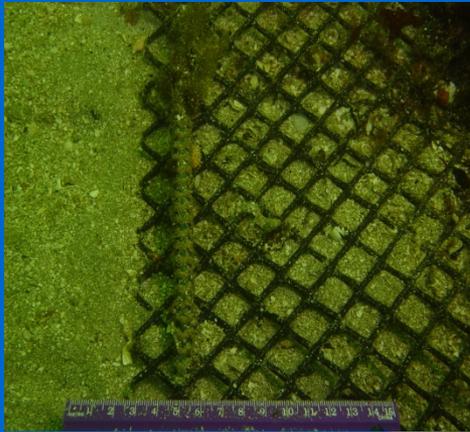


Geoduck Aquatic Farm Management: An Alaska Perspective



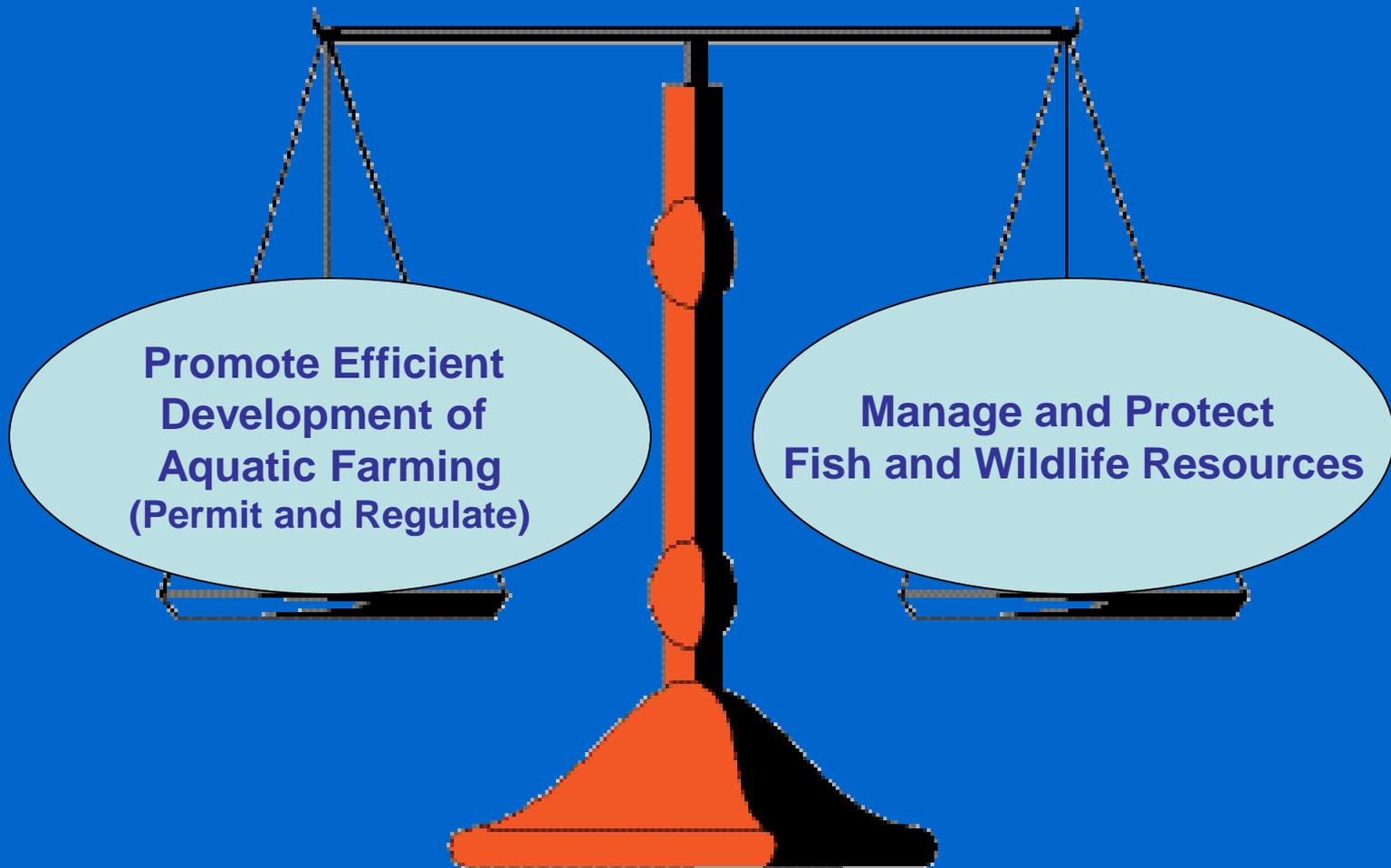
Cynthia Pring-Ham
Alaska Department of Fish and
Game

Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers
Association Conference
October 3, 2006

