STATE OF ALASKA DEP ARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER
SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL LAND OFFICE

PRELIMINARY DECISION

ADL 234201
University of Alaska Southeast - Sitka
Application for Lease
AS 38.05.083

This Preliminary Decision (PD) is the State's preliminary best interest finding regarding a proposed disposal of interest in state land. The public is invited to comment on this PD. The deadline for commenting is **11:59 pm March 12, 2026**. Please see the Public Notice section of this decision for requirements related to submitting comments for consideration.

Requested Action:
The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW), Southcentral Regional Land Office (SCRO) has received a request from University of Alaska Southeast - Sitka (UAS) to lease 0.12 acres more or less, of state-owned tide and submerged lands for 10 years for the installation of a 40-foot by 130-foot mariculture moorage float hatchery to cultivate 26 species of shellfish seed, echinoderms, abalone, clams, and aquatic plants for commercial seed supply to Alaskan aquatic farms. The location of the project area is further described as being within the S1/2 of Section 35, Township 55 South, Range 63 East, Copper River Meridian, in the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska.

Requested Improvements:
40-foot by 130-foot mariculture moorage float hatchery

Proposed Action:
SCRO is considering the issuance of a 10-year aquatic farmsite lease to UAS for the purpose of installing a 40-foot by 130-foot mariculture moorage float hatchery to cultivate shellfish seed, echinoderms, abalone, clams, and aquatic plants for commercial seed supply to Alaskan aquatic farms.

Scope of Decision:
The scope of this decision is to determine if it is in the State's best interest to issue this aquatic farmsite lease.

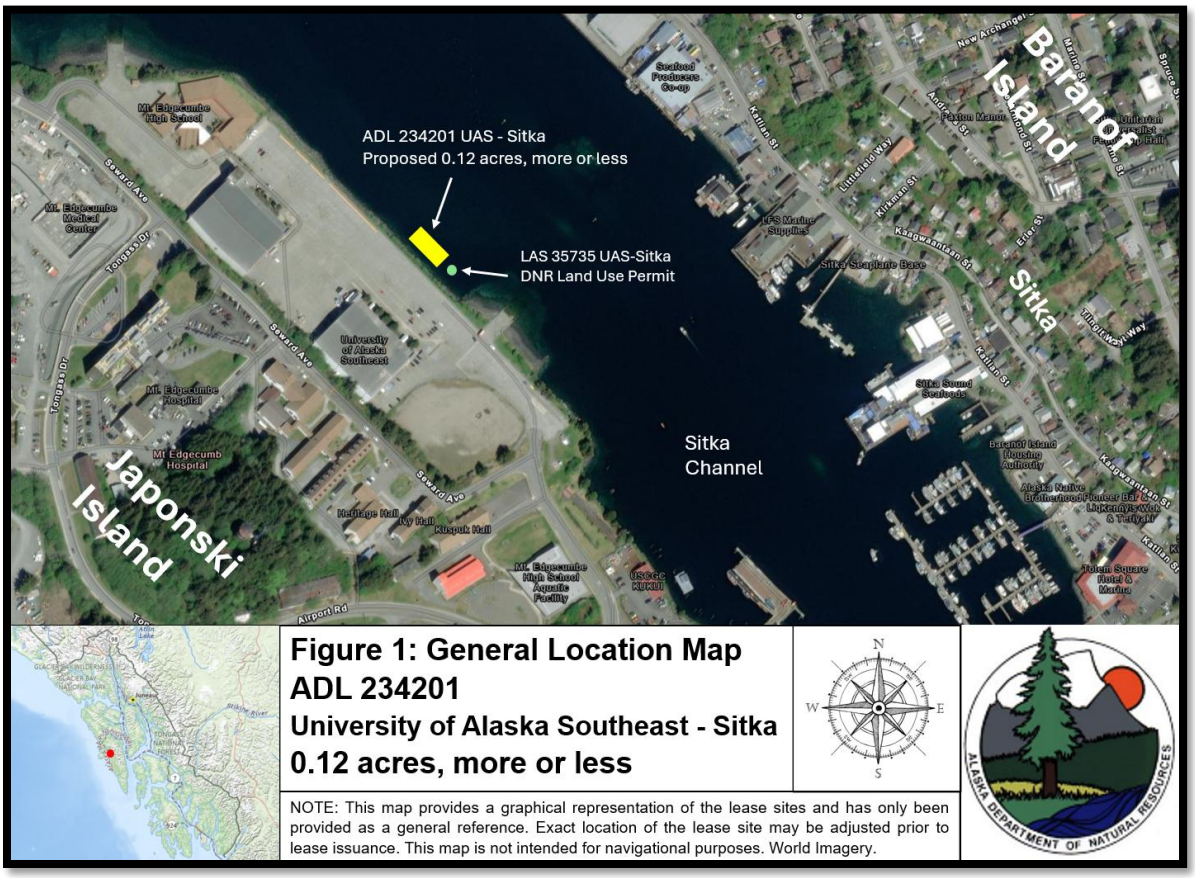
Authority:
This lease application is being adjudicated pursuant to Alaska Statute (AS) 38.05.035(e) Delegation of the Powers and Duties of the Director, AS 38.05.070(b) Generally, and AS 38.05.083 Aquatic Farming and Hatchery Site Leases.

The authority to execute the Preliminary Decision, Final Finding and Decision, and the lease has been delegated to the Regional Manager of SCRO under AS 38.05.035(b)(1).

Administrative Record:
The administrative record for the proposed action consists of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, the Alaska Land Act as amended, applicable statutes and regulations referenced herein, the 2002 Northern Southeast Area Plan and other classification references described herein, and the casefile for the application serialized by DNR as ADL 234201.

Legal Description, Location, and Geographical Features:
The state land where this proposed lease site is located is described as follows:

- **Site reference name**: UAS Mariculture Moorage Float Hatchery
- **Geographical locations**: Located within Sitka Harbor Channel, on the east side of Japonski Island, in the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska



- **Approximate Lat/Longs (NAD 83)**:

  Parcel 1: Mariculture Moorage Float Hatchery, 40 feet by 130 feet

NE Corner:	57° 03.175'N	135° 21.011'W
SE Corner:	57° 03.156'N	135° 21.011'W
SW Corner:	57° 03.156'N	135° 21.047'W
NW Corner:	57° 03.175'N	135° 21.047'W

- **Legal description**: S1/2 of Section 35, Township 55 South, Range 63 East, Copper River Meridian
- **Recording district**: Sitka
- **Existing parcel survey, if applicable**: None
- **Municipality/Borough**: Sitka
- **Native Corporations/Federally Recognized Tribes**: Sealaska Corporation, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Shee Atika Incorporated
- **Size:** 0.12 acres, more or less

Title:
A DNR Title Report (RPT-24190) was requested on December 22, 2025, from DMLW's Realty Services Section. A Title Report issued from DMLW's Realty Services Section will state whether the State of Alaska holds title to the subject tidelands under the Equal Footing Doctrine and the Submerged Lands Act of 1953. SCRO reserves the right to modify the Final Finding and Decision based upon information contained within the Title Report.

Third Party Interests:
The proposed parcel is located within the same footprint as LAS 35735, a Land Use Permit (LUP) from the DMLW Southeast Regional Land Office (SERO), issued to UAS-Sitka. This project is intended to be placed in conjunction with the LUP, therefore there is no conflict with this overlap.

Classification and Planning:
The project area is subject to the Northern Southeast Area Plan (NSEAP) and the Sitka Sound Tidelands Resource Management Zone (SSTRMZ) shown on Map 3-8: Southern Region: Baranof Island Area – Sitka Map, Unit: BT-132: Japonski Island (3-197). The tideland designations for this site are Habitat (Ha) and Public Facilities – Retain (Pr), which convert to the classifications of Wildlife Habitat Land and Reserved Use Land, described in Chapter 4 of the NSEAP (4-5).

Within Chapter 2 of the NSEAP, Areawide Land Management Policies, Aquatic Farming section, the goals stated are to "provide opportunities to increase income and diversify the State's economy through the use of state tide and submerged lands for aquatic farming" (2-4). Chapter 2

Management Guidelines state that "aquatic farming will be allowed on state tidelands or submerged lands where there is no significant conflict and the objectives of statute and this management plan are met" (2-5).

According to Chapter 3 of the NSEAP, the community of Sitka has comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, as well as district coastal zone management plans. The NSEAP reflects the recommendations of the district plans and particularly that of the community of Sitka since it has the most thorough and comprehensive management approach, providing policies that directly affect uses that the area plan also manages such as mariculture, residential floathomes, and other forms of floating facilities (3-122).

The proposed lease site is situated within the SSTRMZ, which is one of three Special Management Zones within the Southern Region. The marine and intertidal waters of this zone support a myriad of wildlife species' habitat and activities, as well as a wide variety of traditional, recreational, and personal use activities, primarily by the residents of Sitka. The management intent for this area is to:

1) protect sensitive fisheries, marine mammal concentration areas, shorebird and waterfowl concentration areas, anadromous streams and areas of estuarine wetlands, as well as brown bear and deer winter concentration within the intertidal areas;
2) preserve and protect the customary, traditional, recreational and personal use resources and public access to these resources (3-124, 125).

