Mike that's great news. My only comment at this point is that the entire AMI (although I haven't seen the latest draft) should think about 5-10 bullet points which convey the main goals of the initiative - ones that will ring true with the public, the stakeholders, and the legislature - in Maine it was
1. Develop and disseminate information about aquaculture
2. Cultivate a positive investment climate for small entrepreneurs
3. Designate a lead state agency to aid in the development of aquaculture.
4. Ensure consistency and predictability in the regulatory process
5. Pursue a coordinated development strategy encompassing aquaculture and traditional fisheries.
6. Protect, preserve and enhance coastal water quality
7. Develop a comprehensive plan for use of coastal waters.

this is the New Zealand one:

THE TEN-POINT PLAN

1. Establish a new national sector organisation
2. Strengthen the partnership with government
3. Strengthen other stakeholder partnerships
4. Secure and promote investment in aquaculture
5. Improve public understanding and support for aquaculture
6. Promote Māori success in aquaculture
7. Develop the market for New Zealand aquaculture products
8. Maximise opportunities for innovation
9. Promote environmental sustainability and integrity of aquaculture
10. Invest in training, education and workforce promotion

I haven't had this discussion with anybody yet, but related to our participation I would suggest the following:
1. Establish a **Mariculture Research Center** at the University of Alaska with an advisory committee of industry members, staffed with a full-time director and an extension agent, and with the purpose of coordinated targeted research and development leading to commercialization and growth of Alaska's mariculture industry and utilizing a network of facilities throughout the state.

2. Establish a **Mariculture Coordinating Council (MCC)** would be made up of representatives from state agencies, industry groups, economic development agencies, the university, and other stakeholders to coordinate the achievement of the mariculture industry development goals, and to make progress in the priority research and development goals of the industry.

3. Incorporate a development strategy which includes private mariculture and the enhancement of wild capture fisheries and food for subsistence communities.

4. Encourage participation of native communities in mariculture development. (don't know if the wording is right on this)

5. Assess, map and make available information on growing conditions in Alaskan waters which will lead to success in mariculture development.

6. Strengthen efforts to improve water quality, understand harmful algal blooms and ensure quality and safety in mariculture and wild fishery products.

OTHERS?

On Fri, Nov 3, 2017 at 3:59 PM, Michael Stekoll <msstekoll@alaska.edu> wrote:

Hello R&D and EI AC members!

I presented our draft framework for a Mariculture Research Center (MRC) to the MTF at our last meeting. For some reason, it was met with much enthusiasm including having this as one of the major recommendations from the MTF.

The next meeting of the MTF is next Wednesday. It is supposed to be a major all day meeting to attempt to finalize our recommendations before putting them out the public for comments. I would like to finalize our AC's work for this meeting.

First, I would like everyone's comments on the draft MRC framework narrative and diagram. So please look at these and see if they can be improved.

Second, I would like to finish our Existing Research & Future Needs for Alaska Mariculture document. I have put in a bunch of comments that need to be addressed plus it would be good if each of you could check your relevant section. Two areas that are unfinished are the history and state of the dive fisheries (Kate) and information of Heracles on HABs (Ginny).

We could have a phone conference, but it is nearly impossible to find a mutual time for everyone.

So please help out here in getting these documents in a more finished state so I can present them to the MTF.

Thanks,

Mike