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DEPT. COMM. NO. 105

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STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

December 13, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Implementation Of Chapter 190D, Hawaii Revised Statutes Ocean And Submerged Lands Leasing report, as required by Section 12 of Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999. In accordance with Section 93-16, HRS, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau and the report may be viewed electronically at <http://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2020/LD20-Ocean-Leasing-Rpt-FY19.pdf>.

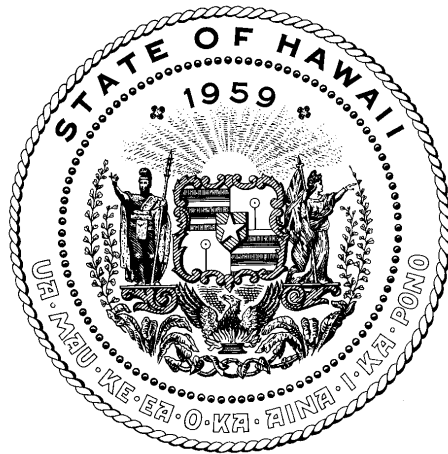
Sincerely,


SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Enclosure

REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2020 REGULAR SESSION

IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAPTER 190D, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES
OCEAN AND SUBMERGED LANDS LEASING



PREPARED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IN RESPONSE TO SECTION 12 OF ACT 176, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 1999

December 2019

Table of Contents

	Page
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 The National Scene	3
3.0 Hawaii Activities	5
3.1 Commercial Development Progress	5
3.1.1 Kona Blue Water Farm	5
3.1.2 Cates International	5
3.2 Other Activities	5
4.0 Conclusions	5
5.0 Recommendations	6

1.0 Introduction

Act 176, Session Laws of Hawaii 1999, went into effect on July 1, 1999, allowing greater use of Hawaii's ocean resources for research and commercial development of open ocean aquaculture. In addition the law requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture (DOA), to submit a report to the Legislature prior to each regular legislative session. This report highlights related national activities and addresses the progress in implementing ocean leasing for open ocean aquaculture during 2011.

2.0 The National Scene

The NOAA Office of Aquaculture has continued to define its priority areas which include regulation and policy, science and research, outreach and education, and international activities. Each priority area is explained below.

Regulation and Policy

The purpose of this effort is to enable domestic aquaculture production within the context of NOAA's marine stewardship responsibilities, which include the protection of the marine environment while balancing multiple uses of coastal and ocean waters. NOAA's role in aquaculture regulation include:

- consultations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on permitting
- consultations with the Environmental Protection Agency on endangered species, fish habitat, and marine mammal protection
- issuing permits under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- developing guidance and working with regional Fishery Management Councils on a regulatory framework for aquaculture in federal waters.

Science and Research

The goal of the research initiatives is to provide science knowledge for the agency's regulatory and resource management decisions and foster innovative and sustainable approaches to aquaculture.

The program's current research initiatives focus on:

- strengthening aquaculture research capabilities at the agency's regional Fisheries Science Centers;
- in-house research focused on genetics, alternative feeds for marine fish, restoration of threatened and endangered species, and stock enhancement; and

Outreach and Education

Outreach and education activities include disseminating scientific and general aquaculture information and NOAA research at public meetings and conferences, through the Sea Grant and USDA Aquaculture Extension networks, and through the web and social media.

The program's primary audiences for this information are coastal communities, research scientists, the aquaculture and seafood industries, commercial and recreational fishermen, fishery management councils and commissions, other government agencies, academia, and interested non-governmental organizations.

International Activities

The NOAA Aquaculture Program is involved in a variety of international bilateral research exchanges, including a Living Marine Resources Exchange with China, an ongoing scientific exchange program with Korea, and the U.S.-Japanese Cooperative Program in Natural Resources (UJNR). The program also works with policymakers and researchers from France, Norway, and Canada on an ongoing basis.

3.0 Hawaii Activities

3.1 Commercial Development Progress

3.1.1 Keahole Point Fish

In 2019, Keahole Point Fish continued to develop and produce its inventory of Hawaiian Kanpachi (*Seriola rivoliana*). Hawaiian Kanpachi is sold to markets in Hawaii and California, with additional sales to the U.S. East Coast.

3.1.2 Cates International

Cates International is working through the permitting process to establish a cage aquaculture operation located off the end of the airport runway. The permitting delays focus on access and Homeland Security issues.

3.2 Other Activities and Major Developments

4.0 Conclusions

The continued expansion by Keahole Point Fish Co is a promising sign for the offshore sector. At least two more sustainable operations would need to be established in Hawaii in order to sustain an industry that would generate adequate tax revenue and protein production.

5.0 Recommendations

Proper infrastructure is needed to establish a balance of environmental concerns with opportunities for development. Areas for focus are governance, environmental impact and health management. Governance is important because

there is an apparent lack of clear understanding of any federal responsibility and jurisdiction in governing the open ocean space leasing in federal waters which impacts the marine environment. Additionally, funding is needed in general to support research and the implementation of protocols to identify and mitigate environmental and health risks for aquaculture products. Finally, there needs to be a system to disseminate authoritative information to support further expansion of the aquaculture industry while protecting the marine environment.