



Action Initiative Information			
Cluster:	Ocean Products		
Initiative:	Support the Regional Mariculture Industry		
Goal:	Create a strong and sustainable mariculture industry that supports vibrant coastal communities.		
Champion:	John Sund	JohnLSund@yahoo.com	206-295-5457
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	Rodger Painter		
	David Mitchell		
	Tom Henderson		

Meeting Summaries		
Date:	Attendees:	Outcome:
12/20/12	CWG Monthly call-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Cynthia Pring-Ham, Ray RaLonde is trying to get funds to upgrade mariculture nurseries that currently exist. Cynthia also said that the Department of Fish and Game is trying to grant permission for OceansAlaska to begin propagation of geoducks and oysters. John Sund mentioned that Sealaska's Haa Aani is working to attract new mariculture farmers and representatives from Haa Aani traveled to BC to visit Keith Reed's successful mariculture farm.
11/20/12	CWG Monthly call-in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation team for this initiative met during the Alaska Shellfish Growers Association meeting on November 8, 2012 after workshop presentations by Ray RaLonde. About 30 people met. The group identified 2 issues as the major issues facing the mariculture industry (lack of availability of seed and difficulty in recruiting farmers). Discord related to regulation is much lower than it has been



		<p>thanks to the work of Cynthia Pring-Ham, Mariculture Program Coordinator, ADF&G</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is now a mariculture loan available through the State of Alaska. Haa Anni is trying to to work with Kake, Yukatat, Angoon, and Hoonah to start mariculture farms. • SE AK is uniquely situated to produce and sell seed because its waters have not been affected by ocean acidification and there is no prohibition on exporting see out of AK.
11/8/12	Action Initiative team meeting with attendees of the ASGA meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges facing the mariculture industry (group discussion): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access to secure seed supply is one of the biggest challenges (the group identified this as one of the main challenges) ○ There are not enough qualified personnel working in the field (the group identified this as one of the main challenges) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People do not see a future in the industry • A culture of success is not prevalent in the industry as it is in Maine • People are too risk averse to enter the industry ○ Start-up costs are high ○ The price of the product is too low ○ Farmers make their operations too labor intensive ○ Farmers try to grow too large of oysters and wholesalers do not want small oysters ○ The grading system is dysfunctional ○ Farms are not located near transportation hubs which adds to logistical costs ○ Farms are geographically dispersed so the transfer of knowledge is quite slow ○ Some farmers are not working their permits • Opportunities in the mariculture industry (group discussion): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a new mariculture loan available through the Division of Economic Development ○ Co-ops are an intriguing way to structure business ○ There are opportunities out there to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ find new markets ▪ educate the public about AK shellfish ▪ start hatcheries in AK ▪ subleasing permit sites

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4/11/12	CWG Meeting #5 in Ketchikan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oceans Alaska Marine Science Center just put its new facility into place, and is in the process of getting all the systems up and running. It will be growing their own algae and oyster seed. It intends to develop programs to provide education and training to growers, including a best practices program, and assistance with business plans. It is developing MOUs with vocational training facilities, the University of Alaska Southeast, and local school districts. Sealaska's Haa Aani has partnered with other entities to develop oyster farms. Haa Aani sees a major bottleneck to the industry as being consistent access to a source of oyster seed. It is building Flupsys (upwelling shellfish nursery systems) and will place one somewhere on Prince of Wales Island. As there is demand for them, more Flupsys will be built. Haa Aani uses the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's apprenticeship program to train workers for its farms.

Initiative Action Plan Update		
Activity 1:	Secure seed supply for oyster farms. A seed setting facility, algae production and developing cost models are needed.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		
Activity 2:	Education and training for oyster farmers.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		
Activity 3:	Funding that supports expansion of a seed nursery/hatchery, including development of a locally prolific brood-stock program.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		
Activity 4:	Funding for PSP monitoring.	Activity Date:

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No work on this activity to date.		
Activity 5:	Funding for shelf-life extension during transportation (live holding) to smooth out and extend the fishery's cash flow.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		
Activity 6:	Funding for seaweed production.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		
Activity 7:	Funding for northern latitude algae production.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		
Activity 8:	Streamlining the permitting process to allow use of uplands.	Activity Date:
No work on this activity to date.		

Other Informational Items	