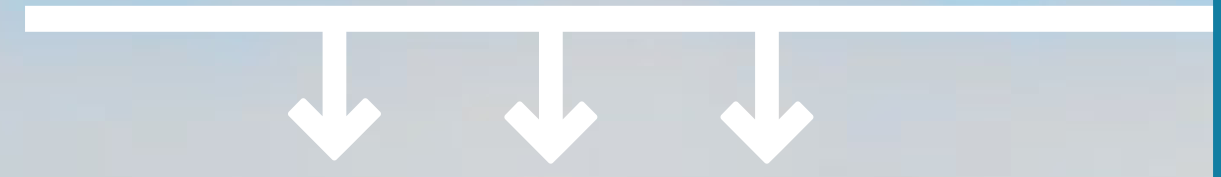


## Mariculture and Fishing: Complementary Industries

### Will mariculture activity interfere with fisheries?

**By state law, aquatic farm locations cannot conflict with established fishing activity.**



✦ Established uses, including fishing, have priority over proposed farm sites. (5 AAC 41.240).

✦ Before approving a lease and operation permit application, agencies seek input on the proposed farm site from local fishery managers, local organizations, and the general public.

✦ In some cases, conflicts can be mitigated, for example farms can remove most buoys and other structures prior to the fishing season if there is an expected hindrance to the fishery.

Aquatic farms may even benefit fishing areas...

Acting as cover from prey species, kelp farms may attract forage fish and invertebrates eaten by the fishery's target species. Find out more by checking out the *Benefits of Alaska's Growing Mariculture Industry* fact sheet!

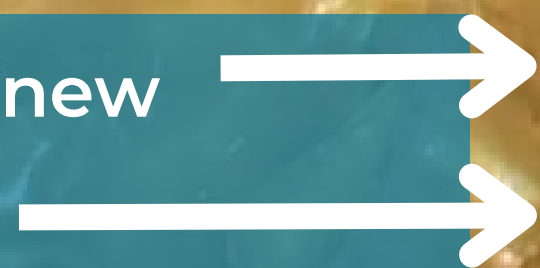


**In fact, the seasonality of aquatic farming presents an opportunity to both farm and fish:**

✦ Commercial fishing boats adapt well to kelp farming or working with oyster gear.

✦ Most work on kelp farms takes place during the shoulder season of commercial salmon fisheries (kelp is outplanted in the fall and harvested in the spring) while most work on oyster farms is during the summer, making it compatible with winter fisheries.

**Mariculture also presents new market opportunities**



✦ Mariculture is a unique opportunity for tourism. For example, in Maine, many oyster farmers give tours of their farms and share their products with visitors. Integrating mariculture and tourism can benefit both industries by increasing sales and creating connections between the mariculture industry and Alaska's visitors!

✦ The market is growing. Buyers of kelp are incorporating it into food ingredients (e.g., salsa and spices) and beauty products. Products in development include animal feed, biostimulants, and compostable plastics.

Want to learn more? Visit us:

The Alaska Mariculture Alliance at [alaskamariculture.org](http://alaskamariculture.org)

Photo Courtesy of Alaska Sea Grant

Want to learn more or get involved in mariculture? Visit us:

**Alaska Mariculture Alliance**

[alaskamariculture.org](http://alaskamariculture.org)

**Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation**

[afdf.org/projects/current-projects/alaska-mariculture-initiative/](http://afdf.org/projects/current-projects/alaska-mariculture-initiative/)

**Alaska Department of Natural Resources**

[dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/aquatic/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/aquatic/)

**NOAA Fisheries**

[fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/aquaculture/alaska-region-aquaculture](http://fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/aquaculture/alaska-region-aquaculture)

Want training on kelp or oyster farming? Or information on the application process for an aquatic farm lease?

**Alaska Sea Grant**

<https://alaskaseagrant.org/our-work/aquaculture/>

**Alaska Aquaculture Permitting Portal**

<http://akaquaculturepermitting.org/>

**Alaska Mariculture Training & Research Center**



[amrtc.org](http://amrtc.org)



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—ALLIANCE—