

**Alaska Mariculture Task Force
Summary of Advisory Committee Recommendations
8-Nov-17**

Advisory Committee	#	Other Info	Name of Recommendation	Summary	AC Priority	Who?
Regulatory Issues	1	ADFG	new legislation to allow shellfish enhancement	restoration, rehabilitation & enhancement are not currently legal	1	
Regulatory Issues	2	ADFG	amend reg to allow importation of seed	amend 5 AAC 41.070 to allow importation of seed from Alaska broodstock; currently allowed for only oyster & W. scallop	2	
Regulatory Issues	3-A	ADFG	adopt reg clarifying possible exceptions to genetics policy	sterile stock & species that do not reproduce do not need to be subject to genetics policy	2	
Regulatory Issues	3-B	ADFG	adopt reg to require timeline for genetic stock structure data	when a lack of data for a species exists, require a timeline for data collection in order to reduce precautionary restrictions	2	
Regulatory Issues	4	ADFG	amend statute & reg to remove "initial"	stock acquisition is limited to only initial needs, however, hatcheries may need more than just initial stocks	3	
Regulatory Issues	5	ADFG	avoid excessive details in applications	adhere to actual language in statute/reg for info requests in applications	1	
Regulatory Issues	6-A	DNR	amend reg to allow reduced initial lease fees	allow for deferring portion of fee, or graduated increase, until farm is under full production	1	
Regulatory Issues	6-B	DNR	reduce bond amounts with training/experience (low risk)	consider farmers with demonstrated training or experience for reduced bond amount	2	
Regulatory Issues	6-C	DNR	adopt industry best practices	increases new farmer success (reduces risk of failure)	3	
Regulatory Issues	7-A	DNR	new legislation to create bond pool	pool could reduce individual bond requirements while maintaining DNR ability to clean-up abandoned sites	2	
Regulatory Issues	7-B	DNR	obtain legal authority for agreements between farmers for clean-up	DNR could offer bond & abandoned gear to other farmers for clean-up services	2	
Regulatory Issues	8	DNR	new legislation to create insurance coverage	commercial liability & workers comp insurance is expensive; potentially address thru legislation	2	
Regulatory Issues	9	DNR	amend commercial use requirement	amend reg to allow shorter/longer term for commercial use requirements, depending upon species	1	
Regulatory Issues	10	DNR	amend reg to allow reduced lease fees	allow for reduced lease fee for area not under full production (anchors, scope, etc)	2	
Regulatory Issues	11	DNR	limit lease fee increases	do not allow lease fees to increase during the effective period of the lease, which leads to uncertainty in operational expenses	1	
Regulatory Issues	12	DEC	allow data to be visible	data collected for water sampling & PSP is important for other farmers (either nearby or new start-ups) to access; need to support DEC's completion of web access to this data	1	
Regulatory Issues	13-A	DEC	support certification of new labs & testing methods	enables efficiencies in transportation, test results & fee reductions	1	

Regulatory Issues	13-B	DEC	support research into depuration & certification of process	enables continued sales if PSP levels / events increase	2	
Regulatory Issues	14	All	new legislation to establish board or group to represent industry	need organized industry group to interact with regulatory agencies	2	
Regulatory Issues	15	All	direct regulatory agencies to adopt advocacy approach to mariculture industry	for benefit of the state, regulators should seek to enable responsible industry growth	1	
Regulatory Issues	16	All	utilize industry best practices to reduce regulatory hurdles	amend agency regs to allow flexibility to reduce regulatory hurdles when best practices are demonstrated	3	
Public Ed & Marketing	1	Public Ed	provide public outreach	provide public outreach to multiple audiences to help assure realistic & positive views of mariculture & support mariculture development in AK		
Public Ed & Marketing	2	Public Ed	provide sources of practical & factual information	all stakeholders require practical & factual information upon which to form opinions; lack of information create vacuums which fill with misinformation or fear		
Public Ed & Marketing		Public Ed	coordination of advocacy & info	existing entities perform parts of each function; how do we see it performed in the future?		
Public Ed & Marketing	2	Public Ed	identify priority groups & develop effective communication with each	effective communication may be written material, presentations, meetings, ongoing coordination with groups or individuals		
Public Ed & Marketing	3	Public Ed	identify authority & responsibility for implementation of comp plan	crucial step for the MTF; also important to identify capacity of each		
Public Ed & Marketing	4	Public Ed	provide central clearing-house for mariculture info	web-based information related to mariculture in Alaska, including comp plan implementation		
Public Ed & Marketing	5	Public Ed	recognize & counter opposition to mariculture & aquaculture	issues include potential for environmental damage, genetics, conflicting users, market competition, aesthetics		
Public Ed & Marketing	6	Public Ed	expand formal education in mariculture	expand capacity of University to educate/train for all levels of workers (including researchers, hatchery, business, etc)		
Public Ed & Marketing		Marketing	consider future contribution mechanism to ASMI funding	existing seafood industry funds portion of ASMI thru industry taxes; other revenue sources are state & federal funds		
Public Ed & Marketing		Marketing	revise ASMI strategic plan & tag line to include mariculture products & messaging	may need to consider shift focus away from "wild" to messaging that also encompasses hatchery salmon		
Public Ed & Marketing		Marketing	con't to build collaboration between ASMI & Alaska Grown	build synergy with a larger group of Alaska Food Producers; Alaska Grown is already accessible to aquatic farmers		
Public Ed & Marketing		Marketing	increase awareness of mariculture products	this may help marketing of Alaska seafood products by offering wider range of products to customers		

