Mariculture in Alaska
The Department of Natural Resource’s Perspective

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Aquatic Farm Program Manager

Alaska’s Aquatic Farm Program

- Brief History
- DNR’s Role
  - Landowner and Manager
- Implementing Authorities
  - Alaska Constitution
  - Alaska Statutes Title 38
  - Alaska Administrative Code Title 11, Chapter 63
  - (subject to) Public Trust Doctrine
- Guidance Documents
  - Department & Local Management Plans
  - Local Coastal District Plans (Alaska Coastal Management Program)
  - Adjacent Upland Owner Management Plans

Siting Considerations

- Land Ownership
- Management Goals and Objectives
  - Subject to the Public Trust Doctrine
- Local Coastal District Plans
  - Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP)
- Application Siting Guidelines
- What We’ve Learned
Application and Review Process

- **Application Openings**
  - January through April every other year
  - Next opening scheduled in 2005
- **Multi-Agency Application, includes:**
  - Department of Natural Resources
  - Department of Fish and Game
  - Department of Environmental Conservation
  - Office of Project Management & Permitting
    - Consistency w/ Alaska Coastal Management Program

(continued)

- **Combined Review**
  - Public
  - Agency
  - Alaska Coastal Management Program
- **Review Documents**
  - Preliminary Best Interest Finding (Preliminary Decision)
  - Final Best Interest Finding (Final Decision); appeal rights only to those who commented on the preliminary decisions during the review period

Required Authorizations

- **DNR’s Aquatic Farmsite Lease**
  - 10-year term, renewable upon approved application
  - Annual lease fee, $350 for 1st acre - $150 for each additional acre
  - Performance guarantee, $2500 minimum
  - Commercial use requirement at year five of the lease, $3000 in sales per acre up to a maximum of $15,000 per farm site
Required Authorizations (continued)

- Department of Fish and Game
  - Operation Permit
  - Transport Permit
  - Acquisition Permit

- Department of Environmental Conservation
  - Water Quality Classification
  - Shellfish Sampling Plan for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)
  - Shellfish Processing Permits
    - Shucker-Packers
    - Repackers
    - Shippers

Required Authorizations (continued)

- Army Corps of Engineers
  - General/Individual Permit No. 91-7N
  - Nationwide Permit No. 4

Current Authorized Farmsites

- Total Farmsites, Location, and Acreage
  - Total farmsites statewide – 63 (261 acres)
    - Southcentral – 31 (131 acres)
    - Southeast – 30 (129 acres)
Alaska Statewide Production in Sales

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Farms</th>
<th>Oyster Sales</th>
<th>Clam Sales</th>
<th>Mussel Sales</th>
<th>Other Sales</th>
<th>Total Sales</th>
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<td>43</td>
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* Between 1996 and 2003, “other” includes scallops, seaweed, and sea cucumbers.

Available Farmsites and Further Information

- **Over-the-Counter Program**
  - Sites available from the HB 208 Process

- **Further Program Information**
  - State of Alaska Website:
    - [www.dnr.state.ak.us](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us)
  - DNR’s Aquatic Farmsite Program Website:
    - [www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/aquatic](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/aquatic)
Typical Longline Operations for Suspended Culture of Oysters

Typical Raft-Style Operations for Suspended Culture of Oysters

Intertidal Geoduck Site
Happy Alaskan Growers

Benefits of Working in this Program