

MADE IN ALASKA

MARICULTURE

To: Representatives Foster and Johnston, Co-Chairs, Finance Committee
and House Finance Committee Members
housefinance@akleg.gov

RE: Support actions of House Finance Subcommittees

Dear House Finance Committee:

February 21, 2020

The Alaska Mariculture Task Force (Task Force) supports the actions of the DNR, DFG and DEC subcommittees, specifically:

- accepting the increment of \$187,300 and two positions to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for aquatic farm application processing;
- rejecting the decrement of one position from the aquaculture planning and permitting section in the Department of Fish and Game (DFG); and
- rejecting new PSP testing fees for the industry in the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) budget.

In 2016, the Task Force was established by Administrative Order 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 - the [Alaska Mariculture Development Plan](#) (also see this [brief summary](#)). The Task Force was reauthorized in 2018 by AO 297 to continue 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.

All three of the actions outlined above support continued and further development of the mariculture industry towards the goal to grow a \$100 million per year industry in 20 years.

(Note: The agency representatives on the Task Force recused themselves from budget actions.)

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Julie Decker, Chair, Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Cc: Alaska Mariculture Task Force