



Alaska Ship Supply

A DIVISION OF WESTERN PIONEER, INC.

September 24, 2013

Shawn Carey, Grants Program Officer

NOAA Alaska Region

Ph: 907-586-7845

Shawn.Carey@noaa.gov

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

Dear Mr. Carey:

My name is Lawrence Soriano president of Alaska Ship Supply in Seattle. I am writing to express my strong support for the Saltonstall Kennedy grant proposal from the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) titled, *Alaska Mariculture*. The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation is developing the *Alaska Mariculture Initiative* which will achieve the following goals:

- Enhance the vision and constituency of the mariculture industry from shellfish farming, to also include restoration and wild fishery enhancement in Alaska**
- Coordinate efforts to develop the mariculture industry by organizing a strategic planning conference in Alaska**
- Develop a strategic plan, and gain a commitment by all participating agencies and stakeholders regarding implementation of a mariculture development plan**
- Support various mariculture developments around the State**

The mariculture industry has tremendous potential to provide new jobs to Alaska's coastal communities for farmers, fishermen, and those supporting the industry with needed supplies, research, and infrastructure. Increased mariculture production is not only economically beneficial to these communities, but also ecologically beneficial to Alaska's marine habitat. Alaska has more marine coastline than the rest of the United States combined, yet the State's mariculture development has been extremely limited to date.

Alaska Ship Supply supports the *Alaska Mariculture Initiative* as an important potential set strategic development effort with a sound methodology, clear objectives and a real expectation that it can facilitate the expansion of the mariculture industry, leading to increased jobs, increased seafood sales, economic growth, and a sustainable growing mariculture industry in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Lawrence J. Soriano, PhD

President

Alaska Ship Supply