Alaska Mariculture Program Update

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Board of Fisheries Shellfish Meeting
Petersburg, January 2009
Mariculture Program Beginnings
The Aquatic Farm Act

- Aquatic Farm Act – 1988
  - Issue permits to operate aquatic farms and shellfish hatcheries
  - Contribute to state’s economy
  - Provide year-round supplies of premium quality Alaskan shellfish and aquatic plants
Aquatic Farm Site Locations

Alaska Aquatic Farms

Culture Method
- Subtidal Cultures
- Intertidal Cultures
- Suspended Cultures
- Suspended and Intertidal Cultures

June 2008
Southeast Aquatic Farms - Species Approved for Culture
ADF&G Missions

- Promote Efficient Development of Aquatic Farming (Permit and Regulate)
- Manage and Protect Fish and Wildlife Resources
How does one apply for a farm site?

• Opening - Every Two Years
  - Next one - January 1 – April 30, 2009
  - Multiagency Application and Batch Review Process
  - 9 – 15 months (suspended and intertidal) to 24 months (subtidal/on bottom)

• Over the Counter
  - Designated areas (HB208)
    - Available
      • Suspended culture: 76 areas/710 acres
      • Intertidal culture: 8 areas/55 acres
      • Subtidal culture: 0 acres
  - Pre-authorized Sites
    • Suspended culture: 11 sites = 45 acres
  - 3 – 6 months (suspended) to 12 months if survey required (intertidal or subtidal/on bottom)
Aquatic Farm Permitting

Statewide Batch Process Method

DNR
CONSISTENCY REVIEW AND LEASE

ADF&G
OPERATION PERMITS

DEC
Water Classification Shipper and Harvest Permits
Aquatic Farm Permits - Oysters

92%
Aquatic Farm Permits –
Littleneck Clams & Mussels

<1%  
8%
Aquatic Farm Permits – Geoducks

SUBTIDAL

INTERTIDAL
Aquatic Farm Permits – Cockles
Statewide Aquatic Farm Production

- 66 active permits
- $493,458 value
- 325 acres

Alaska Statewide Aquatic Farm Production 1990-2007

Production Value vs. Year

- Statewide Production
- Southeast
- Southcentral
- All Farms
Statewide Aquatic Farm Production

Statewide
30% of farms are productive
Southeast Aquatic Farm Production

- 48% of total production in SE
- 50% of active permits in SE
- 30% in SE productive
- 65% of total acres in SE
Status of Sites Applied for within HB 208 Areas

- 158 designated areas made available for lease by DNR in 2003

- **Status**
  - 20% Taken – DNR/OTC Program
    - 14 sites permitted
    - 10 sites closed or withdrawn
    - 7 sites pending
    - 2 sites taken

- **Problems**
  - Remote Locations
  - Biomass Survey and Fee Not Paid (intertidal and subtidal only)
  - Applicant or permit holder change mind or have incomplete information
Geoduck Farming

• 22 Farm Sites
  - 5 intertidal and 17 subtidal
  - No production yet
Subtidal Geoduck Farm Provisions

- **Insignificant Wild Stock Threshold**
  - No more than 2000 lbs of geoduck per acre
  - Determined by Biomass Survey
  - Payment of Survey Fee with Application
    - $5,000 cap/farm site

- **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
Future Activities

Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery Management Plan

Mariculture Development Zones

ArcGIS Farm Review Software Application

OceansAlaska Research Advisory Coordination
Questions