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*Campaign Manager*

March 24, 2021

Heather McCarty  
Chair  
Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Dear Ms. McCarty,

Thank you for speaking with me last week about our shared interest in sustainable, domestic aquaculture production. [Stronger America Through Seafood](#) (SATS) would appreciate working with the Task Force as we educate federal policymakers on the role of sustainable aquaculture as a means to build back a stronger, more resilient America.

SATS is an industry coalition whose mission is to promote federal policies that will **drive increased production of healthful, sustainable, and affordable U.S. seafood**, including through **aquaculture**. SATS brings together leaders from across the seafood supply chain including Cargill (MN), Sysco (TX), Red Lobster (FL), Pacific Seafoods (OR), High Liner Foods (NH), Innovasea (MA), Fortune Fish (IL), Blue Ocean Mariculture (HI), Pacífico Aquaculture (CA) and others.

The U.S. seafood community has long understood the importance of supplementing wild-capture fisheries with farm-raised seafood – without it, we simply cannot meet the rising global demand for healthful animal protein. Research shows that food system diversification will be vital to ensure a more stable food supply in the face of the climate crisis. Aquaculture can produce nutritious food with little reliance on scarce land and freshwater resources and must be a part of this diversification strategy.

As America begins to rebuild from the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing America's seafood supply through aquaculture will have benevolent rippling effects throughout many areas of the country. Increased aquaculture production will increase demand for American-grown crops, such as soybeans, corn and peas, which can be used in fish feed, and will open up new markets to heartland farmers while lessening dependence on the uncertainty of foreign trade relationships.

For the U.S. to tap into the full economic and environmental potential that aquaculture can provide, federal legislation is needed to clarify aquaculture regulatory and management activities across federal agencies. The Advancing Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture (AQUAA) Act, likely to be reintroduced soon, establishes a clear permitting process for U.S. marine aquaculture that also prioritizes environmental and societal health. AQUAA establishes National Standards for Sustainable Offshore Aquaculture which, like the National Standards for commercial fishing outlined in the Magnuson Stevens Act, are guiding principles for growing coastal economies, protecting ecosystems, and avoiding conflict among stakeholders. AQUAA leverages modern siting and monitoring technologies to mitigate potential environmental impacts. It also provides for strict federal enforcement and includes a process for robust public input which ensures that coastal communities and states are considered prior to permitting new operations. In short, AQUAA provides much-needed regulatory certainty for U.S. marine farmers while also preserving the environment, local economies, and public health.

**130 SE Lynch Road, Shelton, WA 98584**

The AQUAA Act includes mechanisms for ample community input, robust environmental safeguards and National Standards that hopefully assuage concerns that some Alaskans may have about finfish aquaculture in their region. However, if this is not the case, SATS would appreciate better understanding your specific concerns so we can work together to see that they are addressed.

We look forward to working with you to bring home the benefits that increased production of sustainable aquaculture will have for all Americans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Henderson', is centered on the page.

Margaret Henderson  
Campaign Manager