



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING FOR POSSIBLE UPDATES AND REVISIONS TO AQUATIC FARMSITE LEASING REGULATIONS

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

February 18, 2025

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR, Department) is considering updating the regulations implementing [AS 38.05.083](#) relating to aquatic farming and hatchery site leases. The Aquatic Farmsite Permits and Leases regulations can be found in the Alaska Administrative Code at [11 AAC 63](#).

The Department is undertaking this scoping process to ask the public for their ideas and suggestions before the Department undertakes the task of drafting any specific proposed regulations for public review. Written input must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 20, 2025. If DNR undertakes revisions to these regulations, there will be an additional timeframe to provide comments on the proposed regulations.

### Background Information

On October 9, 2024, [House Bill 329](#) was signed into law by the governor (Chapter 31, Session Law of Alaska 2024) and became effective on November 20, 2024. The bill related to state tideland leases, geoduck seed transfers, and aquatic farming or related hatchery operation site leases.

House Bill 329 can be viewed [here](#).

The legislative history of House Bill 329 can be viewed on the Alaska Legislature's website [here](#).

The department is now considering updating regulations to implement the statutory changes made in House Bill 329. Additionally, the department is considering updating the provisions of the commercial use requirement in 11 AAC 63.030(b) (Aquatic farmsite lease applications) and 11 AAC 63.110(7) (General lease provisions).

The existing Aquatic Farmsite Permits and Leases regulations can be reviewed [here](#).

### What information is DNR requesting?

The purpose of this notice is to ask the public for their input before the Department undertakes the task of revising aquatic farmsite leasing regulations.

Specifically, the Department is interested in ideas that will modernize and remove outdated requirements.

The public is encouraged to provide specific wording to be changed, added, or removed from the current regulations. When providing information, please be as specific as possible. For example, if the information is from a published study, please provide a copy of the study or a complete reference citation so that DNR staff can obtain a copy for consideration.

Specifically, we invite the public to respond to the following prompts:

11 AAC 63.030(b) Aquatic farmsite lease applications

11 AAC 63.110(7) General lease provisions

- Should the provisions of the commercial use requirement be modified from the current requirement stating that a lease must make annual sales equal to \$3,000 per acre or \$15,000 per farm, whichever is less, by the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the lease term?
- Should the 5-year deadline be changed?
- Should commercial use be defined in monetary terms, based on culture activities, or both?

### How will DNR use the information I provide?

The Department will carefully review all input received during this scoping period. If DNR undertakes revisions to these regulations, there will be an additional timeframe during which the public may provide comments on the proposed regulations.

## How can I find out more information?

### Website

Visit the DNR project website for background information and links to current statutes and regulations:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/aquatic/regrevision/>

### Public Meeting

DNR will host a public meeting on March 11, 2025, from 4:30-6:30 pm at the Atwood Conference Center Room 106 in Anchorage (Robert B. Atwood Building, 550 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501).

You may register for this meeting here:

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/c1fc2899-a6be-407e-914e-3e6436196038@20030bf6-7ad9-42f7-9273-59ea83fcfa38>

The meeting will include a brief presentation by DNR followed by a question-and-response session with the public. After, there will be an opportunity for participants to submit feedback as time allows. The public is invited to observe, learn, and ask questions.

You do not have to attend in person. A virtual option will be available for participation or observation. A recording of the public meeting will be posted on the project website.

For a virtual forum link and for location and parking information, visit the DNR project website at:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/aquatic/regrevision/>

## How do I submit information or feedback to DNR?

By mail: Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land & Water  
Program Support Section  
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1070  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3579

By email: [dnr.aquaticfarm.regulations@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.aquaticfarm.regulations@alaska.gov)

Submit written comments by 5:00 pm on March 20, 2025.

Please note that information provided will be subject to inspection, copying, and distribution as public records under Alaska Statute 40.25.110 – 40.25.220. Do not include information that is not appropriate for public consumption.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who needs special accommodation to participate in this process, please contact the Division of Mining, Land and Water at 907-334-2683 no later than March 10, 2025, to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.