



Mariculture Development Prospectus

Division of Economic Development

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DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE,
COMMUNITY,
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DEVELOPMENT

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Opportunity Overview

Untapped Potential

- “ Current farm gate less than \$1 million; potential more than \$20 million.
- “ Industry proponents believe Alaska’s farm gate value could exceed \$20 million. [OceansAlaska . Tipping The Balance](#)
- “ Puget Sound shellfish farm industry worth \$117 million in 2009.
 - Includes oysters, clams, mussels, geoduck and seed sales
 - [Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association](#)
- “ New Zealand shellfish industry worth \$386 million. \$202 million (52%) comes from mussel production.

Structure and Funding

- “ Develop a five-year mariculture development program that would:
 1. Conduct a review and implementation of comprehensive statutory and regulatory reform.
 2. Provide annual funding.
 3. Create an independent board that sets priorities, allocates resources, and reports on success.

- “ Outcomes
 1. Programs for statewide seed production
 2. Appropriately-sized training program
 3. Pre-screened farm sites
 4. Responsive regulatory systems

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Regulatory Reform

GOAL

Support a regulatory framework based on peer-reviewed science directed towards increasing aquatic farm production through a permitting process for larger and higher-density aquatic farms.

TASK

- “ Agencies will conduct periodic independent reviews of regulations and make recommendations to executive and legislative branches.
- “ Agencies must be funded and authorized to conduct site reviews.
- “ Agencies are funded to perform peer . reviewed research intended to describe the science used to develop regulations.

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Financing Improvement

GOAL

Assist shellfish growers secure long-term low-interest loan financing for the start-up and expansion of aquatic farm operations.

Assist interested organizations in creating shellfish hatchery facilities.

TASK

- “ Complete DED’s effort to launch a new loan program for lending to aquatic farm operations with long grow out periods.
- “ Make affordable financial education and technical training programs available to the growers.
- “ Establish a new loan program for shellfish seed hatcheries.

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Training Program

GOAL

Through collaborative efforts of stakeholders, government, and non-profit entities, provide education, technical training, and outreach to mariculture owners, entrepreneurs, and employees.

TASK

- “ Create one mariculture workforce development program from the various groups currently involved.

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Research Action

GOAL

Establish a sustainable research program able to address technical problems in resource management, new species development, state of the art aquatic farm production methods, and market research.

TASK

- “ Establish independent advisory board.
- “ Allocate research dollars to scientists, industry, and developers on a competitive basis.

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Infrastructure Plan

GOAL

Develop an infrastructure plan for Alaska's mariculture industry to increase aquatic farm density and regional shellfish production.

TASK

- “ Agencies and growers prepare a periodic infrastructure priority list for industry.
- “ Work coordinated through DED with participation from state and federal agencies, industry, and communities.
- “ Implement a 5-year site selection review to identify top locations for farm sites.

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Marketing Program

GOAL

As new and more efficient aquatic farms are established, strategic marketing efforts undertaken by the growers will boost production and prices paid to the growers.

TASK

- “ Engage in market research to determine potential new markets and/or species to commercialize.
- “ Consider branding programs.
- “ Provide marketing training for farmers and processors.
- “ Promote the discussion of marketing cooperatives as a means to increase value.

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Beginning Mariculture Development

NEXT STEPS

- “ Build sustainable hatcheries for restocking aquatic farms.
- “ Provide a low-interest loan program to help finance aquatic farm operations.
- “ Provide a regulatory framework enabling greater available farm acreage and farm concentration density.
- “ Support greater transportation infrastructure including air, marine, and surface.
- “ Fund research to overcome technical and marketing barriers.

Questions or Comments



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