Geoduck Aquatic Farm Management: An Alaska Perspective

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Multi Agency and Public Involvement

- AK Dept. of Fish and Game
- AK Dept. of Natural Resources
- Tidal Land
- Coastal Management
- AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- US Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife
- US National Marine Fisheries Service
- Coastal Districts and the Public
ADF&G Missions

- Promote Efficient Development of Aquatic Farming (Permit and Regulate)
- Manage and Protect Fish and Wildlife Resources
Geoduck Farming in Alaska
Geoduck Farming Status

- 18 Farm Sites
  - 2 intertidal and 16 subtidal
  - Total of 133 acres
  - Inventory = 246,950 hatchery produced geoducks
  - No production yet
Technical Issues

• Quality and availability of seed
• Acclimation issues
  • Grow out nursery
Technical Issues

- Effective planting techniques
- Adequate predator exclusion
Regulatory Issues

- Review process
  - Conflicts with established fishery resource uses
  - Conflict with important anchorages
  - Conflict with State parks inclusion
  - Conflict with sea lion and seal haul out areas
  - Significant geoduck populations
Regulatory Issues Cont.

– Court Decisions, HB 198, Regulation Changes
  • Restrictions with taking and selling common property geoducks
Regulatory Issues Cont.

- Insignificant Threshold
  - 12,000 geoducks/farm site or 2000 lbs of geoduck per acre
  - Determined by Biomass Survey
  - Payment of Survey Fee with Application
    - $5,000 cap
Regulatory Issues Cont.

- Restoration of wild stock harvested
  - Notification of Landings
  - Record of No. of Geoduck Harvested
  - Security
    - Assurance for performance
    - Certificate of Deposit Established between State of Alaska and Permit Holder
    - Return at Termination when provision met
ADF&G
Reconciliation with Industry

• Simplified Regulations

• Survey Methodology Modified
  – Decrease of survey costs by 60% to $2,000
  – Dept. absorbs travel costs

• Ownership of wild stock geoduck larvae and resulting adults

• Security Policy Modified
  – CD amount reduced by 50% to $1.25/geoduck
  – Early release of CD when culture standards met
Future Activities

- Meetings with
  - Industry
  - Stakeholders

- ID designated areas

- Growth Trials

- Spawning Information
Working Towards A Better Tomorrow