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Aphrodite Oysters
LD 1596

Over the last two years DMR and MAA have conducted a series of listening sessions with both aquaculturalists and other stakeholders. In both series aquaculturalists clearly indicated that the backlog of lease applications and the difficulty in getting lease amendments were some of the most serious challenges to the sector. The DMR has repeatedly indicated that the reason for the lease backlog was lack of adequate staff and a burdensome administrative workload. MAA has repeatedly suggested process improvements and supported the department's budget requests in front of the administration and the legislatures appropriations committee. The department now has more aquaculture staff than it ever has in its history. LD 1596 seeks to help solve some of the administrative and staffing challenges the department itself has identified. Thank you for your consideration!