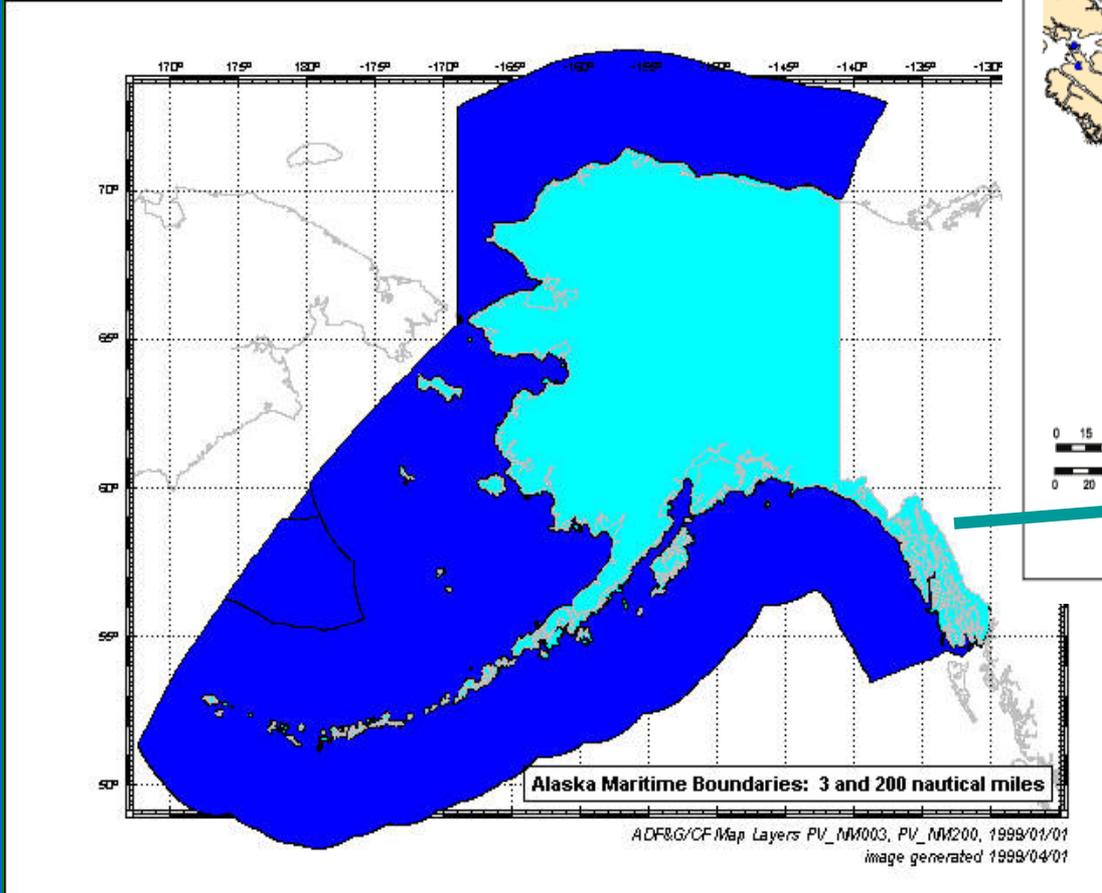
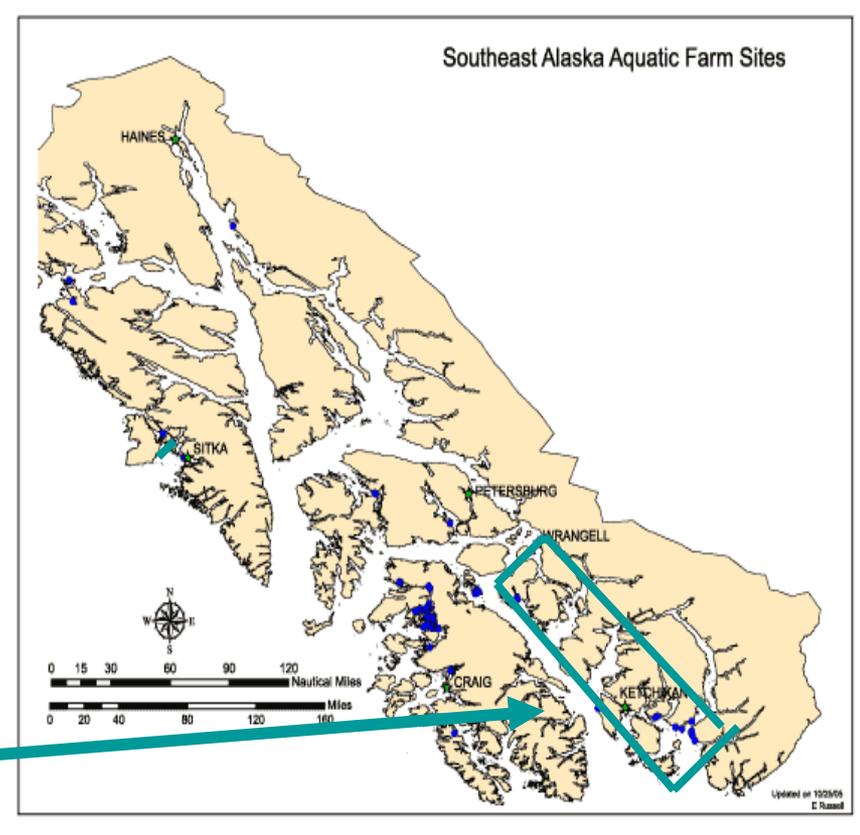
Multi Agency and Public Involvement

