Governor Walker’s
Alaska Mariculture Task Force

On Feb. 26, 2016, Gov. Walker signed **Administrative Order #280**:

“I, Bill Walker, Governor of the State of Alaska, under the authority of ...the Constitution of the State of Alaska ... establish the Alaska Mariculture Task Force...”
How did we get here?
Alaska Mariculture Initiative

What is AMI?

• A project to expedite the development of mariculture in Alaska
• Vision: Grow a $1 billion industry in 30 years
• Supported by Southeast Conference & others
• Spearheaded by AFDF
• Work funded by a NOAA grant through June 30, 2016.
What does mariculture mean in Alaska?

Mariculture species in Alaska = (local shellfish + invertebrates + aquatic plants) + Pacific oysters
Alaska Mariculture Initiative

Stakeholders & Agencies
Alaska Mariculture Initiative
Accomplishments to Date

1) Economic Analysis - Phase I - COMPLETED:
Comparative case studies (9) which outline examples of successful mariculture industries in different regions of the world (see AFDF website or flashdrives)

2) Economic Analysis - Phases 2 & 3 – received EDA grant

3) Alaska Dept. of Commerce: Alaska Shellfish Farm Size Feasibility Study (see AFDF website or flashdrives)

4) Alaska Sea Grant project – diversify into seaweeds & rock scallops

5) OceansAlaska financing stabilized through KGB Borough loan

6) Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund - increased # of new loans

7) AK shellfish farming production exceeds $1M!

8) Governor introduces HB 300 / SB 172

9) Governor establishes Alaska Mariculture Task Force
Alaska Mariculture Task Force - Organizational Issues

- Governor agreed to establish Task Force, July 2015
- Determined interested workgroup
- Researched organizational details of task forces
- Held organizational meeting on Dec. 4, 2015
- Workgroup designed framework of Administrative Order (AO)
- Drafted AO & received approval from Dept. of Law
- Governor signed AO on Feb. 26, 2016
Alaska Mariculture Task Force - Purpose & Timeline

**Purpose:** To provide recommendations 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.

**Timeline:** The task force shall present recommendations for a final comprehensive plan for the development of Alaska’s mariculture industry to the Governor *by March 1, 2018.*
Alaska Mariculture Task Force - Benefits to Alaskans

AO FINDINGS: The development of the mariculture industry in the state will provide the following benefits to Alaskans:

(1) **economic** - providing jobs and commerce in coastal communities;
(2) **environmental** - improving the local ecosystem in various ways, such as habitat improvement, carbon removal, or countering ocean acidification;
(3) **cultural** - compatible with traditions, cultures, and skills in rural communities;
(5) **industrial** - complements and expands our existing renewable seafood industry, which is Alaska’s largest private sector employer;
(6) **food security** - increasing access to local foods for Alaskans.
Alaska Mariculture Task Force -
Guiding Principles

1) Mariculture is defined as enhancement of wild fisheries & aquatic farming of shellfish & aquatic plants. Mariculture does not include finfish farming, which is not legal in Alaska.

2) The development of the mariculture industry will:
   a) Be compatible with Alaska’s reputation as a world leader in responsible and sustainable management of its seafood resources;
   b) Be stakeholder-driven;
   c) Coordinate and integrate with those entities conducting ocean monitoring in order to inform research & management of changing ocean conditions;
   d) Include analysis of successful models that may be applicable to Alaska.

3) The comprehensive recommendations of the Task Force shall address the following essential elements, at a minimum:
   a) Public and private investment;
   b) Regulatory issues;
   c) Research & development needs;
   d) Environmental changes;
   e) Public education; and
   f) Workforce development.

4) The Task Force may establish advisory committees to assist in addressing the previously state essential elements of the recommendations.
Alaska Mariculture Task Force - Composition

Eleven Task Force Members:
1) Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
2) Alaska Dept. of Commerce
3) University of Alaska
4) Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
5) Seven Stakeholders, which may include expertise in:
   • Aquatic farmers
   • Seafood harvesting
   • Seafood processing
   • Nonprofit hatcheries
   • Community sustainability
   • Alaska Native corporations
   • Community Development Quota groups
   • Tribal governments
   • Seafood marketing

Barbara Blake will remain the liaison to the Governor & Lt. Governor’s offices.
Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Next Steps Forward

• Application period for Task Force closes March 15, 2016
• Governor appoints Mariculture Task Force members
• Identify & appoint Advisory Committees to Task Force
• Hold quarterly meetings with Mariculture Task Force
• Hold more frequent meetings of Advisory Committees to flesh out essential elements of comprehensive plan
• Coordinate with network of outside experts, starting with Phase I contractors
• Integrate economic analysis (Phases 2 & 3) with Mariculture Task Force input
• Continue outreach to stakeholders