

MTF Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA) Workgroup

Notes from the meeting on June 22, 2020, of the MTF workgroup developing recommendations for the Alaska Mariculture Development Council

Agenda:

1. Name (the use of council will be too easily confused with the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council) – ideas – Alaska Mariculture...Alliance, Association, Affiliation, Coalition, Consortium, Compact, Organization.
2. Mission Statement & Principles – for reference – [see page 8 of the Plan](#)
3. Timeline
4. Structure – non-profit
5. Stakeholder representation
6. Bylaws & Articles of Incorporation

Name:

The workgroup members agreed to recommend the name **ALASKA MARICULTURE ALLIANCE** to the MTF for consideration. The discussion included whether it was advisable to include “development” or another descriptor in the group’s name, as some members thought it was a good idea to include an indication of the group’s purpose. Members expressed support for making certain that the mission statement was very clear about the development aspect of the group’s work. Others pointed out that the group’s mission will likely include additional aspects of mariculture, and will grow and evolve.

Mission Statement and Principles:

The workgroup discussed the existing elements of the mission statement and principles for the Alaska Mariculture Development Plan developed by the MTF, and how they applied to the new group, and how the wording would need to be modified to be used for as a mission statement for the new group. The suggested changes are summarized below for consideration by the MTF.

Mission: *Develop and support a robust and sustainable mariculture industry producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska’s economy, environment and communities.*

Guiding Principles

- 1) **SCOPE**: In Alaska, mariculture is defined as enhancement, restoration, and farming of shellfish (marine invertebrates) and seaweeds (macroalgae). Finfish farming is not legal in Alaska waters.
- 2) **COORDINATION & LEADERSHIP**: Effective development of mariculture requires coordination and commitment of time and resources from local, state, federal and tribal governments, industry, communities, Alaska Native corporations, the University and other interested stakeholders.
- 3) **SUSTAINABILITY**: Development of mariculture will be compatible with sustainability principles to maintain and improve environmental integrity, as required by the Alaska Constitution and ADF&G management practices.
- 4) **ALASKA NATIVE PARTICIPATION**: Mariculture development will include and encourage involvement of Alaska Natives in every element of the process.
- 5) **RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**: Alaska presents many unique challenges and research needs. The Alaska Mariculture Alliance and the associated Mariculture Research Center will look globally to applicable research and solutions to apply to Alaska's circumstances and geography.
- 6) **COMPATABILITY**: Implementation of this plan must protect existing marine uses, such as subsistence, commercial fishing, and recreation. It will also utilize Alaska assets and infrastructure.

Timeline:

Although the new group will need to be developed by the deadline of June 30, 2021, as the MTF sunsets, the workgroup agreed that the new group could and should be formed earlier, with documents completed by September 2020, for final approval and adoption in Fall, 2020.

Structure and membership:

The workgroup agreed that the best structure for the new group would be a private non-profit (PNP), with the tax designation of either 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6).

The group discussed the potential membership or governance categories, considering the examples of similar trade and regional aquaculture associations: corporate, individual, association, governmental, supporting industry, permit holders in the case of farmers. The differing kinds of eventual mariculture in Alaska include restoration/enhancement and aquatic farming, which could also lead to different membership structures and funding mechanisms.

The workgroup agreed to meet again in two weeks to talk about specific examples of structure and membership. Prior to that meeting, bylaws from several example organizations will be provided for discussion.

Bylaws and Articles:

These will rise from the agreed-upon structure and membership.