The proposed lease site is consistent with the SSTRMZ guidelines and management intent and is not expected to impede or restrict access or be a source of conflict with the current uses of the area.

In accordance with the NSEAP, an aquatic farm hatchery is an allowable use and is therefore consistent with the plan. The proposed operation must be in the best interest of the State before an authorization may be issued. Factors that are to be considered in this decision are identified in 11 AAC 63.050(b).

Traditional Use Findings:

Traditional use findings will not be discussed in this Preliminary Decision because the proposed lease site is located within the City & Borough of Sitka, an organized borough. Pursuant to AS 38.05.830 a traditional use finding is not required. However, 11 AAC 63.050(b)(5)(B) require consideration of whether the lease site impacts traditional and existing uses of the site. Known traditional and existing uses of the area include, but are not limited to, residential use, sightseeing, recreation, tourism, sport fishing, salmon hatcheries, and upland access. The proposed aquatic farm hatchery should not interfere with traditional and/or existing uses of the area, including commercial or sport fishing, subsistence activities, navigation, and recreation. Public and Agency Notice may reveal more unknown uses. If such information becomes available, any potential or existing conflicts will be addressed in a final best interest finding.

Access:
Access to the aquatic farm hatchery float is walkable via the 80-foot gangway ramp attached to the UAS Sitka campus upland property. The gangway ramp infrastructure is authorized under a Land Use Permit (LUP) from the DMLW Southeast Regional Land Office (SERO), serialized as LAS 35735.

Access To and Along Navigable and Public Waters:
AS 38.05.127 and 11 AAC 51.045 require that before leasing land, DMLW determines if a body of water is navigable and if it is, that DMLW provides for easements or reservations as necessary to ensure free access to and along the waterbody. The waters of Sitka Harbor Channel are tidally influenced and thus navigable. However, the lease is entirely within these waters and located further than 50 feet from Mean High Water, thus a .127 easement is not necessary.

Public Trust Doctrine:
Pursuant to AS 38.05.126 all authorizations for this site will be subject to the principles of the Public Trust Doctrine; specifically, the right of the public to use navigable waterways and the land beneath them for: navigation, commerce, fishing, hunting, and other purposes. These rights must be protected to the maximum extent practicable while allowing for the development of this project. As such, SCRO is reserving the right to grant other authorizations to the subject area consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine.

Lease Discussion:
UAS Sitka initially submitted an application for a 10-year aquatic farm hatchery lease on April 29, 2023, requesting a 0.98-acre parcel to install a ramp with eight 24-inch concrete pilings, a fibergate walkway, and a concrete hatchery barge, which would be used to cultivate seed stock for aquatic plants and shellfish. Once SCRO and Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) deemed the application complete on July 18, 2023, it was sent with the Agency Review, conducted from July 19, 2023, through August 15, 2023. UAS emailed SCRO on October 21, 2023, stating that they "hit a snag" with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and were working to relocate to an area that did not conflict with the USCG's dock expansion in the initially proposed area.

An updated application was received from UAS on October 11, 2024. In response to a request for additional information from SCRO and ADF&G, UAS submitted a series of updated applications through May 29, 2025. SCRO met with the applicant on June 10, 2025, to discuss their concern and options to meet the UAS 2026 construction bid and grant proposal timeline goals. A solution was found by dividing the application into two parts: one request to SERO for authorization of the concrete abutments on the uplands, the attached gangway ramp, and wave attenuators via a Land Use Permit (LUP), and a second, separate request to the SCRO Aquatic Farm Leasing Program for the mariculture moorage float hatchery. The updated hatchery float application submitted to SCRO by UAS on December 2, 2025, was deemed complete by SCRO and ADF&G on December 17, 2025. Meanwhile, SERO issued the LUP (LAS 35735) to UAS on December 2, 2025, for the

construction of the abutment, gangway ramp, dock infrastructure, and wave attenuators (Attachment C). The LUP is for the term beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030, but can be reissued an indefinite number of times as long as UAS following all LUP stipulations to stay in compliance.

The proposed lease will be comprised of one parcel, consisting of 0.12 acres, more or less. The parcel will measure 40 feet by 130 feet, containing a mariculture moorage float for workforce development and training, research, demonstration, communication, hatchery seed supply, and mariculture industry support.

The float/barge will be moored alongside the floating dock using fixed steel connection brackets at the ends of steel strut system. Each fixed strut will have a connection point on the barge using steel bolts sleeved or embedded into the concrete barge. The connection plates will be mounted to the 130-foot side of the barge and are spaced near either end of the barge to provide the greatest positional stability for the system. The connection brackets contain rubber cylinders to allow for both energy absorption and angle changes as the barge and strut system move through the tide cycles.

The barge hull is reinforced concrete with a rigid polystyrene foam core, topped by a two-story wood structure on a 3-foot-high cement curb foundation. The lower level provides open space for hatchery and rearing tanks, nursery racks, algae and filter tanks, and other aquaculture equipment, with forward areas containing a workshop, restroom, chiller, and storage. The upper level includes office space, a kitchen/lab, electrical room, storage mezzanine, and a clean laboratory area.

The float/barge is equipped with freshwater and ballast tanks, full electrical and plumbing systems, pumps, alarms, heating/cooling, and a wide range of hatchery and laboratory equipment, including upwell/downwell units, a pasteurizer, microscopes, UV sterilization equipment, and an autoclave. Deck gear includes a davit with electric hoist, bullrails, guards, and drainage systems that are designed for safe marine operation.

Seed supply produced will benefit shellfish and seaweed farms in Southeast Alaska and will also be outplanted on small education and research-based farms. The facility would be established as a modest source of shellfish seed, kelp and seaweed starts, and as a training hatchery to assist in the security of seed supply for Alaskan farmers. The species that will be cultured are beach asparagus (*Salicornia sp.*), black seaweed (*Pyropia abbottiae*), broad-ribbed kelp (*Pleurophycus gardneri*), bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*), cockle (*Clinocardium nuttallii*), dragon kelp (*Eualaria fistulosa*), Pacific geoduck (*Panopea generosa*), giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*), littleneck clam (*Leukoma staminea*), Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*), blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), California mussel (*Mytilus californianus*), pinto abalone (*Haliotis kamtschatkana*), giant red sea cucumber (*Parastichopus californicus*), red ribbon dulse (*Devaleraea mollis*), ribbon kelp (*Alaria marginata*), five-ribbed kelp (*Costaria costata*), three-ribbed kelp (*Cymathere triplicata*), red

spaghetti-ogo (*Gracilaria pacifica*), sea staghorn (Codium fragile), stiff ribbon dulse (*Palmaria hecatensis*), spaghetti kelp (*Chorda filum*), split kelp (*Hedophyllum nigripes*), sea lettuce (*Ulva sp.*), sieve kelp (*Agarum sp.*), and sugar kelp (*Saccharina latissima*).

Access from the nearest community is by road to the campus area, followed by an approximately 80-foot walk along the floating dock gangway to reach the barge. Personnel and materials would be transported to the barge via this dock, with routine trips occurring multiple times per day during hatchery operations for staff, equipment, and supplies. Small service boats may also be used for equipment transfer when needed. The barge's permanent mooring and the dock connection would provide stable, safe access under typical tidal and weather conditions.

All equipment and gear associated with hatchery and educational operations would be stored on the float when not in use. The barge provides dedicated storage areas on both the lower and upper levels, including a mezzanine storage space, utility rooms, and equipment racks. The storage areas are fully within the vessel's structure. All storage would occur on private lands within the campus grounds. Equipment would be maintained and secured year-round, ensuring it is protected from weather, tides, and unauthorized access.

At this time the Commercial Use Requirement (CUR) states a farm must make annual sales of aquatic farm products of at least $3,000.00 per acre or $15,000.00 per farm by the fifth year of operation and continue for the rest of the lease term. Failure to meet CUR constitutes a default and may be cause for termination. Annual reports of sales are due January 31 of each year.

Should the proposed lease be approved, the lease will be issued for a 10-year term beginning no later than one year following the effective date of the Final Finding and Decision. The proposed lease will be subject to the terms of DMLW's standard lease document and any Additional Stipulations based, in part, upon the following considerations.

Development Plan:

The Development Plan dated December 2, 2025, is accepted by SCRO as complete but may be subject to change based on agency and public review. Should the proposed lease be granted, it is anticipated that the Development Plan will need to be updated throughout the life of the lease as activities and/or infrastructure are added or subtracted. All updates must be approved, in writing, by SCRO before any construction, deconstruction, replacement of infrastructure, or change in activity will be permitted. SCRO reserves the right to require additional agency review and/or public notice for changes that are deemed by SCRO to be beyond the scope of this decision.

Hazardous Materials and Potential Contaminants:

Hazardous materials, such as fuel, power generators, human waste, trash, gray water, will be stored within the proposed leasehold. Stipulations will be included in the lease to ensure proper handling and storage.

The use and storage of all hazardous substances must be done in accordance with existing federal, state and local laws. Debris (such as soil) contaminated with used motor oil, solvents, or other chemicals may be classified as a hazardous substance and must be removed from the sites and managed and disposed of in accordance with state and federal law.

Lease Performance Guaranty (bonding):
In accordance with AS 38.05.083(e) and 11 AAC 63.080, UAS will be required to submit a performance guaranty for the lease site to cover the costs to the department of restoring the leased site in the event the lessee abandons the site for site cleanup, restoration, and any associated costs after termination or expiration of the leases.

