

# Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Presented by:

**Julie Decker**

*Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation*

[www.afdf.org](http://www.afdf.org)

**JEDC Innovation Summit**

February 16, 2017

*This presentation was funded in part from NOAA Award #NA14NMF4270058. The statements are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or the Dept. of Commerce.*

MADE IN ALASKA  
**MARICULTURE**

ALASKA DIVISION of  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**ALASKA**  
NORTH TO OPPORTUNITY

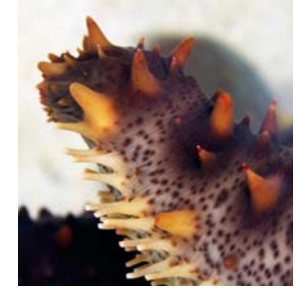
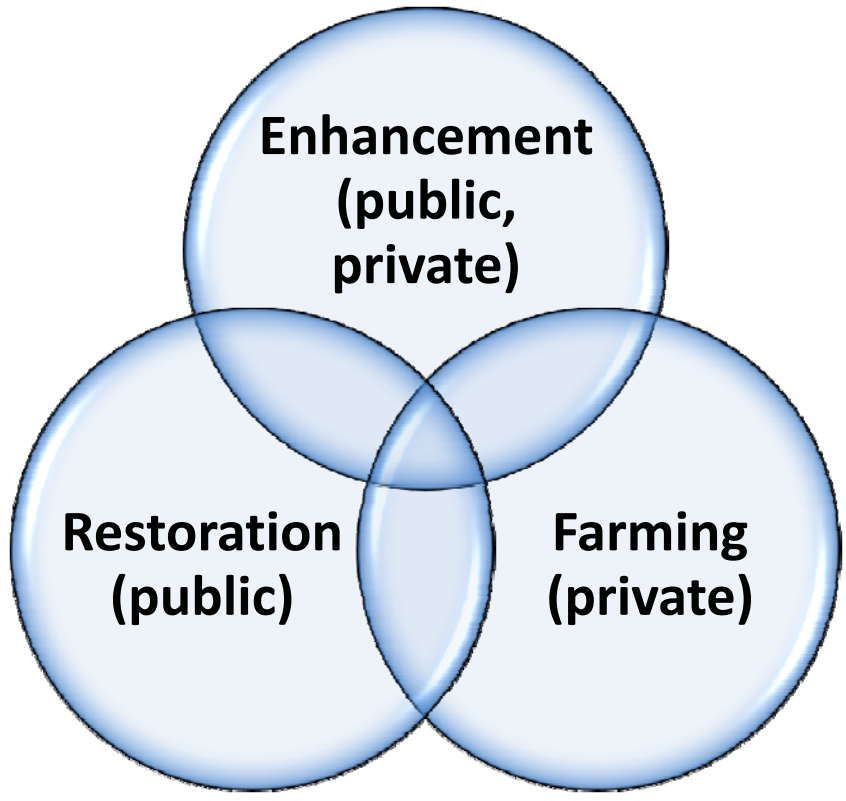
ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE,  
COMMUNITY,  
AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



**AFDF**

# What does mariculture mean in Alaska?

**MARICULTURE  $\neq$  FINFISH FARMING**



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



# *Alaska Mariculture Initiative*

## *Why Innovative?*

**AFDF began initiative with a vision statement:  
Grow a \$1 billion industry in 30 years**

- No state funding – forces creativity, solving structural problems, & strategic planning
- Stakeholder-driven, includes diverse stakeholder groups (industry, CDQ Groups, Tribes, ANCs, communities, researchers)
- Public-Private Partnership
  - Includes state leadership by both Governor & Lt. Governor
  - Includes more prominent role of Dept. of Commerce (ADCCED)
- Combines opportunities for farming & enhancement
- Includes 3-phased economic analysis
- Includes established seafood industry (fishermen & processors)
- Includes seaweed
- Aligns & integrates federal resources
- Priorities sustainable management practices
- Promote environmental benefits



# *Alaska Mariculture Task Force*

## *Established by AO#280*

- Feb. 26, 2016 - Gov. Walker established the Alaska Mariculture Taskforce (MTF) by [Administrative Order #280](#)
- **Direction** - *“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.**”*
- **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.



# Alaska Mariculture Task Force -

## *Guiding Principles in AO#280*

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.



# *Alaska Mariculture Task Force*

## *Benefits for Alaskans in AO#280*

- (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;
- (4) **industrial** - complements and expands our existing renewable seafood industry, which is Alaska's largest private sector employer;
- (5) **food security** - increasing access to local foods for Alaskans.



# Alaska Mariculture Task Force

## *11 Members*

- Commissioner Chris Hladick, Chair, ADCCED
- Julie Decker, Vice Chair, AFDF
- Sam Rabung, ADF&G
- Michael Stekoll, macroalgae researcher, UAS
- Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant Representative
- Jeff Hetrick, Aluutiq Pride Hatchery
- Eric Wyatt, Aquatic farmer, OceansAlaska Hatchery
- Angel Drobica, APICDA
- Heather McCarty, AKCRRAB
- Kate Sullivan, SARDF
- Christopher Whitehead, Sitka Tribe



➔ Barbara Blake, liaison to Gov/Lt. Gov's Offices



# Alaska Mariculture Task Force

## *Advisory Committees*

Five advisory committees, aligned with essential elements in AO

- ***Investment and Infrastructure*** (Chairs Hetrick & Drobnica)
- ***Regulatory Issues*** (Chair Rabung)
- ***Research, Development, and Environmental Information*** (Chair Stekoll)
- ***Public Education and Marketing*** (Chair McCarty)
- ***Workforce Development*** (Chair Cullenberg)





# Alaska Mariculture Task Force *Timeline*

- Next MTF meetings – February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup> in Juneau
- Advisory Committees (ACs) are meeting & working
- Continuing presentations to stakeholder groups
- McDowell Group Team working on economic analysis – Phase 2 – due September 1, 2017
- MTF releases Draft Comprehensive Plan for public review on January 1, 2017
- Final Comprehensive Plan delivered to Governor on March 1, 2018



# Alaska Mariculture Task Force

## *How to stay informed*

### Website:

Alaska Governor's Mariculture Task Force  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=amtf.main>

### Listserve:

automatically receive public notices, etc.

***Sign up at the website!***



Alaska Mariculture Task Force - Overview, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

The screenshot shows the website for the Alaska Governor's Mariculture Task Force. The page is titled "Alaska Governor's Mariculture Task Force Overview" and is part of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website. The page includes a navigation menu with options for "Overview", "Task Force Members", "Task Force Meetings Information", "Advisory Committees", and "Reference Library". The "Overview" section contains a mission statement: "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, environmental, and communities". It also mentions that Governor Walker created the AMTF in February 2016. A photo of Pacific oysters in trays is shown with the caption "Pacific oysters ready for Alaskan market." Below the photo is a "Sign Up To Receive Messages" form with a "Subscribe" button and a link to "Unsubscribe from this list".

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=amtf.main>[11/18/2016 6:59:53 AM]



# Alaska Mariculture Task Force

## *Additional References*

Also, reference documents at AFDF's website:

<http://www.afdf.org/projects/current-projects/alaska-mariculture-initiative/>



# *The Beginning of Seaweed in AK*

## **Alaska Sea Grant Project - Partners:**

Blue Evolution

Ocean Approved (ME)

Maine Shellfish Research & Development

Pacific Shellfish Institute (WA)

OceansAlaska (Ketchikan)

Alaska Shellfish Growers Association

Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation

## **ARPA-E Project: Macroalgae as Biofuel?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zw4liPujXWo>