- **AK Dept. of Fish and Game**
- **AK Dept. of Natural Resources**
 - Tidal Land**
 - Coastal Management**
- **AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation**
 - **US Corps of Engineers**
 - **US Fish and Wildlife**
- **US National Marine Fisheries Service**
- **Coastal Districts and the Public**

ADF&G Missions



Geoduck Farming in Alaska





Geoduck Farming Status

- 18 Farm Sites
 - 2 intertidal and 16 subtidal
 - Total of 133 acres
 - Inventory = 246,950 hatchery produced geoducks
 - No production yet



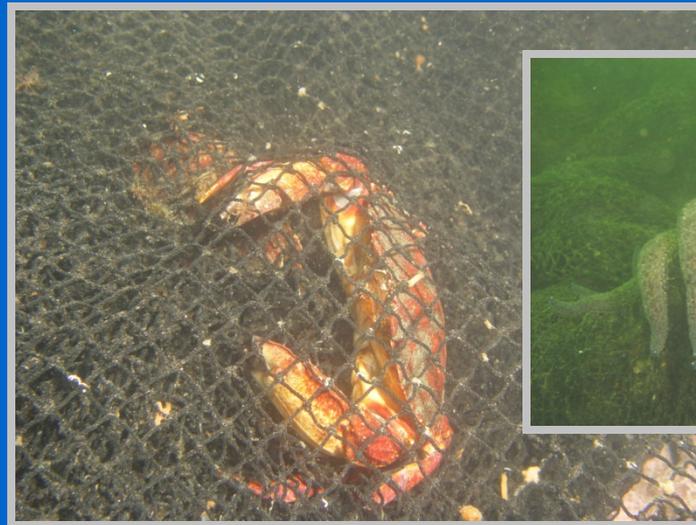
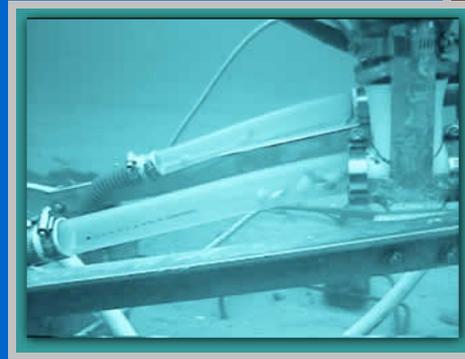
Technical Issues

- Quality and availability of seed
- Acclimation issues
 - Grow out nursery



Technical Issues

- Effective planting techniques
- Adequate predator exclusion



Regulatory Issues

– Review process

- Conflicts with established fishery resource uses
- Conflict with important anchorages
- Conflict with State parks inclusion
- Conflict with sea lion and seal haul out areas
- Significant geoduck populations

Regulatory Issues Cont.

- Court Decisions, HB 198,
Regulation Changes
 - Restrictions with taking and
selling common property
geoducks

Regulatory Issues Cont.

- Insignificant Threshold
 - 12,000 geoducks/farm site or 2000 lbs of geoduck per acre
 - Determined by Biomass Survey
 - Payment of Survey Fee with Application
 - \$5,000 cap

Regulatory Issues Cont.

- Restoration of wild stock harvested
 - Notification of Landings
 - Record of No. of Geoduck Harvested
 - Security
 - Assurance for performance
 - Certificate of Deposit Established between State of Alaska and Permit Holder
 - Return at Termination when provision met



ADF&G

Reconciliation with Industry

- Simplified Regulations
- Survey Methodology Modified
 - Decrease of survey costs by 60% to \$2,000
 - Dept. absorbs travel costs
- Ownership of wild stock geoduck larvae and resulting adults
- Security Policy Modified
 - CD amount reduced by 50% to \$1.25/geoduck
 - Early release of CD when culture standards met



Future Activities

- Meetings with
 - Industry
 - Stakeholders
- ID designated areas
- Growth Trials
- Spawning Information



Working Towards A Better Tomorrow

