

MADE IN ALASKA

MARICULTURE

To: Representative Dan Ortiz
Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov

RE: Support for Senate Finance Committee Substitute of HB 41

Dear Representative Ortiz,

February 10, 2020

On behalf of the Alaska Mariculture Task Force (Task Force), I would like to express support for the Senate Finance Committee Substitute version of HB 41, which would accomplish several priority recommendations of the Task Force, as a part of a larger plan to fully develop the mariculture industry in Alaska, with a goal to grow a \$100 million per year industry in 20 years.

In 2016, Governor Walker established and appointed members to the Task Force by [Administrative Order No.280](#), with the directive to provide recommendations to develop a viable and sustainable mariculture industry. In 2018, the Task Force completed a statewide comprehensive plan in order to accelerate the development of mariculture - the [Alaska Mariculture Development Plan](#) (attached is a [brief summary](#) of the full Plan). The Task Force was re-authorized in 2018 by [AO No. 297](#) in order to work towards implementation of the Plan. Upon his election, Governor Dunleavy kept the Task Force in place, because he shares the vision of what mariculture could mean to the state: jobs and opportunities.

This version of HB 41 has broad stakeholder support and will accomplish several priority recommendations contained within the statewide comprehensive plan. More specifically, Senate Finance CS HB 41 will accomplish the following:

- 1) allow for shellfish enhancement and restoration;
- 2) reduce burden on industry and state agencies to renew compliant aquatic farm leases after the first 10-year term;
- 3) amend the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) statutes to allow (rather than prohibit) marketing of aquatic farm products; and
- 4) designate eco-tourism and public education as allowable activities at aquatic farms.

The members of the Alaska Mariculture Task Force thank you for your work to develop the mariculture industry and can answer any questions you may have of stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Julie Decker, Chair, Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Cc: Senator Stedman, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska Mariculture Task Force