

Aquaculture Opportunity Area Interest Survey

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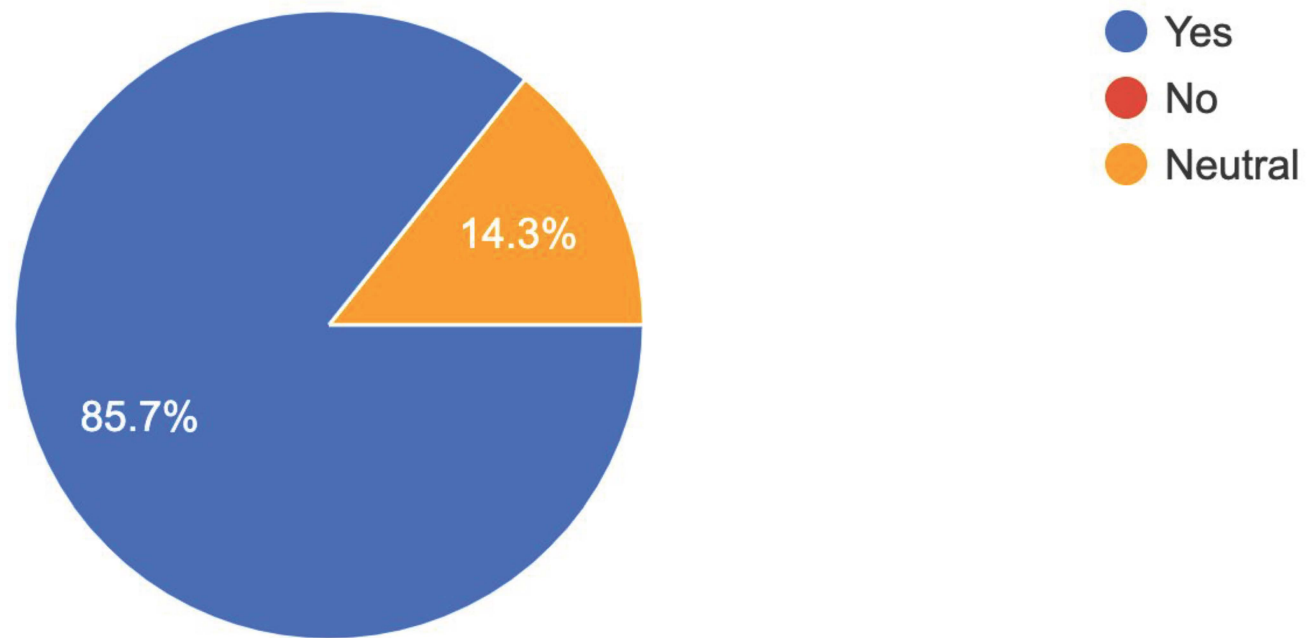
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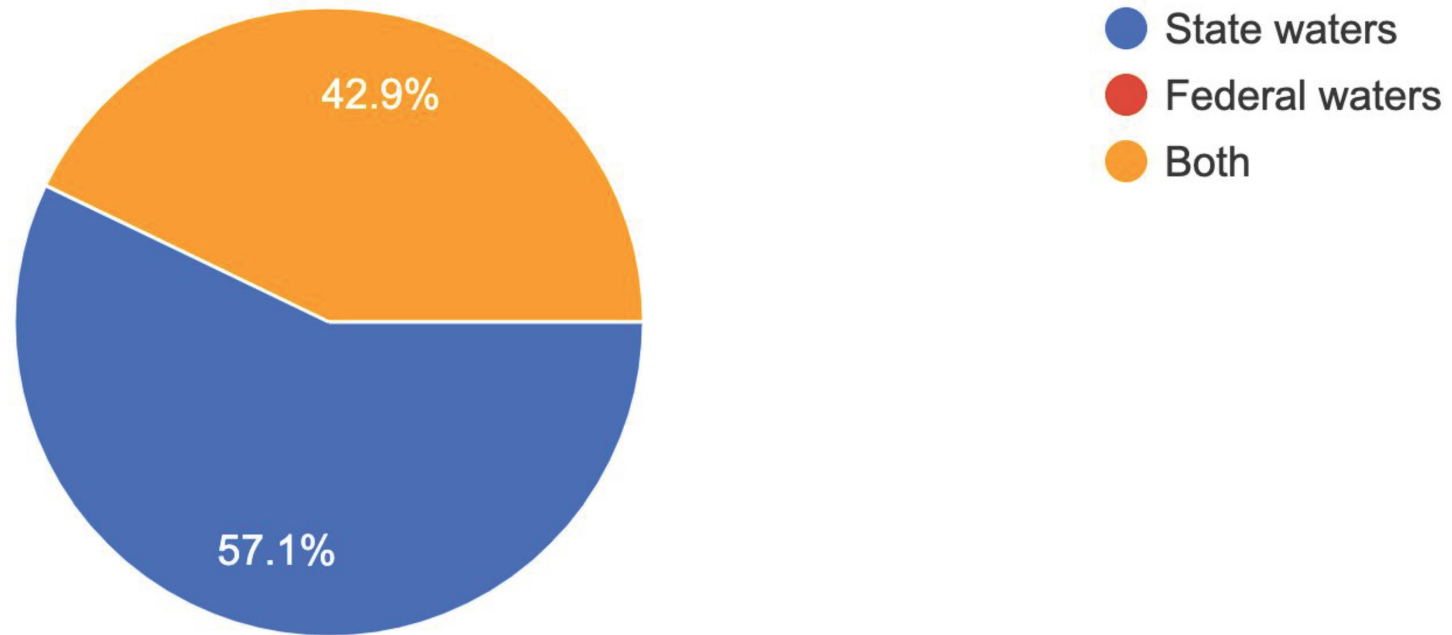
Do you support the development of one or more AOAs in Alaska?

