

AREAWIDE GUIDELINES

Aquatic Farming

A. Aquatic Farming and Competing Uses. Aquatic farming is an allowable use on state tidelands or submerged lands where there are no significant conflicts with other existing designated uses. The siting of aquatic farming facilities may be in conflict with areas used for log transfer, log storage, or mineral exploration and development, and designated Waterfront Development (Wd); fish and wildlife habitat designated "Ha"; fish and wildlife harvest areas (Hv); adjacent to existing or proposed settlement areas (S); or anchorages or recreation-public use sites (Rp). These areas may be available for aquatic farming if DNR determines that:

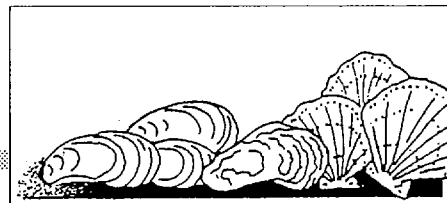
1. it is possible to site, design, and operate the two or more uses compatibly in the area; or
2. there is no feasible and prudent¹² alternative for aquatic farming while one exists for the competing use.

In no case will aquatic farming be allowed to foreclose access to mineral, timber, important fish and wildlife, or recreation resources unless feasible and prudent alternative access exists. In some cases it may be in the public interest to concentrate uses in one bay (i.e., shellfish rafts and resource transfer) rather than allowing the proliferation of uses in many bays.

B. Notice of Proposed Aquatic Farm Operations. When reviewing an application for a new activity that may affect existing aquatic farms operations, aquatic farm permit holders in the area that may be affected should be notified and given an opportunity to comment.

C. Aquatic Farming Caretaker Facilities. Floating caretaker facilities for aquatic farming operations are allowed in areas where there is no feasible and prudent upland alternative and no significant competing use. To identify areas of potential conflict, refer to Guideline H in the *Floating Residential Facilities* section in this chapter.

D. Preferred Storage Sites. Exposed gravel and sand beaches should be used as sites for onshore storage of shellfish awaiting PSP (paralytic shellfish poisoning) test results and shipment, because these sites are less biologically productive than salt marshes and tideflats. See National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's environmental sensitivity index type maps for locations of exposed sand and gravel beaches.



¹² **Feasible and Prudent:** Consistent with sound engineering practice and not causing environmental, social, or economic problems that outweigh the public benefit to be derived from compliance with the guideline modified by the phrase *feasible and prudent*. Originally derived from the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) regulations. A written decision by the land manager is necessary to justify a variation from a guideline modified by the phrase *feasible and prudent*.