

Proposal #: 20AKR015-007

Project Title: Hatchery Capacity & Technology Development to Secure Seed Supply for Oyster Farming in Alaska

Applicant: Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF)

Priority Addressed Priority #2 – Science or Technology that Promotes Sustainable U.S. Seafood Production and Harvesting

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Abstract: Alaska has all the qualities of an ideal environment for mariculture development, including 30,000 miles of remote coast, working waterfronts with maritime skills, a connection to the sea and an existing seafood industry which is larger than the rest of the U.S. combined. Although the mariculture industry in Alaska is in its infancy, it is poised to experience considerable growth in the near future. Shellfish and seaweed hatcheries are an integral piece of infrastructure required for any mariculture development and securing seed supply through hatcheries is the #1 priority recommendation of the Alaska Mariculture Development Plan. OceansAlaska is a marine science center and shellfish hatchery, located in Ketchikan, Alaska. Its mission is to support the mariculture industry by developing the capacity to produce commercial quantities of Pacific oyster seed for shellfish farmers in Alaska and the lower 48. To accomplish this goal, AFDF, Premium Aquatics, Oregon State University (OSU) researchers will work directly with OceansAlaska and project partners on training, transfer of best practices and technology development to secure seed supply for Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) farms in Alaska. Additionally, this project will examine the performance of selected and triploid lines of Pacific oysters in different environments.

Potential Commercial Benefits to the Fishing Community of the Research Results: Fishermen, businesses and communities dependent on fisheries face significant challenges when limited access is placed on fishery resources, fishing is reduced due to depressed stocks, or climate change negatively impacts fish stocks (i.e. Pacific cod declines in Gulf of Alaska which seem to have moved to cooler waters in the Northern Bering Sea). In order to promote sustainable uses of fishery resources, fishing-dependent businesses and communities need supplemental sources of economic activity. The development of Alaska's oyster industry will provide economic resiliency and diversification for fishermen and processors which aligns well with their skills, seasonal timing and existing capital assets.