

## Tim Lamkin

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**From:** Sen. Gary Stevens  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:00 PM  
**To:** Tim Lamkin  
**Subject:** FW: JEDC Supports Senate Bill 64  
**Attachments:** Resolution 2021-07 Support for SB64.pdf

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**From:** Brian Holst <bholst@jedc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 11:05 AM  
**To:** Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** JEDC Supports Senate Bill 64



[JEDC.org](http://JEDC.org)

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March 9, 2021

Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 419  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stevens,

The Juneau Economic Development Council fosters a healthy and sustainable economic climate in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. As an advocate for long-term, sustainable, economic growth and prosperity for Alaskans, we see the potential in the mariculture industry in Alaska. While this nascent industry currently adds a few million to our economy, we concur with the vision of the State Mariculture Task Force that mariculture could be a \$100 million industry in the next twenty years if we collectively work towards that goal.

Senate Bill 64, "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 shellfish enhancement project permits; allowing the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute to market aquatic farm products; and providing for an effective date" will create a regulatory framework with which the Department of Fish and Game can manage shellfish enhancement projects and issue permits, allowing for the development of responsible shellfish enhancement and restoration projects. This bill will also amend the statutes governing the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) to enable them to market aquatic farm products, such as oysters and kelp. The passage of Senate Bill 64 will help Alaska, our communities, and our economy.

Please find attached Resolution 2021-07 of the Juneau Economic Development Council Board of Directors expressing our support for passage of Senate Bill 64.

Brian Holst

**Brian Holst | Executive Director**

**Juneau Economic Development Council**

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## **RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors**

### **Resolution 2021-07: *Support for the passage of Alaska Senate Bill 64 Shellfish Enhancement Projects, Hatcheries, and Fees***

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) has assembled in a meeting this the 3rd day of March 2021;

**WHEREAS**, the mariculture industry in Alaska is currently an approximately \$1.4 million annual industry and mariculture has the potential to provide more year-round jobs in coastal communities, leading to more diversified and resilient local economies.

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 the Governor established a Mariculture Task Force and Mariculture Development Plan, with the overarching goal to establish a \$100 million mariculture industry in Alaska in 20 years.

**WHEREAS**, under current regulations, shellfish enhancement permits are not authorized in Alaska, which limits sector growth.

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 64 creates a regulatory framework with which the Department of Fish & Game can manage shellfish enhancement projects and issue permits, allowing for the development of responsible shellfish enhancement and restoration projects.

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 64 amends the statutes governing the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) to enable them to market aquatic farm products, such as oysters and kelp.

**WHEREAS**, the changes proposed in Senate Bill 64 were priority recommendations of the Mariculture Development Plan, as outlined by the Governor's Mariculture Task Force.

**WHEREAS**, the passage of Senate Bill 64 is crucial to the expansion of mariculture in Alaska and supported by those in the industry.

**WHEREAS**, JEDC has long supported the emerging mariculture industry in Alaska through various avenues, including the Southeast Alaska Cluster Initiative.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Board of Directors of the Juneau Economic Development Council expresses support for the passage of Alaska Senate Bill 64.

**The undersigned hereby certify that the Board of Directors of the Juneau Economic Development Council duly adopted this Resolution on March 3, 2021.**

**Garrett Schoenberger, JEDC Chairperson**

**Melissa Kookesh, JEDC Secretary**