ADF&G Regulations
Dealing with Aquatic Farming

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ADF&G Mission

To **protect**, **maintain**, and **improve** the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and **manage** their use and development in the best interest of the economy and well being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.
ADF&G Commissioner Duties

To permit and regulate aquatic farming in the state in a manner that ensures the protection of the state’s fish and game resources and improves the economy, health, and well-being of the citizens’ of the state.
ADF&G Obligations and Program Oversight

- Permitting
- Stock Acquisition
  - Import of shellfish and aquatic plants
- Transfer of Shellfish Stock
- Transport of Shellfish Seed and Product
- Inspections
- Reporting
  - Shellfish Wild Stock Harvest
- Shellfish Wild Stock Restoration at Termination
Aquatic Farm Operation Permit

Criteria for Issuance

Proposed Farm Site/Operations must

- Be Suitable for Proposed Cultured Species
- Not significantly alter existing uses
- Not significantly affect fisheries, wildlife, or their habitat in an adverse manner
- Not include more than an insignificant population of wild stock, of the species intended to be culture.

Issued between 8 months - 1 year
Aquatic Farm Operation Permit

- Biomass/Abundance Survey
  - Subtidal Sites
    - Geoduck wild stock threshold
      - no more than 2000 lbs./acre
  - Intertidal Sites
    - Littleneck clam wild stock threshold
      - no more than 9 legal-sized (38mm+)/ft$^2$ and
      - no more than 14 sublegal (recruitment range from 25 through <38 mm)/ft$^2$. 
Stock Acquisition

- Acquisition Permit required
  - For supplying aquatic farm (seed)
  - For supplying in-state hatchery (broodstock)

- Acquisition (outside farm site) criteria
  - Seed or broodstock is not available from permitted source in AK
  - Wild stock not fully utilized
  - Doesn’t impair sustained yield of the species or unreasonably disrupts established uses of the resources

Permit issued within 30 days
Import of Shellfish and Aquatic Plants

- Pacific oysters and weathervane scallops* only species allowed for import into Alaska for farming

- Prohibition on any other shellfish & aquatic plants

- Authorization of import of shellfish and aquatic plants under Board of Fisheries and requires regulation change.
  - Concerns with Genetics, Pathology, and Invasive species

* from wild stocks in SE AK and Yakutat
Transfer of Shellfish Stock and Transport of Shellfish Seed

- From hatchery* to farm
- From nursery* to farm
- Between farm to farm or site to site
- Transport within the same larval drift zone
- Permit issued within 45 days
- Allowances made for sites w/in close proximity and disease risk low

* Certified seed source – Disease history and disease free
Inspections

- Ensures compliance with permit condition
- Provides opportunity to exchange information on problems, farm activities, and production
- Following operation and development plan and improving productivity of cultured species above natural levels
- Completed on a biannual basis (suspended) and opportunistically (on bottom - subtidal and intertidal)
- 2 day Notification
Inspections Continued

- Farm site identification and markings of the operation
- Floating and submerged gear maintained, repaired, and secured
- Operations reflect annual report and O and D plan
- Aquatic farm product separated from commercially or recreationally obtained wild stock
Reporting

- Annual detail of activities at farm
  - Production
  - Inventory
  - Mortalities and possible causes
  - Subtidal geoduck farm sites - location of predator netting and area planted

- Any reports required as conditions of permit or in operation/development plans
  - Growth and survival studies
Shellfish Wild Stock Harvest and Restoration

- Require for geoduck wild stock harvest
  - 24 hr notification on landing
  - Fish tickets submitted
  - Currently - Financial Security (CD $1.25 per geoduck harvested off site)
    - Released upon proof of seeding and farming
  - Under situations where existing permitted farm site has geoduck wild stock exceeding significant threshold and when harvest approved by ADF&G,
    - Compensation to state for harvest
      - 50% of avg. ex vessel price or amount paid at first point of sale for live and 20% for processed

- Upon termination of the farm site,
  - restore wild stock populations to levels found on site when permit was issued.