The mission of Southeast Conference is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.
Shellfish Industry
Opportunity for a Sustainable Economy
For Coastal Alaska

By
John Sund
Project Manager

March 28, 2007
Alaska Economic Trends: March 2007


The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline.

No area of Southeast had long term growth over the six years.

Natural increase of 3,105 people and a net out-migration of 6,134 people.
Shellfish Industry
Economic Development: Coastal Alaska
Conservatively estimate growth from $7 million to $50 - $100 million.

Create 400 - 600 year around, economically sustainable jobs in Coastal Alaska.

Establish a world class research and development facility in Southeast Alaska.
Shellfish Industry Potential for Growth

![Graph showing the potential for growth in the shellfish industry from 2004 to 2025. The graph includes lines for wild harvest value, farm harvest value, and total harvest value. The x-axis represents years from 2004 to 2025, and the y-axis represents monetary values from $0 to $60,000,000. The data shows a steady increase in both the wild harvest value and farm harvest value, leading to a significant rise in the total harvest value.](image-url)
OceansAlaska
“Tipping the Balance”

- Update on activities
  - Grant from State of Alaska to lead the development of strategic plan to use research, development and training to support the growth of the shellfish – mariculture industry in coastal Alaska.
OceansAlaska
“Tipping the Balance”

- Strategic Business Plan
  - Focus Shellfish industry, community, government stakeholders on the barriers and obstacles.
  - Recommend solutions that allow growth of an economically sustainable shellfish industry.

- Create a scientific based research, development and training organization
  - Focus on the implementation of the strategic plan.
OceansAlaska
“Tipping the Balance”

Strategic Plan: schedule
- Anchorage: January 9, 2006
- Ketchikan: February 27 – 28
- Juneau: March 28 + follow up
- Craig: May 3 – 4
- Kenai Peninsula: TBA
- Anchorage: October
- Plan completed: November, 2007
“Tipping the Balance”
Ketchikan February 2007:Summary

- Education and training
  - Best practices, business models, getting started, crop insurance

- Research and Development
  - species diversification, product development, grow and planting techniques, best technology, mortality rates,

- Product development and markets
  - Transportation hurdles, new product forms, new markets, additional species.

- Regulatory impacts and change
  - Science based regulatory structure, streamline permit process, align regulatory oversite with goal of industry growth.
Participation at the meeting.

- Oyster growers; (southeast and PWS), geoduck farmers; SARDFA: dive association; University of Alaska; SeaGrant: MAP, USFS, USDA: cooperative extension, Native village; ADFG; DNR; Dept of Commerce.
Potential of Shellfish Culture and Enhancement

- Protected and undeveloped shoreline
- Fewer competing interests
- Less pollutants
- Less regulatory hurdles
- Waters are rich
- Alaska powerful mystique of pure water & pristine wilderness
Shellfish Industry Constraints

- Restrictive regulatory climate
- High cost of doing business in rural Alaska
- Lack of investment capital
- Limited government support in research and development and training
- Species diversity is needed
- Market R&D is necessary and challenging
- Need Best Practices in a startup industry
Shellfish Industry

Keys to Industry Success

- Public funded research & development
- Common vision and goals: industry & gov’t
- Industry cooperation & collaboration
- Use of wild harvest, enhanced and intensive culture methods
- Product form innovation
- Effective generic marketing
- Value added products
## Shellfish Industry Growth Potential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New Zealand</th>
<th>British Columbia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farms</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tonnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value</td>
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<td>$23,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jobs</td>
<td>1,600</td>
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<td>$ per job</td>
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</table>
New Zealand Mussels
A Success Story

1988 harvest value - $12M US
2002 harvest value - $96M US
Shellfish Industry Research, Development & Training: Board

- Identify and set priority projects
- Seek out funding and resources need to accomplish the projects
- Coordinate with research and training programs at the University of Alaska,
- Collaborate with existing Federal and State research programs, National Marine Fisheries, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Establish research facilities for projects that are not being done elsewhere
Research, Development, Training Organization Mission statement

- Directed by industry, community & gov’t stakeholders
- Provide a forum and methodology to establish industry research
- Focus on removing industry growth constraints
- Provide a sound scientific basis for sustaining development
- Communicate results of relevant research projects
- Provide effective demonstration & training programs
- Transfer globally sourced technology to the industry
Shellfish Industry
Species

- Geoduck
- Sea cucumbers
- Clams
- Mussels
- Kelp (macrophytes)

- Oysters
- Sea urchin
- Scallops
- Abalone
- Algae
“Tipping the Balance
Economic Development: Shellfish

- Geoduck

Harvested Geoducks
OceansAlaska
“Tipping the Balance”

Project Information
- www.oceansalaska.org
  - Site: “Tipping the Balance”

Project Manager
- John Sund
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Meeting Schedule
- March 28: 1:30 - 4: Hickel Room: Juneau
- May 3-4: Craig
- Juneau, Homer, Anchorage