



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

### **Resolution 2021-08: *Support for the passage of Alaska House Bill 115***

#### ***Aquatic Farming & Hatchery Site Leases***

**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 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 develop a \$100 million mariculture industry in Alaska within 20 years;

**WHEREAS**, aquatic farms, including those that produce kelp, oysters, and other shellfish, operate under site leases overseen by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR);

**WHEREAS**, under current regulations, these leases must be renewed every ten years, through a process that is the same as the initial application process;

**WHEREAS**, it can take five to eight years for a farm to operate at full capacity, making a ten-year lease with a lengthy renewal process a potential barrier to entry;

**WHEREAS**, in recent years DNR has seen an exponential increase in lease applications, resulting in delays in the lease renewal process;

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 115 creates a regulatory framework with which DNR makes aquatic farm lease renewals consistent with other DNR lease renewals, such as those used for agricultural grazing, cabins & lodges, fish processing docks, and hydroelectric facilities;

**WHEREAS**, the changes proposed in House Bill 115 would allow DNR to renew leases *in good standing* using a process that is estimated to take 90 days;

**WHEREAS**, the passage of House Bill 115 is key to the continued 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 House Bill 115.

**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**

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**Melissa Kookesh, JEDC Secretary**

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