



Massachusetts Aquaculture Association

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Re: Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan

The act establishes a separated fund which directs money derived from mitigation fees into the fund. The uses of such funds are then used only for the restoration and enhancement of marine habitat and resources, enhancement of fisheries, public navigational improvements.

The plan mandates in 4c(a) “fostering sustainable use”. Aquaculture is a sustainable use, capitalizes on economic opportunity and enhances ecology, and as such, monies derived from mitigation fees should be directed to aquaculture research for the exact purpose of “fostering sustainable use”

Aquaculture is the synthesis of food where as wild fishery is the taking of food and resource.

Applicable beneficiaries of such mitigation fees for aquaculture research are: state Aquaculture Centers, Massachusetts Aquaculture Association, Sea Grant, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Martha’s Vineyard Shellfish Group, and UMass Dartmouth.

If proposed offshore projects take fisheries habitat away, then municipal aquaculture and projects may also be the beneficiary of mitigation fees for propagation efforts.

In section 4c. 4c(h), “the secretary shall promulgate regulations to implement, administer and enforce this section”.

Massachusetts Aquaculture Association needs say in development of regulations as an existing industry and user group in the management area.