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April 25, 1977

Richard H. Eakins
Director, Division of Economic Enterprise
Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Eakins:

Since our discussion last Monday I have had the opportunity to discuss the idea of getting started on a mariculture plan for Alaska with Representative Terry Gardiner and others. Most have responded favorably and encouraged me to submit a definitive proposal to you. No commitments were implied in any way in these discussions, but I was, of course, pleased with their response added to your own interest.

It is my plan to present a proposal for a study that will address four basic subjects. They are:

1. Review world mariculture activities in progress now and provide a summary report of these. Particular attention will be paid to approaches, ideas, or technology that might be appropriate for Alaska.
2. Consider development possibilities for currently underutilized marine species that may have future economic potential for Alaska.
3. Consider and suggest an organization plan that would effectively coordinate and integrate fishery development activities in Alaska among state, federal, institutional and private participants. Best utilization of natural production as well as mariculture systems would be the objective.
4. Provide conceptual definition of three or four mariculture projects that could be planned in detail and initiated in the immediate future. These would be pilot projects to demonstrate the feasibility of systems which appear to have commercial merit.

This type of planning would seem to be very much in agreement with the intent of legislation establishing the Permanent Fund for Alaska. Realization of economic benefits to the state from mariculture and more complete resource utilization is probably several years in the future, however they could become substantial as the activities mature and prosper.

The objective of such a study would be to achieve a significant first step toward a better organized and more productive approach for fisheries development in Alaska rather than to attempt to direct the course of such development.

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Projects would be suggested based on their technical merit and economic potential, however as planning criteria developed in the study were applied, other activities might be selected for first implementation.

Our proposal will be mailed to you and Mr. Edenso by May 13th. I will be available to discuss it with you after your initial review when you desire. Representative Gardiner also requested a copy of the proposal, so I will be sending one directly to his office.

If you do feel that the approach suggested here is not appropriate or that the listed subjects should be changed, I would appreciate hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,


Earl R. Combs
President

cc: J. Edenso, Ak. Dept. of Rev.
Rep. T. Gardiner ✓