

**SB**

**89**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 89</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
89</SUBJECT><COMM>SRES30</COMM></TARGET>

SESSION ADDRESS:  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4925  
Fax: (907) 465-3517  
Toll Free: 1-800-821-4925

*Senator Gary Stevens*  
*Alaska State Legislature*

INTERIM ADDRESS:  
305 Center Ave, Ste. I  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
(907) 486-4925  
Fax: (907) 486-5264



*SPONSOR STATEMENT*  
*SENATE BILL 89*

*Shellfish Enhancement Projects*

Senate Bill 89 will allow for large-scale enhancement projects for shellfish. Presently, all projects are permitted under a research permit, and are of limited size and scope. Thus, the outcomes have very little significance for populations. The technology for producing large amounts of juvenile shellfish has been developed, in part, with the use of State funds through capital grants and investment in hatchery infrastructure. SB 89 will further advance those investments into economic potential for all Alaskans.

Large-scale enhancement projects, especially for king crabs, have significant possibility for economic development. Eight of 11 king crab stocks in Alaska have been closed for many years. If successful, these enhancement projects could help reestablish localized populations, which could in turn provide breeding populations to help reestablish larger areas. Crabs produced from these efforts could rehabilitate once-robust commercial, sport and personal use fisheries throughout Alaska.

In addition, many of the hard-shell clam populations are at extremely low levels and no longer support any fishery. Projects involving the seeding of beaches have proven to be a useful tool for growing small populations. Large-scale plantings can bring back fisheries in rural areas, providing economic opportunity and food security.

Leveraging funds from grant sources and federal agencies has been hindered by the lack of enabling legislation for large-scale projects. The granting agencies would like to see a demonstrative example that the State of Alaska supports mariculture and shellfish enhancement. The enhancement programs will rely heavily on grant funds to achieve their potential.

The bill creates a regulatory framework with which Alaska 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.

SB 89 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 manner, and should ultimately improve Alaska's overall fisheries portfolio.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 89  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: SB089-DFG-CFEC-04-03-17  
Title: SHELLFISH ENHANCE. PROJECTS;  
HATCHERIES  
Sponsor: STEVENS  
Requester: Senate Resources Committee

Department: Department of Fish and Game  
Appropriation: Commercial Fisheries  
Allocation: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission  
OMB Component Number: 471

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2018 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**Change in Revenues**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? **Yes**  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? **12/31/17**

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

Not applicable; initial version.

Prepared By: Shirley Penrose, Acting Executive Director	Phone: (907)790-6960
Division: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission	Date: 04/03/2017 12:00 PM
Approved By: Benjamin E. Brown, Commissioner	Date: 04/03/17
Agency: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 89

**Analysis**

SB 89 would create a new chapter in Title 16 allowing for the creation of shellfish enhancement projects, similar to salmon hatcheries. If enacted, the Commissioner of Fish & Game could issue permits to non-profit corporations seeking to engage in shellfish enhancement activities. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) currently issues special harvest area permits to salmon hatcheries, and under the provisions of this bill would issue special harvest area permits to shellfish enhancement enterprises. The Limited Entry Act would further be amended to provide that those holding special harvest area permits for shellfish could employ any gear designated as legal by the Board of Fisheries. CFEC does not anticipate any additional fiscal impact if this legislation is enacted.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 89  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: SB089-DFG-DCF-03-31-17  
Title: SHELLFISH ENHANCE. PROJECTS;  
HATCHERIES  
Sponsor: STEVENS  
Requester: Senate Resources Committee

Department: Department of Fish and Game  
Appropriation: Commercial Fisheries  
Allocation: Statewide Fisheries Management  
OMB Component Number: 2171

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2018 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**Change in Revenues**

None			***	***	***	***	***
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/17

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

Not applicable; initial version.

Prepared By:	Morgan Foss, Special Assistant to the Commissioner	Phone:	(907)465-6137
Division:	Office of the Commissioner	Date:	03/31/2017 02:00 PM
Approved By:	Carol Petraborg, Division Director	Date:	03/31/17
Agency:	Department of Fish and Game		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 89

**Analysis**

The Commercial Fisheries Division intends to utilize existing staff under the Aquaculture Section to administer the program proposed in this legislation. The Private Nonprofit Hatchery Permit Coordinator is the primary person responsible for evaluating these permit applications. Department of Fish and Game genetics, pathology, and management staff also contribute to the permit application review process. Permit application review generally takes six months to one year to complete. The permit fee is established in AS 16.012.010(c) at \$1,000. This fee would also apply to applications for new salmon private nonprofit hatcheries. That fee is currently \$100. Based on industry interest, the division anticipates that there will be two to three applicants per year for the first two years and then decline to an estimated one permit application per year. Because the number of potential applicants is unknown, however, the anticipated revenue is indeterminate.



CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL  
INCORPORATED MAY 30, 2008

Office of the Borough Mayor

P.O. Box 531  
Wrangell, AK 99929

907-874-2381  
907-874-3952

March 30, 2017

Senator Gary Stevens  
State Capitol, Room 429  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
[Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov)

**Re: Support for SB 89 – Shellfish Enhancement**

Dear Senator Stevens:

On behalf of the City and Borough of Wrangell, I would like to express support for SB 89 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.

SB89 plays an important role in the development of mariculture in Alaska. SB 89 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 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, as well as the economic development opportunities for Alaska residents and communities.

Shellfish enhancement can diversify and expand opportunities in coastal communities and increase the resiliency of Alaska's wild shellfish. The City and Borough of Wrangell Assembly supports SB 89 and appreciates your work to provide additional economic opportunities in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Dave Jack  
Mayor

cc: Governor Bill Walker  
Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair, Marine Resources Committee [Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)  
Tim Lamkin, Staff, Senator Gary Stevens [Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov](mailto:Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov)  
NRC Alaska  
Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. (AFDF)  
Alaska Maritime Task Force (AMTF)



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99503 p: 907.562.7380 www.swamc.org

Alaska Peninsula  
Aleutian Chain  
Bristol Bay  
Kodiak Island  
Pribilof Islands

March 31, 2017

Senator Gary Stevens  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 429  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov)

RE: Support for SB 89 – Shellfish Enhancement

Dear Senator Stevens:

On behalf of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, I would like to express support for SB 89, which creates the necessary framework to manage and develop shellfish fishery enhancement. This initiative 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.

As an advocate for over 40 marine based economies of Southwest Alaska, SWAMC views this proposal as an opportunity to develop available resources to support a sustainable economy in rural Alaska. While some of the richest fishery, marine, and shellfish resources in the world lie on our doorstep, the necessary management measures meant to protect the long-term viability of the of the resource has led to reduced opportunity for harvest, particularly for the crab industry. This legislation will provide a regulatory framework to manage crab fishery enhancement, or other species of shellfish, if pursued by interested stakeholders. This could allow for additional fishing opportunity and crab processing while maintaining stocks at healthy levels. We see Mariculture as a healthy, viable economic model for the coastal communities that will allow individuals to once again access a new and growing economic opportunity with limited upfront restrictions.

SWAMC's vision to promote vibrant and livable communities in Southwest Alaska is tied to initiatives to fully develop the Mariculture industry which will create jobs, maintain or improve the environment, and improve access to valuable resources. I look forward to collaborating with you on your efforts to support this initiative.

Sincerely,

Doug Griffin  
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair, Senate Resources Committee

*Economic development and advocacy for Southwest Alaska*  
Economic Development District (EDD) and Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR)

Senator Gary Stevens  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 429  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov)



## Board of Directors

**Jan Jacobs – President**  
*Harvester, Region IV*  
*American Seafoods Company*

**Ken Simpson – Vice President**  
*Harvester, Region II*  
*F/V Lady Simpson*

**Trevor Sande - Treasurer**  
*Harvester, Region I*  
*Marble Seafoods*

**Mark Scheer - Secretary**  
*Service Sector*  
*Williams Kastner*

**Al Burch**  
*Harvester, Region III*  
*Alaska Whitefish Trawlers*  
*Association*

**Jim Denning**  
*Service Sector*  
*Marel, Inc.*

**Tom Enlow**  
*Processor, At-large*  
*UniSea*

**Buck Laukitis**  
*Harvester, At-Large*  
*Magic Fish Company*

**Chris Mierzejek**  
*Service Sector*  
*Aleutian Pribilof Island*  
*Community Development Assoc.*

**Stefanie Moreland**  
*Processor, At-large*  
*Trident Seafoods*

**John Sund**  
*Service Sector*  
*Stellar North LLC*

**Mark Tupper**  
*Processor, At-large*  
*Triad Fisheries, LTD*

## Re: Support for SB 89 – shellfish enhancement

Dear Senator Stevens,

March 27, 2017

The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) would like to express support for SB 89 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.

AFDF's membership is comprised of seafood harvesters, seafood processors, and support sector businesses. Founded in 1978, AFDF's mission is *to identify problems common to the Alaska seafood industry and develop efficient, sustainable solutions 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, Governor Walker established the ***Alaska Mariculture Task Force*** by Administrative Order #280. The purpose of the Task Force is to provide recommendations for a comprehensive plan to develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska's economy, environment, and communities.