$2,500.00 Performance Guaranty: This bond will remain in place for the life the proposed lease. The bond amount is based upon the level of development, amounts of hazardous material/substances on site, and the perceived liability to the State. This bond will be used to ensure the applicant's compliance with the terms and conditions of the lease issued for their project. This bond amount will be subject to periodic adjustments and may be adjusted upon approval of any amendments, assignments, re-appraisals, changes in the development plan, changes in the activities conducted, changes in the performance of operations conducted on the authorized premises, or as a result of any violations to one or more of the authorizations associated with this project. The following stipulations shall be included in any authorization pursuant to this decision.

The lessee must post a performance guaranty in the amount of $2,500.00 to secure faithful performance with all terms and conditions of the Lease and to ensure site restoration of the leasehold. This performance guaranty must remain in effect for the duration of the Lease term or until released in writing by the Authorized Officer (AO). The AO for the State of Alaska, DNR, DMLW, is the Regional Manager or designee. Failure by the lessee to provide replacement security shall be grounds for the AO to make a claim upon the existing security to protect the lessor's interests.

If three or more lessees post an association bond to cover all of their leases, the minimum security amount is 50 percent of the amount individually calculated for each lease. The association must designate an agent for notification purposes. The association has the right to be notified of the termination of a lease covered by its association bond. If neither the former lessee nor the association completes the site restoration as required by AS 38.05.090, the department will use the association bond for this purpose, up to 100 percent of the amount individually calculated for that lease. The association may remove a lease in good standing from the coverage of its association bond after 60 days' notice to the department, during which time the affected lessee must make other arrangements to comply with this section. A lease that is in default or that has been terminated with site restoration still pending may not be removed from the coverage of the association bond.

The guaranty amount will be subject to periodic adjustments and may be adjusted upon approval of any amendments to the Lease, assignments, reappraisals, changes in the Development Plan, approval of a reclamation plan, any change in the activities conducted, or performance of operations conducted on the leasehold and as a result of any violations to the Lease agreement.

The guaranty may be utilized by the AO to cover actual costs incurred by the State of Alaska to pay for any necessary corrective actions in the event the lessee does not comply with the site utilization, restoration requirements and/or other stipulations contained in the Lease agreement. If the lessee fails to perform the obligations under the Lease agreement within a reasonable timeframe, the AO may perform the lessee's obligations at the lessee's expense. The lessee agrees to pay within 60 days following notice, all costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the State of Alaska as a result of the failure of the lessee to comply with the terms and conditions of the Lease agreement. The provisions of this authorization shall not prejudice the State's right to obtain a remedy under any applicable law or regulation. The performance guaranty will be released upon expiration of the Lease provided that all terms and conditions of the Lease have been met, including restoration of the leasehold to a safe and clean condition found acceptable by the AO.

Insurance:
To protect the State from Liability associated with the use of the site, the applicant shall provide and maintain a comprehensive general liability insurance policy with the State of Alaska named as an additional insured party per the stipulations of the authorization. The applicant shall secure or purchase at its own expense, and maintain in force at all times during the term of this lease, liability coverage and limits consistent with what is professionally recommended as adequate to protect the applicant and the State, its officers, agents and employees from the liability exposures of ALL the insured's operations on state land. The insurance requirement may be adjusted periodically.

Survey:
In accordance with AS 38.04.045, this short-term lease does not require a survey. However, DMLW will, in its discretion, require a boundary survey if needed to resolve an apparent boundary conflict or a dispute over acreage leased. The State of Alaska reserves the right to require a survey in the future, should the need arise due to changes in statutes or increased use of the area.

Compensation and Appraisal:
DMLW has approved an administrative lease fee schedule for aquatic farmsites that meet the conditions listed within the schedule. The most current lease fee schedule will be used to establish the fair market rental each lessee must pay. Fees are subject to adjustment per AS 38.05.083(c). The current annual rate for a 0.12-acre aquatic farm lease is a base fee of $450 for the first acre, and $125 for each additional acre or portion thereof. In accordance with the Aquatic Farmsite Fee Schedule, Report No. 2522-16, a breakdown of the lease fee will be as follows:

0.12 acre (1 acre at $450) = **$450.00 per year**

If the applicant does not agree with the fee schedule amount of $450.00, a fair market value determination can be obtained by the applicant. Fair market value is determined by obtaining a DNR approved appraisal of the lease site. If an appraisal is conducted to determine fair market value of the lease site, the applicant will be required to pay the appraised amount and the $450.00 annual fee will no longer be an option. The appraisal cost will be borne by the applicant. The parcel may need to have an approved Alaska Tidelands Survey to accomplish the appraisal. If a survey is required, the cost will be incurred by the applicant.

Assignment of Lease:
The proposed lease, if issued, may be transferred or assigned to another individual or corporation only with prior written approval from DMLW. A lease will not be assigned to an entity if that entity does not meet the statutory requirements of the lease or if the lessee is considered not to be in "good standing" with this or any other agency authorization.

Subleases:
Subleasing is permissible through AS 38.05.095, if the proposed lease is approved. A sublease is defined as improvements not owned by the lessee that are located within the leasehold on the land or located on structures owned by the lessee. A sublease pertaining to the proposed lease includes but is not limited to, user agreements, license agreements, or any contracts between the lessee and other commercial entities. All potential subleases must first be approved in writing by DMLW. DMLW may conduct further agency review and/or public notice before making a determination on the appropriateness of the proposed sublease. The sublease fee will be 25% of the annual fee paid to the lessee by the sublessee. All sublessees and activities must meet the statutory qualifications under which the original lease was issued.

Reclamation:
In accordance with AS 38.05.090(b), all lessees must restore their lease sites to a "good and marketable condition" within 120 days after termination of the lease.

Agency Review:
An Agency Review was conducted starting on December 19, 2025, and ending on January 9, 2026. Information and comments received from sections within DMLW prior to and during agency review have been considered and included in the preparation of this PD. The following agencies were included in the review:

- DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
- DNR DPOR Office of History and Archaeology, State Historic Preservation Office
- DNR Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board
- DNR Division of Oil and Gas

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office
- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. National Park Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Coast Guard
- DNR Southeast Regional Land Office

Agency Review Comment(s):
During the Agency Review, SCRO received comments from one agency.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game Comment:
ADF&G's Permit Coordinator submitted a letter on behalf of ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries (Management, Gene Conservation Lab and Fish Pathology), Division of Sport Fish, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Subsistence Section and Habitat Section dated January 8, 2026. Within the letter from ADF&G is a Department Advisory, advising the applicant of general conditions pertaining to ADF&G's statutory and regulatory provisions for issuance of an Aquatic Farm Operation Permit (AFOP) if the applicant's project is approved. ADF&G also requests that the January 8, 2026, letter be included in the preliminary decision as an advisory to the applicant and for public reference.
The following concerns and recommendations are noted in the ADF&G letter and may be addressed in the AFOP:

- Division of Sport Fish has reviewed this request and has no concerns with the location of the operation. DSF requests the applicant exercises precaution in potential spread of invasive species if the barge is acquired from Ketchikan where there is known European green crab presence.
    - *Invasive Species Program Coordinator* has reviewed this request and has no concerns with the location of the operation. There are populations of nonindigenous colonial tunicates (*B. violaceus* and *B. schlosserei*) established within the Sitka Channel on in-water infrastructure situated on both the Japonski Island and Sitka sides of the channel which can easily spread to this new barge and its associated infrastructure. The applicant must be diligent and follow best management practices to prevent the spread of any nonindigenous species to and from Sitka.

- Division of Wildlife Conservation *Marine Mammal Research Program*: This application complies with the guidelines set forth with the ADF&G marine mammal mariculture policy updated in April 2024. Any advisories or mitigation steps recommunicated by NOAA Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to reduce marine mammal disturbances should be followed. Large whales, especially humpbacks, are highly susceptible to entanglement in lines in the water; Removing all gear from the water during the non-growing season may minimize gear loss, user conflicts, and marine mammal entanglement and habitat exclusion potential. Any marine mammal entanglements should be immediately reported to the NMFS 24 hr. Stranding Hotline.

SCRO Response:
SCRO acknowledges ADF&G's comment. As one of the resource managers in the area, ADF&G's input is an important source of information. SCRO relies on input from ADF&G and other stakeholders to advise of any expected impacts and solutions that may fall outside of SCRO's authority. The applicant has been provided a copy of ADF&G's letter, dated January 8, 2026. As requested in ADF&G's letter, the PD herein contains ADF&G's letter, which will be advertised for a 30-day public comment period. Per the development plan submitted by the applicant, all gear associated with the site will be left onsite year-round. DNR's statute and regulations for aquatic farmsite leases do not specify management of aquatic farms relating to fish and game but authorize DNR to issue a lease for state-owned tideland, shoreland or submerged land to develop an aquatic farm. Management of fish and game is within the authority of ADF&G, and as such, SCRO must defer to them and encourages the applicant to work directly with them. ADF&G may add to its operation permit authorization the conditions it deems appropriate.

