

Aquatic farming

A. Aquatic farming and competing uses

Aquatic farming is an allowable use on state tidelands or submerged lands. However, aquatic farming may pose conflicts with existing marine uses. Chapter 3 and Appendix F list existing marine uses in specific areas. Areas with existing marine uses 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 prudent⁴ alternative for aquatic farming while one exists for the competing use.

In no case will DNR allow aquatic farming to foreclose access to mineral, timber, important fish and wildlife, or recreation resources unless feasible and prudent alternative access exists.

B. 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. Refer to Floating Residential Facilities Guideline F for areas of conflict.

C. Preferred storage sites

Shellfish awaiting test results for paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) before shipment should be stored on exposed gravel and sand beaches, or the least biologically active area that provides protection from severe weather conditions, because these sites are less biologically productive than salt marshes or tidal flats. See National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Sensitivity Index Type maps for locations of exposed sand and gravel beaches.

⁴ **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 term "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 term "feasible and prudent."