

# Dawn Sheets

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To Whom it May Concern:

As a small aquaculture business in Alaska I can't speak for everyone this may affect but I can tell you that it will be the ruin of our business. I do believe we output more than most farmers in the state and the reason I mention this is because we cannot afford to pay this fee and if we can't afford it, most every other farmer in this state won't be able to either. In turn if this fee change is enacted you will put the oyster industry in Alaska out of business.

It is stated that because of the governor's new budget this fee needs to be changed to cover costs they will no longer cover. The state covers the fee as of now, so it seems to me that you are just charging one part of the budget more because you can't get it from another part of the budget. How does this help alleviate the strain on the budget?

Typically, it wouldn't matter to farmers what fee you charge because in Alaska (and I believe every other state) this fee is covered in the budget because it's a matter of public health. However, I have heard that this fee may leave the budget. In turn, raising the price to \$312 would cost us \$1200 a month plus freight of \$360 that we already pay to get it to the lab. If the state doesn't cover the lab fee at the current price it would cost \$500 a month plus \$360 in shipping. We would have to sell over 100 dozen oysters more just to cover the cost of the lab fees. Our market is capped out as it is. I hope you can see that this will be the demise of the oyster industry in Alaska right when Alaska is one of the few places on Earth that people can grow oysters in clean and healthy water.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

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