

# Governor Walker's *Alaska Mariculture* Task Force

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MADE IN ALASKA  
**MARICULTURE**



ALASKA DIVISION of  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**ALASKA**  
NORTH TO OPPORTUNITY

**ALASKA**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE,  
COMMUNITY,  
AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



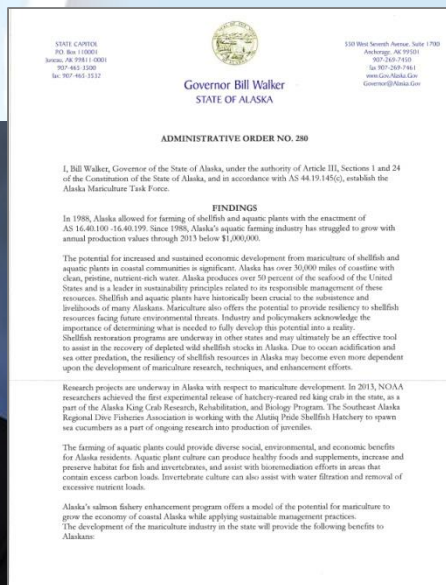




# Governor Walker's *Alaska Mariculture Task Force*

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**

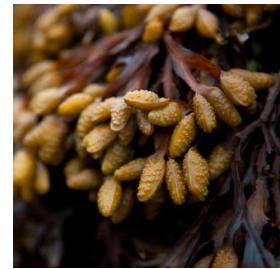
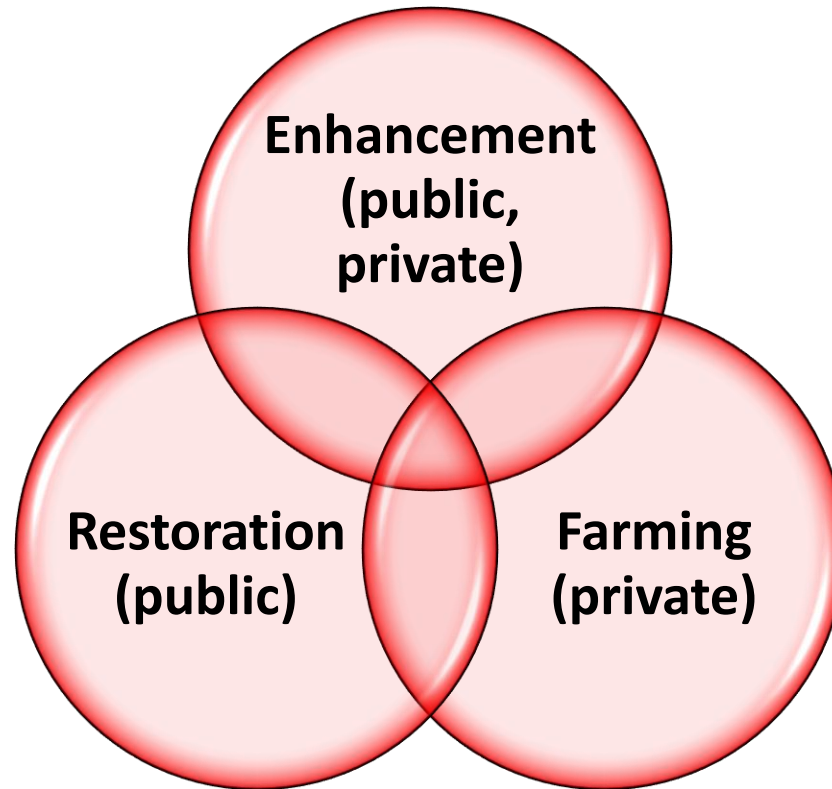
### *What is AMI?*

- ➔ *•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  $\neq$  FINFISH FARMING**



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





# Alaska Mariculture Initiative

## Stakeholders & Agencies



OceansAlaska  
MARINE SCIENCE CENTER



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference



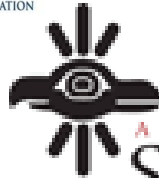
PACIFIC COAST SHELLFISH GROWERS ASSOCIATION



AKCRRAB



Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association



A NATIVE CORPORATION  
SEALASKA



# 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**



Economic Analysis  
to Inform the Alaska  
Mariculture Initiative:  
Phase 1 Case Studies

Prepared for  
Alaska Fisheries  
Development  
Foundation

March 2015



In association with  
Pacific Shellfish Institute  
Maine Shellfish Research and Development

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Alaska Shellfish Farm  
Size Feasibility Study



# 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

