

FROM: Bill Rotecki
Po box 1399
Ward Cove, Alaska 99928

Shawn Carey, Grants Program Officer
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Alaska Region
Ph: 907-586-7845
Shawn.Carey@noaa.gov

September 28, 2013

RE: Letter of Support for S-K Grant titled, *Alaska Mariculture Initiative*

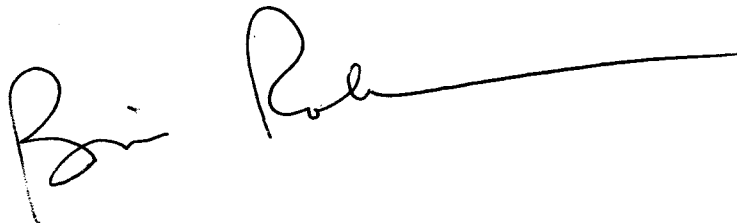
Dear Mr. Carey,

I am a current member of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly, but I am not writing on their behalf, I speak simply for myself.

Please give AFDF's proposal your most careful consideration. I fully support the proposal. I support it because I believe ***Alaska Mariculture Initiative***, an effort to bring all players together and to develop a more encompassing and strategic plan, is exactly what is missing in Alaska. While some shellfish farmers are trying to build their own companies success, and I am working on helping Oceans Alaska provide seed to those farmers, and others are working on helping Alutiiq pride continue with research, there is no coordination to make sure we are all working together. Furthermore the opportunity of collaboration between the wildstock fisheries and the farmed fisheries is all but ignored. This proposal by AFDF will provide a forum for working together to create a strategic plan that benefits all the disparate parts of the industry, and the industry and Alaska will be the better for it.

We all know of the success of the green mussel industry in New Zealand. We can do the same thing here, or better, growing several species in farms and enhancing wild stocks. Shellfish Mariculture has multiple benefits to Alaska in that it provides jobs for rural areas, is sustainable, and utilizes some of our strongest assets: human resources of people who are familiar with working on the water, clean water and lots of shoreline. However, the growth of the mariculture industry will require some leadership and some coordinated effort if we want to turn this potential into reality. I believe AFDF through the ***Alaska Mariculture Initiative*** – will provide an avenue for this leadership and coordinated effort to blossom.

Sincerely,
Bill Rotecki

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Rotecki", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.