Mariculture + Innovation = Opportunity
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Mission - to identify problems common to the Alaska seafood industry & develop efficient, sustainable solutions that provide benefits to the economy, environment and communities

Areas of focus:
1) Alaska Symphony of Seafood (product development)
2) 100% Club (full utilization)
3) Sustainability certification (RFM, MSC, social responsibility)
4) Fishing vessel energy efficiency
5) Maritime workforce development
6) Mariculture development
Annual competition for new products made with Alaska Seafood; encourages and rewards product development

Call for Product released & available here:  
www.afdf.org/symphony-of-seafood/

Deadline to enter new products:  
October 19, 2018
What is Mariculture?
In Alaska, mariculture is NOT...

Finfish Farming
In Alaska, mariculture is...

*Species = local (shellfish + invertebrates + aquatic plants)*

+ Pacific oysters
Mariculture is...

- Fishery Enhancement (public/private)
- Restoration (public/private)
- Aquatic Farming (private)

Shellfish & seaweed hatcheries
Alaska Mariculture Task Force

**Administrative Order #280**: Governor Walker established the Alaska Mariculture Task Force (AMTF) by AO #280 in 2016.

**Directive** - “To develop a comprehensive plan for a viable and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska’s economy, environment and communities.”

**Why? Opportunities & Benefits for Alaskans**
Mariculture: Latest Developments

Available at: www.afdf.org

IN BRIEF

Alaska Mariculture Development Plan 2018

“Aquatic plants and shellfish present a significant and sustainable economic opportunity for coastal Alaska communities...I support this comprehensive plan and commit the State of Alaska to work in partnership with stakeholders and agencies toward its implementation.”
—Governor Bill Walker

“This plan is intended to increase profitability, expand participation, and provide coordination...the Task Force members remain committed and are enthusiastic about expanding Alaska’s mariculture industry.”
—Alaska Mariculture Task Force
Vision:
Develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska’s economy, environment, and communities.

Goal:
Grow a $100 million mariculture industry in 20 years.
Alaska Mariculture Development Plan

VISION
Develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska's economy, environment and communities.

GOAL
Grow a $100 million mariculture industry in 20 years.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SCOPE: For the purpose of this plan, mariculture is defined as enhancement, restoration, and farming of shellfish (marine invertebrates) and seaweeds (macroalgae). Fish farming is not legal in Alaska waters.

COORDINATION & LEADERSHIP: Effective implementation of this comprehensive plan requires coordination and commitment of time and resources from local, state, federal and tribal governments, industry, communities, the University, and other interested stakeholders.

SUSTAINABILITY: Development of mariculture will be compatible with sustainability principles to maintain and improve environmental integrity, as required by the Alaska Constitution and ADT&G management practices.

ALASKA NATIVE PARTICIPATION: Mariculture development will benefit from the involvement of Alaska Natives in every element of the process.

INNOVATION: Alaska presents many unique challenges, and developers will look globally to applicable research and solutions to apply to Alaska's circumstances and geography.

COMPATIBILITY: Implementation of this plan must protect existing marine uses, such as subsistence, commercial fishing, and recreation. It will also utilize Alaska assets and infrastructure.

Beach at St. George Island, Alaska.
Photo by Joshua Resneckoff.
PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The priority recommendations of this comprehensive plan are listed below:

- Secure seed supply through hatcheries
- Pass State legislation to A) help fund hatcheries through the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund, and B) allow shellfish enhancement
- Establish an Alaska Mariculture Development Council
- Establish a Mariculture Research Center at the University of Alaska
- Fill key positions to enable the growth of the industry: NOAA Aquaculture Coordinator in Alaska and Alaska Sea Grant Mariculture Specialist
Mariculture: Latest Developments

Recent mariculture-related ideas/projects:

- King crab, abalone, sea cucumber restoration/enhancement = sustainability
- Oyster bars + tourism = new food business & promotion of Alaska seafood
- Waste treatment + mariculture = ecosystem services
- Carbon removal + seaweed mariculture = $ for carbon credits
- High school greenhouses + mariculture = career awareness

Administrative Order #297 signed – reauthorizing the Mariculture Task Force to begin implementation of the comprehensive Plan
Mariculture: Latest Developments

HB 76 signed into law – amending Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund; next step is promulgation of regulations; OceansAlaska will apply for a loan.
Mariculture: Latest Developments

Adding two new mariculture positions in Alaska (in policy & research)

Marine Aquaculture Act introduced on June 26, 2018 in the U.S. Senate

Adding a mariculture research lead position in Kodiak
MaricultureMap – coming soon!
Mariculture: Latest Developments
New Food Products

Kelp Beer
from Kodiak Brewery!
Mariculture: Latest Developments
Sea Cucumber Research

- Economic feasibility analysis of enhancement ongoing (SARDFA & McDowell Group)
- Future joint project between SARDFA & Hump Island Oyster Company
Seaweed Farming 101

- Learn to identify seaweed species (get a book)
- Find a site & determine which species are available w/in 50 km of the site (walk the beaches, take a boat ride)
- Learn about Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources (ADNR) Aquatic Farm Program & Lease Application Process: [http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/aquatic/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/aquatic/)
- Find a market / product form
- Develop a business plan
- Find seed supply (Blue Evolution, OceansAlaska)
- Consider layout / design of farm
Mariculture: Latest Developments

Premium Aquatics receives approval for 127 acre farm site near Craig/Klawock