7 responses



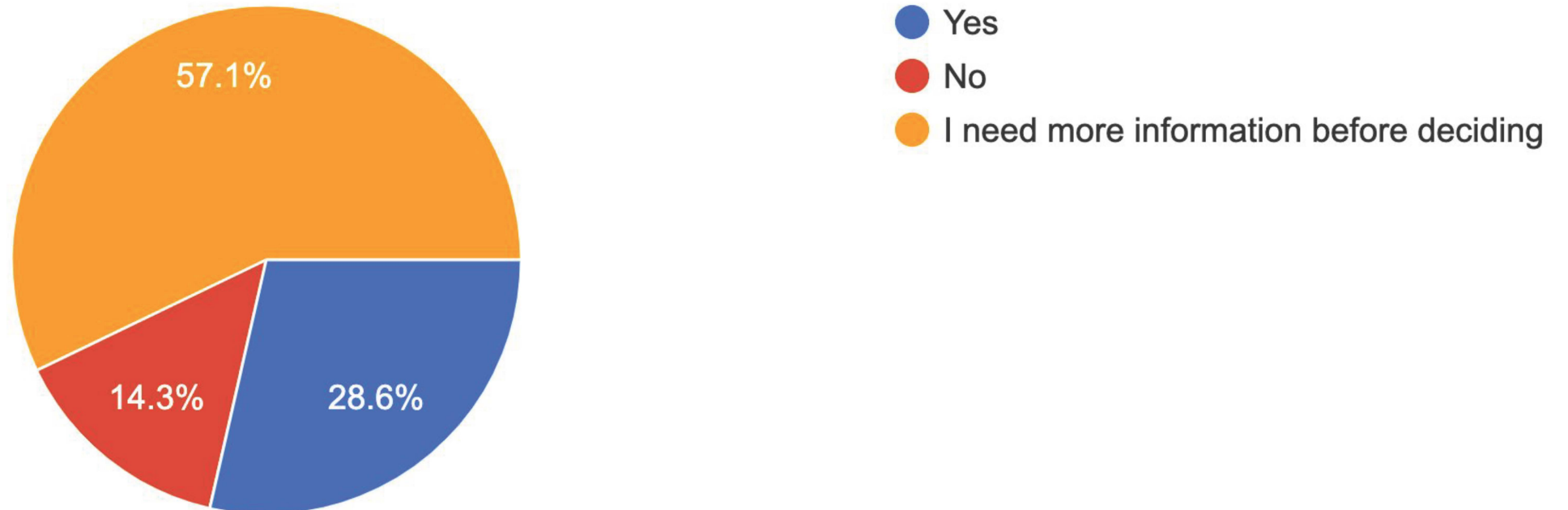
If you answered yes, should AOAs be placed in state waters, federal waters, or both?

7 responses



If you do support the development of one or more AOA's in Alaska, do you plan on submitting a letter of support?

7 responses



If you are neutral or do not support the development of one or more AOAs in Alaska, please tell us why.

- understanding of implications and ramifications - specifically to wild capture commercial fisheries

Please identify locations (regions or more specific areas) you would like to be considered for AOA designation.

