
MADE IN ALASKA

MARICULTURE

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council and
Ms. Elise Hsieh, Executive Director
4230 University Drive, Ste. 220, Anchorage, AK 99508-4650
elise.hsieh@alaska.gov
dfg.evos.restoration@alaska.gov

Dear Trustees and Ms. Hsieh:

December 6, 2019

Recognizing the potential evolution of the management of EVOS funds and their use towards economic development, the Alaska Mariculture Task Force (Task Force) submits this letter of intent to make you aware that we are preparing a proposal to the Trustee Council for funding for a multi-year, coordinated mariculture development program in the EVOS region, which can provide both improved ecosystem services and improved economic return to the Spill communities. The Task Force believes this proposal will meet the restoration plan and funding guidelines under the current EVOS framework; if the framework changes, we would like consideration for a mariculture program funding element.

By Administrative Orders #280 and #297 in 2016 and 2018, respectively, the Task Force was created and charged with the creation of a plan to develop mariculture in Alaska, and, subsequently, with the implementation of the Action Plan. Central to the Plan is the establishment of an industry-driven entity to guide and coordinate the long-term development of the mariculture industry – the Alaska Mariculture Development Council (AMDC). The AMDC will continue the mission of the Task Force. To help develop mariculture in the Spill area, we envision that the AMDC would receive EVOS funds, and be responsible for management and oversight of the comprehensive mariculture program and the cooperating entities.

The program goal would be to restore and replace economic opportunities and ecosystem services to the EVOS region, guided by the [Alaska Mariculture Development Plan](#) (see link to full plan and attached brief) and the associated Action Plan (soon to be finalized). Mariculture represents an opportunity for restorative economic growth in coastal Alaska, and the EVOS region is a significant portion of coastal Alaska. For example, in 2017-2019, 23 out of 45 new applications for aquatic farms submitted to ADNR are located in the EVOS region (Prince William Sound, Homer, Kodiak, and Sand Point). This is a unique opportunity to utilize a portion

of the EVOS funds to realize long-term economic growth which is also aligned with the EVOS principals of improving the marine environment in the EVOS region.

The proposal will include detailed descriptions of the program elements, how they will be coordinated, and the ways in which they will address the goals of the EVOS Trustees. Funded activities would be grouped into three categories:

- A) Mariculture-related economic development and jobs creation, for example:
 - Produce seed for seaweed and shellfish restoration, enhancement and aquatic farming
 - Identify appropriate habitat and/or sites for mariculture activities
 - Support training for hatchery staff and aquatic farmers
- B) Mariculture-related research, for example:
 - Develop hatchery techniques for important species in the EVOS region
 - Monitor ecosystem services and other impacts of mariculture activities
 - Support graduate student research related to hatchery production
- C) Outreach and education, for example:
 - Provide outreach and education to the public regarding the activities, research and results of the mariculture program

The AMDC and cooperating entities will operate within an MOU that designates the responsibilities, activities, and communication channels for each. The MOU will include a Program Manager to assure achievement of program objectives. Potential cooperating entities in the EVOS region from Prince William Sound to Kodiak to Homer and west to Sand Point could include established scientific and mariculture institutions, Native Villages and Corporations, academic and governmental entities and communities. We are exploring those relationships as part of our proposal development.

The Task Force will be in touch with staff as we develop our proposal for submission. We look forward to hearing your feedback about this concept.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alaska Mariculture Task Force

Cc: Alaska Mariculture Task Force