Public Notice of the Preliminary Decision:
Pursuant to AS 38.05.945, this PD will be noticed for a 30-day public comment period starting on February 10, 2026. The Sitka post office located near the proposed leasehold will be requested to post the notice pursuant to AS 38.05.945(b)(3)(C). The notice will be posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice website pursuant to AS 38.05.945(b)(3)(B) located at: https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Default.aspx. Additionally, Public Notice will be sent to all interested parties, including Sealaska Corporation, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Shee Atika Incorporated, the City and Borough of Sitka, neighboring property owners, and nearby DMLW authorization holders.

The public is invited to comment on this PD. All comments received during the public comment period will be considered in the Final Finding and Decision (FFD). A copy of the FFD, along with instructions on filing an appeal, will be sent to all persons who comment on the PD. If public comments result in significant changes to the PD, additional public notice may be given.

To be eligible to appeal the FFD, a person must provide written comments during the PD comment period.

Written comments about this project must be received in this office no later than 11:59 PM on March 12, 2026, to be considered.

To submit comments, please choose one of the following methods:

Postal: Department of Natural Resources
Southcentral Regional Land Office
ATTN: Jen Kopnicky
550 West 7th Avenue Suite 900C
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577
E-mail: jen.kopnicky@alaska.gov
Fax: (907) 269-8913

DNR-DMLW complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who many need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to comment should contact Alaska Relay at 711 or 1-800-770-8973 for assistance at no cost.

Signature Page Follows

Recommendation:

DMLW has completed a review of the information provided by the applicant, examined the relevant land management documents, agency comments, and land ownership, and has found that this project is consistent with all applicable statutes and regulations. DMLW considered both direct and indirect benefits to the State. DNR finds granting of the proposed lease provides the greatest benefit to the State.

I find the proposed action may be in the State's best interest and recommend approval to proceed with public notice.

02/10/2026

Jen Kopnicky — Date
Natural Resource Specialist 3

Preliminary Decision:

It is the determination of the Division of Mining, Land, and Water that it may be in the State's best interest to issue an aquatic farmsite lease to UAS Sitka, as described above. This Preliminary Decision shall now proceed to public notice.

02/10/2026

Emily Gettis, Acting Natural Resource Manager 2 — Date
Southcentral Regional Land Office
Division of Mining, Land & Water

Attachments

- Attachment A – Development Plan
- Attachment B – ADF&G Letter
- Attachment C – SERO Land Use Permit: LAS 35735

Attachment A
Development Plan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

Company Name

University of Alaska Southeast - Sitka Campus

Site Location [*Include water body, distance from nearest community, any landmarks, general region of Alaska, and whether on state tidal and/or submerged lands or private. Provide enough information to understand where it is located.*]

The proposed project is located in Sitka Harbor Channel, adjacent to Japonski Island on state tidelands and submerged lands within the City and Borough of Sitka. The site lies within a 2.09-acre (223.41 foot by 408 foot) tidelands parcel that the University of Alaska is in the process of leasing from the State of Alaska. This application seeks authorization only for a 40 foot by 130 foot, 0.12-acre project footprint to support a floating concrete pontoon (Mariculture Moorage Float) for workforce development and training, research, demonstration, communication, seed supply, and industry support. Associated infrastructure includes a screened seawater intake pipe with sash weights and a UV-treated effluent return line into Sitka Harbor Channel. Shore access is via University of Alaska-owned uplands on Japonski Island. See Attachments 1 and 4.

Site Dimensions, Acres for Each Parcel

Parcel 1 (Hatchery Tidelands Lease):
- Dimensions: 40 foot by 130 foot
- Lease Area: 0.12 acres
- Project Footprint: 0.12 acres (University of Alaska Southeast [UAS] Sitka Mariculture Moorage Float)

Total Acres of All Parcels

- Total Lease Area (tidelands parcel): 0.12 acres
- Total Project Footprint (this application): 0.12 acres

Species You Intend to Farm [*Include scientific and common species name*]

1. Beach Asparagus (Salicornia sp.), 2. Black Seaweed (Pyropia abbottiae), 3. Broad-ribbed Kelp (Pleurophycus gardneri), 4. Bull Kelp (Nereocystis luetkeana), 5. Cockle (Clinocardium nuttallii), 6. Dragon Kelp (Eualaria fistulosa), 7. Geoduck (Panopea generosa), 8. Giant Kelp (Macrocystis pyrifera), 9. Littleneck clam (Leukoma staminea), 10. Pacific Oyster (Crassostrea gigas), 11. Blue Mussel (Mytilus edulis), 12. California Mussel (Mytilus californianus), 13. Pinto Abalone (Haliotis kamtschatkana), 14. Giant Red Sea Cucumber (Parastichopus californicus), 15. Red Ribbon Dulse (Devaleraea mollis), 16. Ribbon Kelp (Alaria marginata), 17. Five-ribbed Kelp (Costaria costata), 18. Three-ribbed Kelp (Cymathere triplicata), 19. Red Spaghetti-Ogo (Gracilaria pacifica), 20. Sea Staghorn (Codium fragile), 21. Stiff Ribbon Dulse (Palmaria hecatensis), 22. Spaghetti Kelp (Chorda filum), 23. Split Kelp (Hedophyllum nigripes), 24. Sea Lettuce (Ulva sp.), 25. Sieve Kelp (Agarum sp.), and 26. Sugar Kelp (Saccharina latissima).

Attachment A
Development Plan

Culture Method [*Describe operation activities to be done onsite such as outplanting of seedstock, husbandry techniques to be used (culling, sorting, washing, etc.), maintenance and monitoring activities, management of fouling organisms and incidental species, predator control measures, and schedule of activities such as timing of outplanting seeded lines or adding seedstock into trays, etc. Describe what methods you plan to use based on the definition in* ***5 AAC 41.400(6)****. "Culture" means to use or the use of methods to manipulate the biology and the physical habitat of a desired species to optimize survival, density, growth rates, uniformity of size, and use of the available habitat, and to efficiently produce a product suitable for a commercial market.*]

All culture gear would be housed on the 40 foot by 130 foot floating concrete pontoon (Mariculture Moorage Float).

The following provides a summary of information included in the Project's Basic Management Plan (BMP). The hatchery would utilize a multi-tiered system that integrates indoor and outdoor culture methods for shellfish, echinoderms, abalone, clams, and aquatic plants. Conditioning, spawning, and larval rearing would occur in heated, filtered seawater using flow-through tanks and specialized rearing systems. Microalgae produced on site would provide feed for all cultured species. Seaweed propagation would use light- and nutrient-controlled aquaria and shallow trays with substrate-specific settlement. See Attachment 2.

Seed supply produced will benefit shellfish and seaweed farms in Southeast Alaska and will also be outplanted on small education and research-based farms. The facility would be established as a modest source of shellfish seed, kelp and seaweed starts, and as a training hatchery to assist in the security of seed supply for Alaskan farmers.

Culture Gear and Equipment (Type, Size, Number, Configuration, Material, and Anchoring System) [*If more than one parcel, indicate what parcel specific gear will be located on. If more than one species, indicate gear to be used for each. Gear includes any structure that holds or protects the organism like trays, tiers of lantern nets, Vexar bags, OysterGro system, grow-out submerged longlines, predator netting, longlines, buoys, depth control systems, etc. Include approximate installation schedule, or if and what gear will remain installed year-round etc.*]

Microalgae Production:

For microalgae, Pure Biomass bag systems (25–900 liter [L]) would hold the algae. Kalwall tubes, CO_2 injection, LED lighting would be used to encourage growth, ultrafiltration (0.02 micron) would be used, and continuous/batch feeding systems would be used.

Larval Rearing Systems:

The larvae for all bivalve/echinoderms would be reared in 5,500 L larval tanks, 1,300 L fiberglass upweller/downweller tanks, bottle fluidizers, insulated totes, and slow-rate sand filters.

Broodstock Conditioning:

Broodstock for all bivavlve/echinoderm species would be contained in flow-through fiberglass tanks with controlled heating/cooling and feeding systems.

Seaweed Culture:

Seaweed macroalgae would be contained in 20-gallon aquaria, shallow trays (up to 50 gallons), planted on PVC spools with nylon string, over oyster shell/glass substrates, and nutrient dosing systems.

Sanitation Equipment:

To sanitize the above, autoclaves, chlorine/bleach baths, UV sterilizers, and multi-stage filtration (sock filters, UV filters, bag filters) would be used.

Anchoring System:

The hatchery barge will be moored alongside the floating dock using fixed steel connection brackets at the ends of steel strut system. Each fixed strut will have a connection point on the barge using steel bolts sleeved or embedded into the concrete barge. The connection plates will be mounted to the 130' side of the barge and are spaced near either end of the barge to provide the greatest positional stability for the system. The connection brackets contain rubber cylinders to allow for both energy absorption and angle changes as the barge and strut system move through the tide cycles. Since this system is not anchored to the seabed, there is minimal movement compared to an anchored system.

See Attachment 3 for more details.

