



# Do You Want to be an Aquatic Farmer? Get Started!

- 1. Pre-Application Meeting.** Applicants are encouraged to request a pre-application meeting through the Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game. State agency personnel will be happy to help all potential farmers with site selection, developing maps, and completing the application.
- 2. Select an Aquatic Farm Site.** Select an over-the-counter site any time of the year. Choose any site that you think would best suit the species that you intend to grow during the opening from **January 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>**. **Selecting an aquatic farm site is the single most important factor in determining your success as a farmer.**
- 3. The Application and the Fees.** Complete applications need to be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources/Anchorage office along with required fees. ADNR will then make copies and distribute them to other state agencies for review. A summary of all State of Alaska fees for aquatic farm authorizations, operations, and renewals is included.
- 4. Agency Review and Comment.** ADNR will request state and local government agencies for comments on the proposed project.
- 5. ADNR Preliminary Decision.** Preliminary decisions are written by taking the information from the application, input from state agencies, and by following statutory and regulatory requirements. They include the proposed action and a recommended decision.
- 6. Public Review, and Comment.** Public comment is then taken on the preliminary decision. Public meetings or public hearings can be requested by contacting ADNR.
- 7. ADF&G Site Survey and Review (on-bottom culture only).** For on-bottom (clam culture) aquatic farm projects, a site biomass survey to determine the existing population of shellfish to be cultured is required by ADF&G. Applicants will be contacted by ADF&G to schedule the biomass survey.
- 8. ADNR Final Finding and Decision.** The ADNR will prepare a final findings and decision document, which will include participating agency stipulations that the applicant will be required to adhere to throughout the 10-year lease. The final decision will be sent to the applicant and all interested parties.
- 9. ADF&G Final Review and Determination Decision.** The ADF&G will review and make a determination regarding the operation permit. A preliminary decision will be sent to DNR. If a survey is required and completed, the applicant will be sent the result.
- 10. ADNR Lease.** The ADNR will issue the lease for signature. The applicant then returns the signed and notarized lease along with the first annual lease fee and proof of bond security requirement. The ADNR will sign the final lease and send it to the new lease holder.
- 11. ADF&G Operation Permit.** If approved, the ADF&G will issue the operation permit to construct and operate an aquatic farm once a final lease has been executed. The operation permit will include permit conditions that the applicant will be required to adhere to throughout the 10-year operation permit.
- 12. ADEC Pre-Harvest and Sale Requirements.** A farmer will need to obtain a growing area classification, a shellfish shipper permit, a harvest permit, and have a shellfish sampling plan prior to harvest. Inquire with ADEC about fees for the initial water classification, Shellfish Harvest permit, Shellfish Shipper permit, Shellfish Shucker Packer permit, and Shellfish Repacker permit. A farmer will be expected to collect water samples and pay for shipping to the ADEC laboratory in Anchorage.

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