

MADE IN ALASKA

MARICULTURE

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Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Invitation to join the Alaska Mariculture Alliance

Membership applications due by June 23, 2021

(Monday, June 7, 2021) — The Alaska Mariculture Task Force (Task Force) is inviting all those engaged in mariculture in Alaska to join the newly-formed Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA). The AMA is a private non-profit organization to be initiated in June 2021 with a mission to “develop and support a robust and sustainable mariculture industry, producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska’s economy, environment and communities.”

The AMA is the successor organization to the Task Force and will help shape and coordinate the burgeoning mariculture industry in Alaska. The Task Force, formed in 2016 by Governor Walker and re-authorized in 2018 with support by Governor Dunleavy, will sunset June 30, 2021. Work completed by the Task Force was guided by the [Alaska Mariculture Development Plan \(brief version here\)](#) and the [Five-Year Action Plan](#). The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) facilitated the administrative role for the Task Force, and will continue to do so for the AMA.

“On behalf of the Task Force, we want to invite all those who are involved in or want to develop mariculture to consider being a Founding Member of the AMA, and to help shape the future of mariculture in Alaska,” Heather McCarty, Chair, Task Force. The application for Founding Membership should be returned **by June 23, 2021**. The Task Force will meet June 25 to accept applications for AMA membership and stand up the new organization.

AMA membership is available to all individuals, companies and entities working in the field of mariculture and/or interested in the development of the mariculture industry in Alaska.

The AMA Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation are filed with the State of Alaska, and can be viewed at the following links:

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Static/fishing/pdfs/mariculture/10.29.20_ama_bylaws.pdf
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/cbp/main/search/entities>

Full Members are any grower, harvester, processor, nursery or hatchery of shellfish or seaweed in Alaska, whether an individual, co-partnership, or corporation; regional or village corporations

formed under ANCSA; tribes; community development quota (CDQ) groups; city or borough entities of the State of Alaska, and research entities. Shellfish and seaweed enhancement permit holders will be incorporated into AMA membership upon approval of enabling legislation. Initial dues are \$75.

Associate Members are supporting businesses or non-profits that are aligned with the purposes of the AMA, and do not vote. Initial dues are \$50.

After the initial membership is established, the AMA will continue to accept members, and the ongoing dues will be set by the Board of Directors and reviewed annually.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

- Full Members – each Full Member will delegate a representative to serve on the Board of Directors.
- Ex-officio Members (voting) – the Mariculture Research and Training Center (MRTC) Director and a representative of Alaska Sea Grant, if applicable
- Ex-officio Members (non-voting) – NOAA Regional Aquaculture Coordinator; Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) Director, or designee; ADFG Commissioner, or designee; ADNR Commissioner, or designee; ADEC Commissioner, or designee, ADCCED Commissioner, or designee.

Contact Heather McCarty or Julie Decker to receive membership applications and additional information.