Attachment A
Development Plan

Seed Acquisition Plan (Commercially produced and/or wildstock) [*Commercially produced juveniles or seed stock must be obtained from an approved seed source. Do you intend to collect wildstock juveniles or natural set organisms for direct culture on your proposed site? Yes/No. If yes, describe collection methods (applicable for indigenous species: i.e. mussels, scallops, abalone, natural set aquatic plants, etc. This does not refer to broodstock collection on behalf of hatcheries for propagation. If increasing number of acquisitions per year, indicate projected amounts per year. Aquatic plant species can be combined into total feet of line per year.]*

Shellfish and Abalone: Broodstock are conditioned in-house, with spawning induced through temperature, food shock, or strip spawning. For oysters, eyed-larvae may also be imported to supplement production.
Geoduck, Cockle, Littleneck Clams: Broodstock are acquired seasonally, conditioned, and spawned in hatchery tanks.
Sea Cucumber and Abalone: Juveniles may be sourced from Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute or similar partners before hatchery propagation.
Seaweed: Broodstock is collected from approved wild areas under permit and treated per species-specific protocols before spore or fragment propagation.
Stock Separation: Strict separation is maintained by drift zone and/or collection site; equipment sterilization is required between groups.

Harvest Equipment and Method [*Describe harvest equipment and methods to be used, activities to be done onsite, and schedule of harvest of aquatic farm product. If more than one species, include harvest information for each species or group of species like macroalgae if the harvest information is the same.*]

Shellfish Seed:
Juveniles are screened, sieved, and transferred from downwelling to upwelling systems, then to sand filters or outdoor upwellers until ready for transfer to growers. Target seed size ranges from 2–10 millimeters (mm) depending on species.

Sea Cucumbers and Abalone:
These species would be harvested from nursery tanks and totes once juveniles reach target size (3 to 7 mm). They would then be transferred to settling plates to aid larval settlement.

Seaweed:
Plants on nylon spools, netting, or substrates with settled sporophytes would be removed from tanks, decontaminated as needed, and prepared for out-planting at the 1–5 mm juvenile stage.

Further details can be found in Attachment 2.

Support Facilities (Type, Size, Number, Configuration, Material, and Anchoring) [*Support facilities include caretaker facility, storage rafts, work rafts, processing rafts, etc.*]

The project would utilize a single, permanently moored barge (40 foot by 130 foot) designed and constructed specifically for shellfish hatchery and educational operations, known as the UAS Sitka Mariculture Moorage Float, secured from Oceans Alaska Marine Science Center in Ketchikan. The barge hull is reinforced concrete with a rigid polystyrene foam core, topped by a two-story wood structure on a 3-foot-high cement curb foundation. The lower level provides open space for hatchery and rearing tanks, nursery racks, algae and filter tanks, and other aquaculture equipment, with forward areas containing a workshop, restroom, chiller, and storage. The upper level includes office space, a kitchen/lab, electrical room, storage mezzanine, and a clean laboratory area.

The Mariculture Moorage Float is equipped with freshwater and ballast tanks, full electrical and plumbing systems, pumps, alarms, heating/cooling, and a wide range of hatchery and laboratory equipment, including upwell/downwell units, a pasteurizer, microscopes, UV sterilization equipment, and an autoclave. Deck gear includes a davit with electric hoist, bullrails, guards, and drainage systems that are designed for safe marine operation.
The Mariculture Moorage Float would be permanently anchored with heavy mooring lines and ballast systems to maintain stability. The vessel operates as a fully functional marine science and hatchery facility, maintained in very good to excellent condition, and is capable of supporting all project-related activities on-site. See Attachment 4.

Attachment A
Development Plan

Access to and from Site [*Include nearest community, transportation type used and how many times traversing back and forth*]

The Mariculture Moorage Float would be moored at a floating dock on Japonski Island, adjacent to the UAS Sitka Campus. Access from the nearest community is by road to the campus area, followed by an approximately 80-foot walk along the floating dock gangway to reach the barge. Personnel and materials would be transported to the barge via this dock, with routine trips occurring multiple times per day during hatchery operations for staff, equipment, and supplies. Small service boats may also be used for equipment transfer when needed. The barge's permanent mooring and the dock connection would provide stable, safe access under typical tidal and weather conditions. See Attachments 3 and 4.

Storage Location of Equipment and Gear When Not in Use [*Include whether on private lands and nearest community*]

All equipment and gear associated with hatchery and educational operations would be stored on the Mariculture Moorage Float when not in use. The barge provides dedicated storage areas on both the lower and upper levels, including a mezzanine storage space, utility rooms, and equipment racks (see Attachment 4). The storage areas are fully within the vessel's structure, which would be moored at the floating dock on Japonski Island, adjacent to the UAS Sitka Campus. All storage would occur on private lands within the campus grounds, approximately 1.5 miles from the community of Sitka. Equipment would be maintained and secured year-round, ensuring it is protected from weather, tides, and unauthorized access.

C. PROJECT OPERATION PLAN

1. **How will support facilities, culture gear and anchoring systems be maintained?**
   a. How often, in days per month, do you intend to monitor your site for things such as adequate anchoring, disease, exotic species settlement, fouling, gear drift, snow load, wind damage, vandalism, etc.?

      Growing season 12 months/ all year (days/month) **Off months** 20 days per month (days/month)

   b. How will you keep the gear and shellfish free of fouling organisms (hot-dip, air dry, pressure washing, etc.)?

      The barge and equipment will be kept free of fouling organisms through routine diving inspections, physical cleaning, and periodic pressure washing.

   c. How will you manage reduction of competing species over the course of operations (relocate sea stars, grow-out cages, or other possible protection from competing species)?

      The hatchery operations occur within the controlled environment of the barge, which protects shellfish from competing species such as sea stars. No additional grow-out cages or relocations are required.

   d. If you intend to use predator netting, how long will you keep netting over your product?

      N/A (months)

   e. If using predator netting, how will you minimize impacts on non-target species, including seabirds, seals, sealions, walrus and whales?

      Because predator netting will not be used, there are no impacts to seabirds, seals, sea lions, walrus, or whales.

2. **Projected Harvest Rotation Consistent with Life History**
   a. How often do you intend to harvest your product by species?

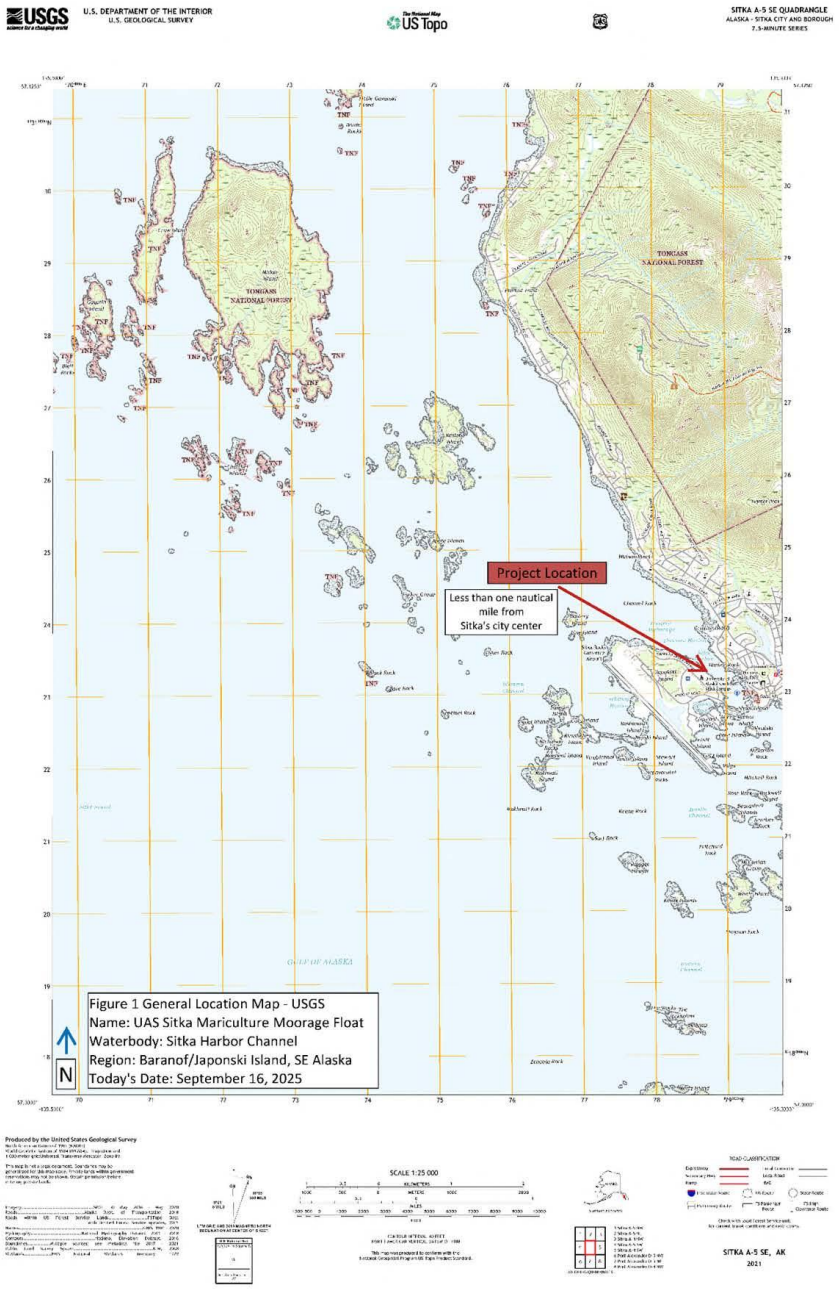
      Harvest schedules will follow species-specific protocols as outlined in the BMP.

   b. Do you plan on utilizing density manipulation by culling or redistribution?

