



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 12, 2019

Representative Dan Ortiz  
State Capital Room 513  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 41 –Shellfish Enhancement

Dear Representative Ortiz,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

In our 2014 resolution (attached), UFA supported the Alaska Mariculture Initiative as a method to facilitate expansion of the mariculture industry for marine plants and shellfish farming, enhancement and restoration, to increase jobs and economic opportunity for fishermen, farmers and support businesses. We support HB 41 to help implement the goals of the state's Mariculture Task Force as a step towards providing new economic opportunity in Alaska's coastal communities.

HB 41 creates a regulatory framework with which ADF&G can allow for and manage shellfish fishery enhancement, restoration and hatcheries. This would allow interested stakeholders to continue or begin enhancement and/or restoration of species such as King crab, sea cucumber, geoduck, abalone, razor clams, or others. This framework is essential to allow the development of mariculture related to wild shellfish enhancement.

Although we include eight salmon aquaculture associations that will each be subject to the increase of their fee on new hatchery facilities to \$1000, we support SB 22 because of the broader need to help develop shellfish aquaculture beyond only producing broodstock.

UFA strongly supports Alaska's salmon enhancement programs that are carefully regulated to provide salmon for common property harvest by subsistence, sport and commercial fisheries without detriment to wild stocks. We believe the state can carefully develop opportunities for additional enhancement of shellfish, and passage of HB 41 will help in this effort.

Sincerely,

Matt Alward  
President

Frances H. Leach  
Executive Director