- Southern Southeast Alaska
- Areas in SE Alaska which AK SG, ADF&G and other stakeholders previously identified as shellfish mariculture pre-permitting areas should be considered for AOA designation. Furthermore, Alaska's current mapping (for permitting) exercise could be a valuable rationale for AOA. I would like to see a focus on shellfish development, due to the breadth of work already invested for shellfish mariculture. However, I also recognize that recent interest in seaweed/kelp development could make Alaska an esp. attractive region for AOA which includes seaweed/kelp. Finally, I would specifically pursue integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA), also termed "3-D" aquaculture project development. The ability of Alaska to permit such activities, given the current regulatory structure at the state and federal level, could be an attractive component to designate an AOA in Alaska.
- Pribilof Islands, Aleutian Islands
- SE Alaska
- Any areas that would benefit local citizens & provide easy access to markets.

Alaska Aquaculture Opportunity Areas Information Session (12.4.20)

ASG Survey Results Summary as of 12.10.20

Total Respondents: 10

1. Do you support the development of one or more AOAs in Alaska?

Yes: 9

Neutral: 1

2. If you answered yes, should AOAs be placed in State waters, Federal waters, or both?

State: 4

Federal: 1

Both: 4

Didn't answer: 1

3. If you do support the development of one or more AOAs in Alaska, do you plan on submitting a Letter of Support?

Yes: 4

No: 2

I need more information before deciding: 4

4. If you are neutral or do not support the development of one or more AOAs in Alaska, please tell us why.

2 Responses:

- “Concerned about possibility of promoting to dense a distribution of mariculture operations if designate AOA; also new farmers who want to establish sites outside AOA may not get support if outside AOA.”
- “It is my experience more information is needed how marine mammals and mariculture interact. Since 2018 I have sought funding to bring this important research to Alaska without success. My thoughts are if the development of AOAs will help bring funding for this type of research then it will likely be a positive action. If not, I am neutral.”

5. Please identify locations (regions or more specific areas) you would like to be considered for AOA designation.

10 Responses:

- “I think I'll leave that to the stakeholders to decide which areas they are interested in, then try to provide habitat information for suitable locations within the areas. I'd be interested in exploring areas outside of Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak just because those areas are already being utilized. I'm excited to see what others come up with!”
- “I would like to see a designation in Southeast Alaska. I do not support development of an AOA in federal waters as it opens up the potential for finfish farming in Alaska. Also, to be honest the fact that this push is coming from an executive order from the Trump administration makes me pretty uncomfortable. But if NOAA needs to spend a bunch of money, extra surveys and information for aquaculture development in AK might as well be part of it.”
- “A group of folks from PWS will be discussing the idea of AOAs and where in PWS we want to recommend designating one.”
- “Southern SE Alaska”
- “I wish to ensure that Alaska is given consideration first and foremost. However, I do believe that Prince William Sound in particular is worthy of consideration for a variety of reasons, including: an opportunity to leverage pre-existing infrastructure, especially the area's salmon hatchery-related infrastructure and significant processing capacity. And, an opportunity to establish many interconnected stakeholder groups with shared interests, but especially: Alaska Native governmental and non-governmental organizations; communities and community-based organizations; and, commercial fishery stakeholders. Direct access to the road system in Valdez and Whittier is also of benefit to these activities, in my opinion as is interaction with what is becoming one of the largest shipping container ports in the state in Valdez.”
- “Prince William Sound, Alaska”
- “I don't have specific regions to suggest for consideration but until more research is possible, biologically important areas to cetaceans and areas “near” recognized pinniped haulouts should be avoided. “Near” is the million dollar question, how close is too close? With the sunset of the US Army Corps of Engineers General Permit for aquaculture specific buffers (i.e. 1 mile from seal haulouts and seabird colonies) are no longer a part of the regulation and species experts are left to determine these distances. Without research funds, I am personally finding this to be a challenging situation.”
- “Prince William Sound”

6. Other Comments

6 Responses:

- The benefits of an AOA still aren't completely clear, though what I understand so far is that they will help with simplifying the kelp farm permit application process, help reduce user conflicts, and (possibly) direct NOAA research to these areas. Are there other aspects that I'm missing? Thanks!

- Alaska Natives who harvest seaweed from the beach need to be assured that seaweed commercial operations will not negatively impacted by more restrictions to collection and as seaweed gets more popular other non-natives seeking to harvest natural stocks for profit. Otherwise some tribes will continue to resist
- Good luck, this would be excellent for Alaska.
- Thank you for your work and consideration of this important opportunity!
- I am president of Blue Wave Futures LLC, a collective of aquatic kelp farmers, and we all support designating the entirety of PWS as an AOA.
- Thank you for hosting this informative meeting.