Public Ed & Marketing		Marketing	include general education about mariculture at every level of marketing	similar to inclusion of sustainability in wild seafood marketing		
Investment & Infrastructure	1	Infrastructure	GIS map tool	provides initial siting info to potential investors/regulators, while highlighting future research gaps	near-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	2	Infrastructure	seafood processor outreach	inform existing owners of seafood plants of potentials for diversification	mid-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	1	Investment	amend Mar Rev Loan Fund to include hatcheries	allows support for hatcheries during industry's development phase; also need con't effort to align industry needs with private & public funding opportunities	near-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	2	Investment	new legislation to allow shellfish enhancement	provides a regulatory framework to allow shellfish enhancement & restoration	near-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	3	Investment	list of funding sources for mariculture development	develop single website outlining & linking to applicable funding sources	near-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	4	Investment	promote cooperative investment structures	coops offer members many benefits (efficiencies, shared risk, common facilities, seed, markets, etc) & are an model used in both seafood & agriculture	long-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	5	Investment	new revolving loan fund (or expand existing RFL)	with increased participants, demand for the state's existing RLF may quickly surpass capital	mid-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	6	Investment	business development training program	financial training targeting development of business plans for new entrants to successfully apply for loans	mid-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	7	Investment	facilitate partnerships	leverage assets by developing strategic partnerships: gov (local, state, fed), Native, industry, etc	mid-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	8	Investment	State of AK commitment to support mariculture	gain commitment in comp plan from State to support mariculture development & define state role	near-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	9	Investment	support con't learning thru visits to other regions of world	information sharing between existing industry & potential investors is important to efficient growth of industry	mid-term	
Investment & Infrastructure	10	Investment	fact sheet for investors	new investors need info (growth rates, PSP, etc) to develop business plans & assess opportunities; may be included in map tool	long-term	
Workforce Development	1		encourage hire of MAP Mariculture Specialist			
Workforce Development	2		Develop & circulate mariculture skill-building resources	offer professional development too growers, available remotely & in-person		
Workforce Development	3		offer intensive, hands-on bootcamp	provides "Introduction to Shellfish/Seaweed Farming" for new farmers or farm employees		
Workforce Development	4		develop a mariculture apprenticeship / mentorship program	build on progress to date with informal, flexible program		

Workforce Development	5		participate in industry career awareness activities	include in high school programs		
Workforce Development	6		evaluate & track participant progress	include mariculture workforce impacts in economic & employment analyses		
R & D & Environmental Info		AMCC diagram	new legislation to create Alaska Mariculture Coordinating Council			
R & D & Environmental Info		AMCC diagram	create Mariculture Research Center (MRC) at University			
R & D & Environmental Info		AMCC diagram	hire Director of MRC			
R & D & Environmental Info		AMCC diagram	create MRC Advisory Body			
R & D & Environmental Info		AMCC diagram	hire MAP Mariculture Specialist			
R & D & Environmental Info		AMCC diagram	host annual R&D Forum			
R & D & Environmental Info			list of near-term priorities		near-term	
R & D & Environmental Info			list of intermediate priorities		mid-term	
R & D & Environmental Info			list of long-term priorities		long-term	