

AP/AL: Appropriation Category: Development Location: Juneau (Downtown Juneau) House District: Downtown Juneau (HD 3) Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2005	Project Type: Planning Contact: Doug Mecum Contact Phone: (907)465-4210
--	--

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This request will permit the department to properly evaluate future mariculture permit applications on a case-by-case basis and to monitor progress and compliance with permit conditions as farming begins.

Funding:	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	Total
Gen Fund	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000		\$1,250,000
Total:	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$1,250,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This CIP project has no prior funding.

Project Description/Justification:

In 1999, the department received approximately 40 applications for development of new mariculture sites. Most of these applications were for development of farms to conduct on-bottom culture of littleneck clams, geoduck clams and urchins. The interest in development of on-bottom shellfish farms is a significant change from past public interest that focused primarily on suspended oyster and mussel culture. Because the suspended culture of oysters raised relatively few habitat or resource user conflicts, a single department employee was able to coordinate the permitting, public and agency review, and monitoring requirements. Requests to develop on-bottom shellfish farms in remote areas where significant wild stocks exist requires an intensive effort to properly discharge our statutory requirements to develop aquatic farms. This request will allow the department to properly evaluate future mariculture permit applications on a case-by-case basis and to monitor progress and compliance with permit conditions as farming begins.

Before applications can be issued for clam farming, local staff must visit the site, and determine the species composition of the wild shellfish stocks, densities, and size distributions. These data are needed to determine if conflicts exist with existing fisheries that are subject to limited entry (e.g. geoducks). If conflicts exist because there are significant numbers of wild stocks present, staff will work with the applicant to determine if conditions can be crafted to allow farming on the site. If no significant conflicts exist, then a plan must be developed and implemented to oversee removal of wild stocks to make room for farmed clams. The size of the proposed farm sites and our obligation to protect wild stocks in these areas requires that we allow removal of wild stocks in a phased, deliberate manner. This will require active management and monitoring of the removal and planting operations in these remote areas to assure that the farming operations are proceeding and succeeding as we allow the removal of wild stocks.

This request will also allow the department to conduct a comprehensive planning effort in cooperation with the mariculture industry, local communities, and the broader public to determine where mariculture operations are best conducted.

Currently, all areas and all species are potentially open for application. This planning effort will result in policy and regulatory direction for the emerging mariculture industry to assure their long term success while assuring that the wild stocks in these areas are protected and conflicts with other resource and land uses are minimized.