors for OceansAlaska which is a non-profit shellfish hatchery located in Ketchikan. HB 41 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 41 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 41 and the mariculture industry.

Best regards,

Tomi Marsh
tomimarsh@mindspring.com
206-972-8217

S	Southeast
A	Alaska
R	Regional
D	Dive
F	Fisheries
A	Association



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

Phil Doherty – Co-Executive Director
 Kate Sullivan Co-Executive Director
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March 13, 2019

Support for HB 41: "An Act relating to 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."

Representative Dan Ortiz
 State Capitol Room 513
 Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Dan 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. HB 41 is an important element to have in place so that SARDFA may someday be able to enhance wild stocks. Without HB 41, the State of Alaska lacks the statutory authority to manage invertebrate enhancement.

Again, thank you for your efforts to support mariculture development in Alaska.

Sincerely

Phil Doherty
 Kate Sullivan

Member of:
 Southeast Conference
 United Fishermen of Alaska
 PACRIM Shellfish Sanitation Association
 Interstate Shellfish Sanitation
 Conference



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

P.O. BOX 531 (907)-874-2381
Wrangell, AK 99929 FAX (907)-874-3952

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