      Density adjustments, including culling or redistribution, will be conducted according to BMP guidance for each species as needed to maintain healthy growth and minimize competition.

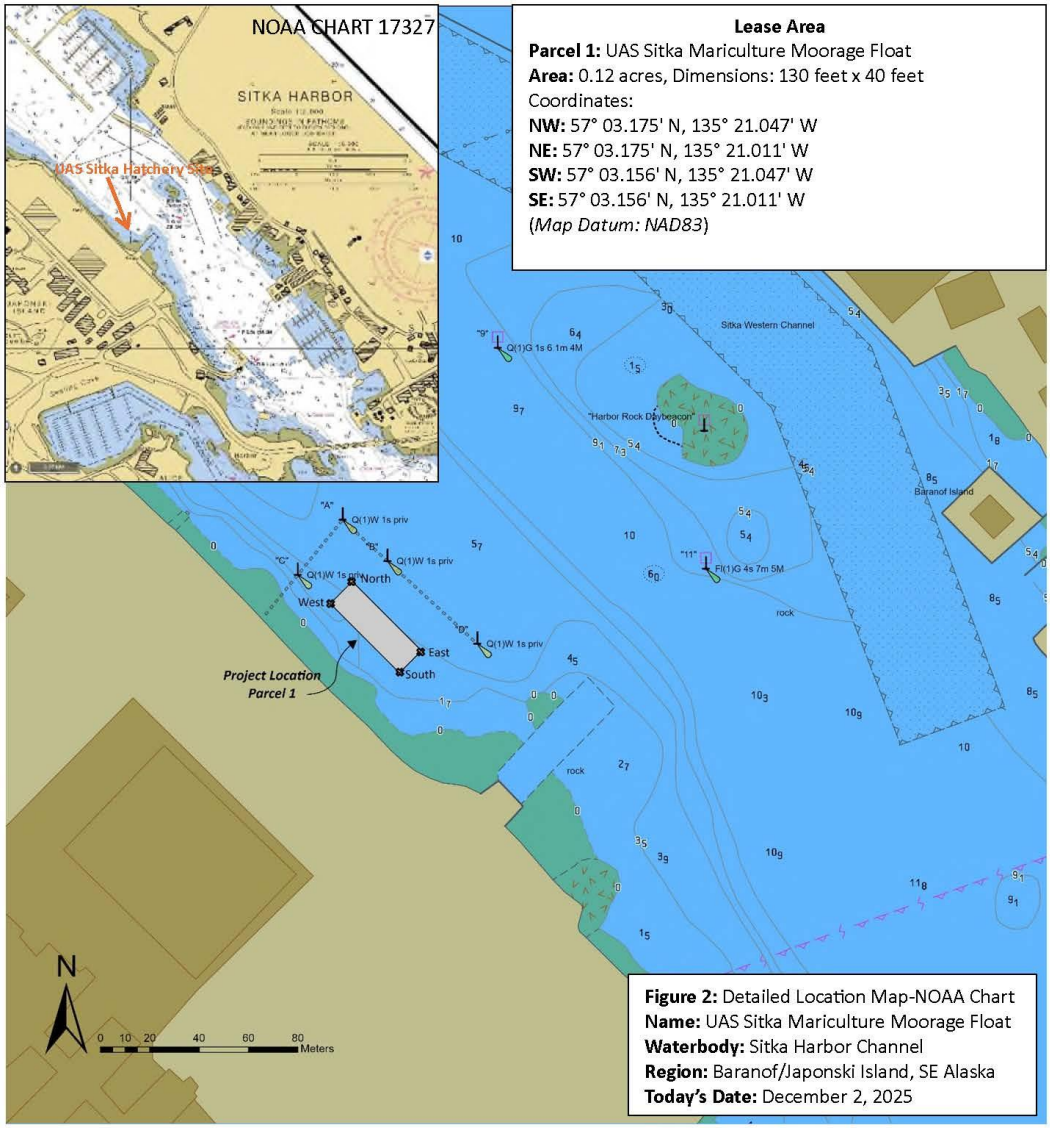
Attachment A
Development Plan

Attachment 1
Figure 1
General Location Map



Attachment A
Development Plan

Attachment 2
Figure 2
Detailed Location Map



Attachment A
Development Plan

Attachment 1
Figure 3
Site Plan

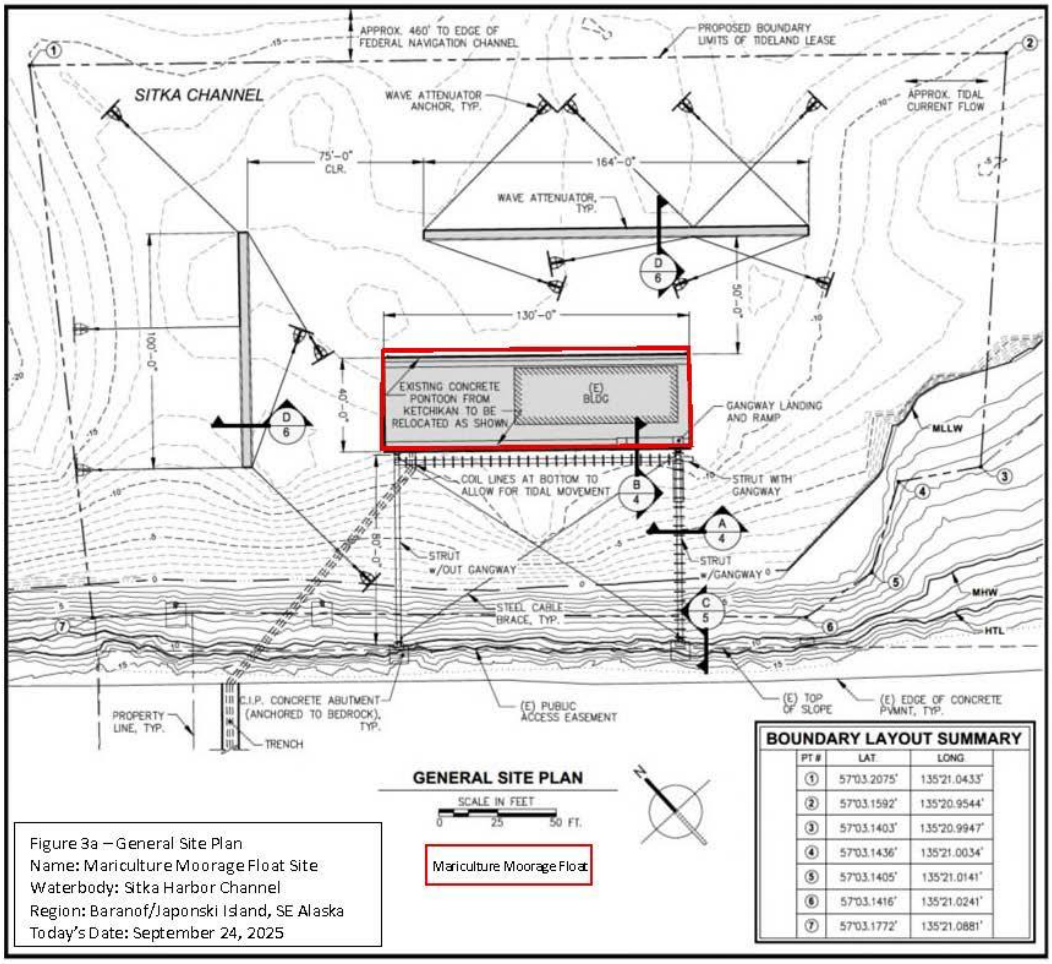


Figure 3a – General Site Plan
Name: Mariculture Moorage Float Site
Waterbody: Sitka Harbor Channel
Region: Baranof/Japonski Island, SE Alaska
Today's Date: September 24, 2025

Attachment 1
Figure 3
Site Plan

Attachment A
Development Plan

Attachment 1
Figure 4
Detailed Site Plans

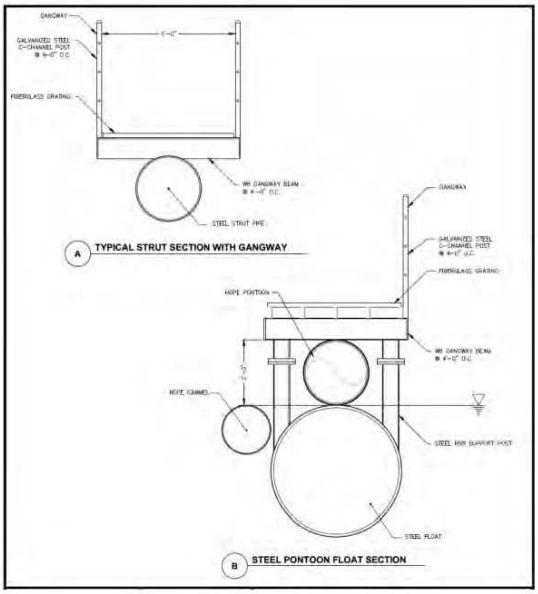


Figure 4a – Detailed Site Plan: Typical Strut & Float
Name: UAS Sitka Mariculture Moorage Float
Waterbody: Sitka Harbor Channel
Region: Baranof/Japonski Island, SE Alaska
Today's Date: September 24, 2025

