

# ADF&G Regulations Dealing with Aquatic Farming

Cynthia Pring-Ham  
Alaska Department of  
Fish and Game  
October 20, 2009



ADF&G - Division of  
**Commercial Fisheries**

# ADF&G Mission



- To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and well being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.

# ADF&G Commissioner Duties

To permit and regulate aquatic farming in the state

in a manner that ensures the protection of the state's fish and game resources and

improves the economy, health, and well-being of the citizens' of the state.





# ADF&G Obligations and Program Oversight

- Permitting
  - Stock Acquisition
  - Import of shellfish and aquatic plants
  - Transfer of Shellfish Stock
  - Transport of Shellfish Seed and Product
- Inspections
  - Reporting
  - Shellfish Wild Stock Harvest
  - Shellfish Wild Stock Restoration at Termination

# Aquatic Farm Operation Permit

## ■ Criteria for Issuance

*Proposed Farm Site/Operations must*

- Be Suitable for Proposed Cultured Species
- Not significantly alter existing uses
- Not significantly affect fisheries, wildlife, or their habitat in an adverse manner
- Not include more than an insignificant population of wild stock, of the species intended to be cultured.

Issued between 8 months - 1 year



# Aquatic Farm Operation Permit

## ■ Biomass/Abundance Survey

### • Subtidal Sites

- Geoduck wild stock threshold
  - no more than 2000 lbs./acre

### • Intertidal Sites

- Littleneck clam wild stock threshold
  - no more than 9 legal-sized (38mm+)/ft<sup>2</sup> and
  - no more than 14 sublegal (recruitment range from 25 through <38 mm)/ft<sup>2</sup>.



# Stock Acquisition

- Acquisition Permit required
  - For supplying aquatic farm (seed)
  - For supplying in-state hatchery (broodstock)
- Acquisition (outside farm site) criteria
  - seed or broodstock is not available from permitted source in AK
  - wild stock not fully utilized
  - Doesn't impair sustained yield of the species or unreasonably disrupts established uses of the resources

Permit issued within 30 days

# Import of Shellfish and Aquatic Plants

YES

- Pacific oysters and weathervane scallops\* **only species allowed for import** into Alaska for farming



Pacific Oysters

- Prohibition on any other shellfish & aquatic plants



Manilla



Geoducks



- Authorization of import of shellfish and aquatic plants under **Board of Fisheries** and requires regulation change.
  - Concerns with Genetics, Pathology, and Invasive species

\* from wild stocks in SE AK and Yakutat



# Transfer of Shellfish Stock and Transport of Shellfish Seed

- From hatchery\* to farm
  - From nursery\* to farm
  - Between farm to farm or site to site
  - Transport within the same larval drift zone
  - Permit issued within 45 days
  - Allowances made for sites w/in close proximity and disease risk low
- \* Certified seed source – Disease history and disease free



# Inspections

- Ensures compliance with permit condition
- Provides opportunity to exchange information on problems, farm activities, and production
- Following operation and development plan and improving productivity of cultured species above natural levels
- Completed on a biannual basis (suspended) and opportunistically (on bottom - subtidal and intertidal)
- 2 day Notification

# Inspections Continued

- Farm site identification and markings of the operation
- Floating and submerged gear maintained, repaired, and secured
- Operations reflect annual report and O and D plan
- Aquatic farm product separated from commercially or recreationally obtained wild stock



# Reporting

- Annual detail of activities at farm
  - Production
  - Inventory
  - Mortalities and possible causes
  - Subtidal geoduck farm sites - location of predator netting and area planted
- Any reports required as conditions of permit or in operation/development plans
  - Growth and survival studies



# Shellfish Wild Stock Harvest and Restoration

- Require for geoduck wild stock harvest
  - 24 hr notification on landing
  - Fish tickets submitted
  - Currently - Financial Security (CD \$1.25 per geoduck harvested off site)
    - Released upon proof of seeding and farming
  - Under situations where **existing permitted farm site** has geoduck wild stock **exceeding significant threshold** and when harvest approved by ADF&G,
    - Compensation to state for harvest
      - 50% of avg. ex vessel price or amount paid at first point of sale for live and 20% for processed
- Upon termination of the farm site,
  - restore wild stock populations to levels found on site when permit was issued.