***SB 89 plays an important role in the development of mariculture in Alaska.*** SB 89 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 species such as King crab, sea

cucumber, geoduck, abalone, scallops or razor clams.

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 Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (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 maintains the Alaska RFM certification, 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, AFDF and independent third-parties 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 support SB 89 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 stages of 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 opportunities in coastal communities and increase the resiliency of Alaska's wild shellfish.***

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:

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair, Senate Resources Committee: [Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)  
Tim Lamkin, Staff, Senator Gary Stevens: [Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov](mailto:Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov)

# Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Senator Gary Stevens  
State Capitol, Room 429  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
[Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov)

**RE: Support for SB 89 – shellfish enhancement**

Dear Senator Stevens,

March 27, 2017

The Alaska Mariculture Task Force (Task Force) would like to express support for SB 89. *The Task Force recognizes that SB 89 is part of a larger effort to develop mariculture in Alaska.*

At the request of industry and communities, Governor Walker established the Task Force by Administrative Order #280. The Governor recognized that a developed mariculture industry will have economic, environmental, cultural, industrial and food security benefits to Alaskans. Members of the Task Force were appointed in May, 2016. The Governor's directive to the Task Force is to provide recommendations for a comprehensive plan to develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska's economy, environment, and communities. The Task Force must complete its work by March 1, 2018.

The Task Force would like to highlight that we are using the following guiding principles in our work to develop the mariculture industry:

- 1) Mariculture is defined as enhancement of wild fisheries and aquatic farming of shellfish and aquatic plants. Mariculture does not include finfish farming, which is not allowed in Alaska.
- 2) The development of the mariculture industry will be compatible with Alaska's reputation as a world leader in responsible and sustainable management of its seafood resources.
- 3) The development of the mariculture industry will be stakeholder-driven.
- 4) The development of the mariculture industry will coordinate and integrate with those entities conducting ocean monitoring in order to inform research and management of changing ocean conditions.

*SB 89 plays an important role in the development of mariculture in Alaska. SB 89 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 either continue or begin enhancement and/or restoration of species such as King crab, sea cucumber, geoduck, abalone, razor clams, or others. *This framework (SB 89) is absolutely necessary to continue moving forward with the development of mariculture related to wild shellfish enhancement.*

Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation. *The Task Force supports SB 89 and appreciates your proactive role in introducing the legislation.* If there are any questions, you may contact members of the Task Force.

Sincerely,

Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Cc:

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair, Senate Resources Committee: [Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)  
Tim Lamkin, Staff, Senator Gary Stevens: [Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov](mailto:Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov)



# OceansAlaska

MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

March 1, 2017

OceansAlaska  
PO Box 6383  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Senator Gary Stevens  
State Capitol, Room 429  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Stevens,

I am President of the Board of Directors for OceansAlaska which is a non-profit shellfish hatchery located in Ketchikan. SB 89 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 SB 89 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 SB 89 and the mariculture industry.

Best regards,

Tomi Marsh  
[tomimarsh@mindspring.com](mailto:tomimarsh@mindspring.com)

Cc:

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair, Senate Resources Committee: [Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)  
Tim Lamkin, Staff, Senator Gary Stevens: [Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov](mailto:Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov)



**Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA)**

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](http://www.apicda.com)

March 29, 2017

Senator Gary Stevens  
State Capitol, Room 429  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov)

RE: Support for SB 95-Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund  
Support for SB 89- Shellfish Enhancement

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) appreciates the introduction of SB 95 and SB 89. We believe these bills are complementary and advancing both will be necessary to support 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 through increasing direct participation and local investment in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. For over 25 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 constituents, as well as many other stakeholders, both new and already heavily involved in the seafood industry have expressed interest in investing in or diversifying their existing operations to include mariculture projects. Many have recognized gaps in funding and limitations in seed availability as barriers to entry. HB 95 simply increases the eligibility of an existing, dedicated loan fund to allow for the funding of hatchery operations. This bill would fill a critical gap in capital needs for the development of the infrastructure needed to support mariculture farming operations. We believe that any modifications to the Mariculture Revolving Loan fund should provide enough flexibility to respond to the unique characteristics of hatchery operations to successfully increase the accessibility of the program and advance the industry.

SB 89 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 SB 89 is essential in order for Alaska to meaningfully explore the full potential of a mariculture industry to provide new economic generation during a critically important time for the state.

Advancing environmentally sound mariculture projects will provide an additive 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 these bills will result in substantial benefits to coastal fisheries dependent communities and we fully support moving both forward.

Sincerely,



Larry Cotter  
Chief Executive Officer, APICDA