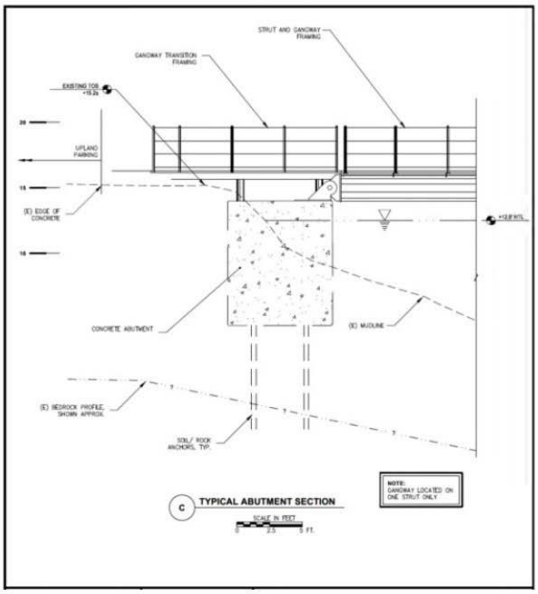


Figure 4b – Detailed Site Plan: Typical Abutment
Name: UAS Sitka Mariculture Moorage Float
Waterbody: Sitka Harbor Channel
Region: Baranof/Japonski Island, SE Alaska
Today's Date: September 24, 2025

Attachment 1
Figure 4
Detailed Site Plan

Barge at current moorage in Ketchikan

Proposed moorage site along shoreline at UAS Sitka.

Photo credits: MCG Explore Design

Attachment 1
Figure 5
Cross-Sectional Diagram

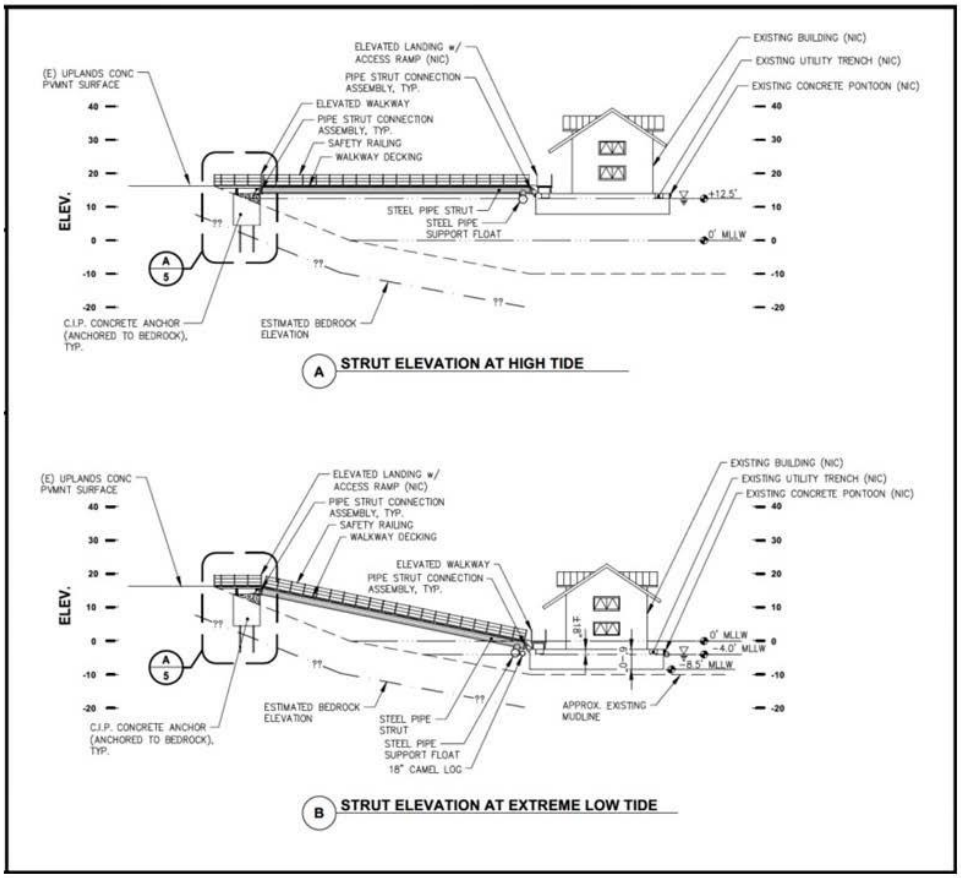
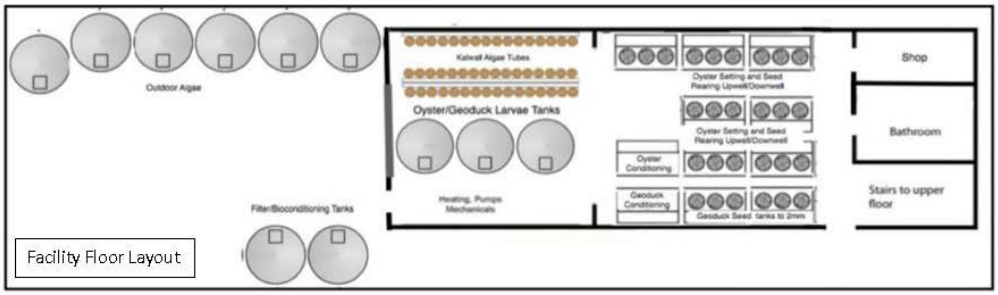


Figure 5 – Cross-Sectional Diagram
Name: UAS Sitka Mariculture Moorage Float
Waterbody: Sitka Harbor Channel
Region: Baranof/Japonski Island, SE Alaska
Today's Date: September 24, 2025

Attachment A
Development Plan

Attachment 1
Figure 6
Detailed Drawings



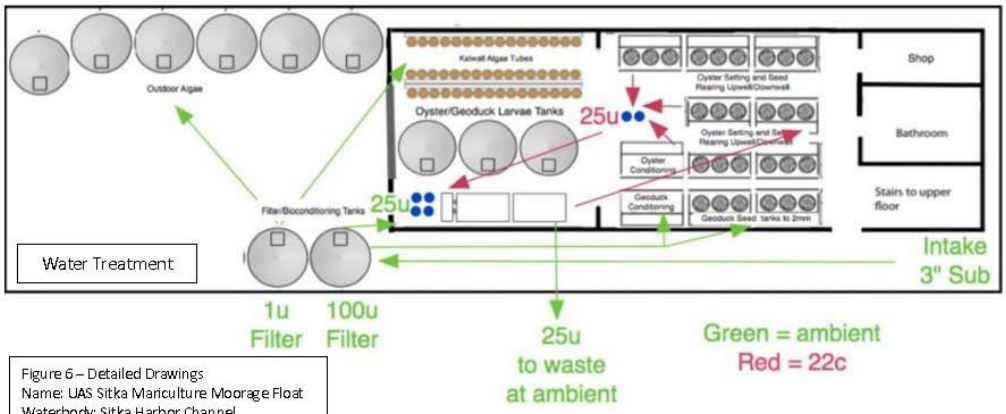


Figure 6 – Detailed Drawings
Name: UAS Sitka Mariculture Moorage Float
Waterbody: Sitka Harbor Channel
Region: Baranof/Japonski Island, SE Alaska
Today's Date: September 22, 2025

THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Headquarters Office

1255 West 8th Street
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Main: 907.465.4210
Fax: 907.465.4168
Permit Coordinator: 907.465.4724

January 8, 2026

Jen Kopnicky
Department of Natural Resources
Southcentral Regional Land Office
Aquatic Farm Leasing Program
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 900C
Anchorage AK 99501

Re: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Agency Review Comments
Reynolds / UAS Sitka Aquatic Farm Site Proposal – Sitka Harbor Channel
DNR File No. ADL 234201

Dear Ms. Kopnicky:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has completed a preliminary review of the project proposal, **ADL 234201** relevant to criteria specified in authorizations for Aquatic Farming AS16.40.105 and 5 AAC 41 200-400. ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries (Management, Gene Conservation Lab and Fish Pathology Section), Division of Sport Fish, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Subsistence Section and Habitat Section, were part of the initial review. *There are no concerns pertaining to an aquatic farm operation permit at the proposed location.* Any comments from other government agencies or from the public that may impact applicable department provisions will be considered as part of the final department review for an aquatic farm operation permit which will be issued within 30 days of the lease being issued. Recommendations from this preliminary review are summarized below.

Department Advisory

Please advise the applicant that if the project is approved, general conditions pertaining to Alaska Department of Fish and Game statutory and regulatory provisions for issuance of an Aquatic Farm Operation Permit (AFOP) will be included in the operation permit. In addition, site-specific conditions that have been recommended by staff may be included in the AFOP. This review was for the location of this barge only. As part of the AFOP, ADF&G will require a 5-year Basic Management Plan detailing hatchery cultivation techniques, if the lease is finalized.

Division of Commercial Fisheries has reviewed this request and have no concerns.

Gene Conservation Lab has reviewed this request and have no concerns.
Fish Pathology Section has reviewed this request and have no concerns.

Division of Sport Fish has reviewed this request and has no concerns with the location of the operation. DSF requests the applicant exercises precaution in potential spread of invasive species if the barge is acquired from Ketchikan where there is known European green crab presence.

Invasive Species Program Coordinator has reviewed this request and has no concerns with the location of the operation. There are populations of nonindigenous colonial tunicates (*B. violaceus* and *B. schlosserei*) established within the Sitka Channel on in-water infrastructure situated on both the Japonski Island and Sitka sides of the channel which can easily spread to this new barge and its associated infrastructure. The applicant must be diligent and follow best management practices to prevent the spread of any nonindigenous species to and from Sitka.

Division of Wildlife Conservation

Marine Mammal Research Program: This application complies with the guidelines set forth with the ADF&G marine mammal mariculture policy updated in April 2024. Any advisories or mitigation steps recommunicated by NOAA Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to reduce marine mammal disturbances should be followed. Large whales, especially humpbacks, are highly susceptible to entanglement in lines in the water; Removing all gear from the water during the non-growing season may minimize gear loss, user conflicts, and marine mammal entanglement and habitat exclusion potential. Any marine mammal entanglements should be immediately reported to the NMFS 24 hr. Stranding Hotline, phone – (877) 925-7773 and the ADF&G Permit Coordinator (907-465-4724).
Access Defense Program: Has reviewed this request and have no concerns.
Seabird Program: Did not comment at this time.

Habitat Section did not comment at this time.

Subsistence Section has reviewed this request and have no concerns.

Our department requests that the Department of Natural Resources consider providing this in their Preliminary Decision as an advisory to the applicant and for public reference.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this aquatic farm proposal. If you have any questions, please contact me at (907) 465-4724.

Sincerely,

Michelle Morris
Permit Coordinator

ecc: Garold V. Pryor, Aquaculture Section Chief, ADF&G
Kristen Reynolds, University of Alaska Southeast Sitka

THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
Southeast Regional Land Office

400 Willoughby Avenue/PO Box 111020
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1020
Main: (907) 465-3400
TTY: 711 or 880.770.8973
Fax: (907) 500-9011

LAND USE PERMIT
AS 38.05.850

PERMIT # LAS 35735

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST herein known as the Grantee, is issued this permit from the Department of Natural Resources, herein known as the Grantor, authorizing the use of state land within:

Legal Description:
Section 35, Township 55 South, Range 63 East, Copper River Meridian

This permit is issued for the purpose of authorizing the following:
A 5-year permit for the usage of a gangway ramp for mooring and docking as described above.

This permit is for the term beginning **January 1, 2026** and ending **December 31, 2030** unless sooner terminated at the state's discretion, effective the date of signature by the Authorized State Representative. This permit does not convey an interest in state land and as such is revocable, with or without cause. The Grantor will give 30 days' notice before revoking a permit at will. A revocation for cause is effective immediately. No preference right for use or conveyance of the land is granted or implied by this authorization.

The non-receipt of a courtesy billing notice does not relieve the Grantee from the responsibility of paying fees on or before the due date.

All activities shall be conducted in accordance with the following stipulations:

1. **Authorized Officer:** The Authorized Officer (AO) for the State of Alaska (State), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW), is the Regional Manager or designee.

2. **Change of Contact Information:** The Grantee shall maintain current contact information with the AO. Any change of contact information must be submitted in writing to the AO.

3. **Valid Existing Rights:** This authorization is subject to all valid existing rights and reservations in and to the authorized area. The State makes no representations or warranties, whatsoever, either expressed or implied, as to the existence, number, or nature of such valid existing rights.

13. **Posting Placard:** The placard included with this permit shall be placed on-site in a conspicuous location visible from the most common access route or vantage point.

14. **Permit Extensions/Reissuance:** Any request for permit extension or reissuance should be submitted at least 90 days prior to the end of the authorized term. A written statement requesting a one-year extension confirming there will be no changes to the development/operations plan, including photographs clearly depicting the current condition of the site and any improvements, must be submitted to the AO with any required filing fee. A new Land Use Permit application and any required filing fee is required when requesting reissuance of up to five years or for modifications to the approved development/operations plan on file with DMLW.

15. **Assignment:** This permit may not be transferred or assigned.

16. **Reservation of Rights:**
    a. The AO reserves the right to grant additional authorizations to third parties for compatible uses on or adjacent to the land under this authorization.
    b. Authorized concurrent users of state land, their agents, employees, contractors, subcontractors, and licensees, shall not interfere with the operation or maintenance activities of each user.
    c. The AO may require authorized concurrent users of state land to enter into an equitable operation or maintenance agreement.

17. **Violations:** A violation of this authorization is subject to any action available to the State for enforcement and remedies, including revocation of the permit, civil action for forcible entry and detainer, ejectment, trespass, damages, and associated costs, or arrest and prosecution for criminal trespass in the second degree. The State may seek damages available under a civil action, including restoration damages, compensatory damages, and treble damages under AS 09.45.730 or AS 09.45.735 for violations involving injuring or removing trees or shrubs, gathering geotechnical data, or taking mineral resources.

18. **Accidents and Incidents:** The Grantee will notify the AO within 24 hours of any accidents, injuries, or operational problems associated with the authorization including, but not limited to, conflicts with other operators or the general public, client or guide triggered avalanche incidents, lost or overdue clients or employees due to avalanche, or fatalities. The AO phone number is (907) 269-8503. The Grantee will maintain complete records or all accidents and incidents which will be made available to the AO upon request.

19. **Notification of Discharge:** The Grantee shall immediately notify the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and AO of any unauthorized discharge of any amount of oil to water, a discharge of any amount of a hazardous substances (other than oil), and any discharge of oil greater than 55 gallons on land. All fires and explosions must also be reported immediately.

    If a discharge, including a cumulative discharge, of oil is greater than 10 gallons but less than 55 gallons, or a discharge of oil greater than 55 gallons is made to an impermeable secondary containment area, the Grantee shall report the discharge within 48 hours. Any discharge of oil greater than one gallon up to 10 gallons, including a cumulative discharge, solely to land, must be reported in writing on a monthly basis.

27. **Performance Guaranty and Insurance:** As the Grantee is a Federal/State/Municipal agency that is self-insured and bonded, and as the Federal/State/Municipal Agency guarantees compliance through statues and regulations, no performance guarantee or insurance will be required. In the event the Grantee becomes aware of a claim against any of its liability coverage, the Grantee shall notify, and provide documentation and full disclosure of the claim to the AO within 30 days.

28. **Fuel and Hazardous Substances:** No fuel or hazardous substances may be stored on state land.

29. **Waste Disposal:** On-site refuse disposal is prohibited, unless specifically authorized. All waste generated during operation, maintenance, and termination activities under this authorization shall be removed and disposed of at an off-site DEC approved disposal facility. Waste, in this paragraph, means all discarded matter, including but not limited to human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes and discarded equipment.

30. **Dock Construction:** Dock construction and installation shall conform to the following:
    a. Attention must be paid to the prevention of pollution, siltation, and disturbances to wildlife habitats. Existing bank or shore vegetation shall not be removed or altered to facilitate dock installation and removal. Any inadvertent bank cuts, slopes, or other earthwork shall be immediately stabilized, returned to pre-project contours, and re-vegetated with native vegetation.
    b. No wheeled or tracked vehicles shall operate in any open water in conjunction with dock construction, use, and maintenance.
    c. Use of pentachlorophenol or creosote as a wood preservative is prohibited. All wood preservatives shall be applied using pressure treatment.
    d. Placement of fill or removal of sand, gravel or other materials from state-owned tidelands, shorelands, and submerged lands is prohibited without prior written approval from the AO.

31. **Navigation and Public Access:** Anchoring methods, shoreties, buoys and running lines shall not preclude reasonable public access nor interfere with the ability to safely navigate within and adjacent to the permitted area.

32. **Destruction of Markers:** The Grantee shall protect all survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, mining claim posts, bearing trees, and unsurveyed corner posts against damage, destruction, or obliteration. The Grantee shall notify the AO of any damaged, destroyed, or obliterated markers and shall reestablish the markers at the Grantee's expense in accordance with accepted survey practices of the DMLW.

33. **Site Maintenance:** The authorized area shall be maintained in a neat, clean, and safe condition, free of any solid waste, debris, or litter, except as specifically authorized herein. Nothing may be stored that would be an attractive nuisance to wildlife or create a potentially hazardous situation.

34. **Maintenance of Improvements:** The Grantor is not responsible for maintenance of authorized improvements or liable for injuries or damages related to those improvements. No action or inaction of the Grantor is to be construed as assumption of responsibility.

Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, Southeast Regional Land Office, 400 Willoughby Avenue/PO Box 111020, Juneau, AK 99811-1020, (907) 465-3400.

I have read and understand all of the foregoing and attached stipulations. By signing this authorization, I agree to conduct the authorized activity in accordance with the terms and conditions of this authorization.

Signed by: Adrienne Stolpe 391B84917263AAB...	Adrienne K. Stolpe, UA Land Management Director		December 1, 2025
Signature of Grantee or Authorized Representative		Title	Date
P.O. Box 755280	Fairbanks	Alaska	99775-
Grantee's Address	City	State	Zip
Dian Siegfried	desiegfried@alaska .edu	907-450-8133	
Contact Person	Home Phone	Work Phone	
Muriel Walbat	Natural Resource Specialist 3		12/3/25
Signature of Authorized State Representative		Title	Date