



## NOAA AQUACULTURE PROGRAM



NOAA's Aquaculture Program addresses coastal and onshore marine shellfish and finfish farming, as well as enhancement (hatchery) activities that support commercial and recreational fishing and the restoration of some endangered species.

<http://aquaculture.noaa.gov>

### NOAA Aquaculture Program

An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has a long and rich tradition in aquaculture, from its support for cutting-edge science and research to federal policymaking. To address the growing interest surrounding marine aquaculture, NOAA launched a revived Aquaculture Program in 2004 to integrate and coordinate the agency's aquaculture policies, research, outreach, and international obligations.

#### Primary Activities

NOAA's Aquaculture Program takes a thorough approach to sustainable aquaculture that will create employment and business opportunities in coastal communities; provide safe, sustainable seafood; and complement NOAA's comprehensive strategy to maintain healthy and productive marine populations, species, and ecosystems and vibrant coastal communities.

NOAA's Aquaculture Program will be developing a comprehensive national policy for marine aquaculture in 2010. This policy will enable the development of sustainable marine aquaculture within the context of NOAA's multiple stewardship missions and broader social and economic goals.

#### Research Priorities

The Aquaculture Program is focused on expanding core capabilities at NOAA Science Centers to address regulatory and public policy questions related to aquaculture, conduct research on species and rearing technologies, investigate the effects of ocean acidification and climate change on aquaculture, develop alternative source of fish meal and fish oil for aquaculture feeds, and maintain hatchery and broodstock holding facilities.

NOAA also funds external research through grants that foster sustainable aquaculture production and support the development of new technologies in the United States by the seafood industry, government, and academic partners.



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### Aquaculture Statistics

We stand at a critical juncture in the development of marine aquaculture in the United States. The U.S. is a major consumer of aquaculture products – we import 84% of our seafood and half of that is from aquaculture – yet we are a minor producer. Globally, aquaculture already supplies half of the world's seafood and the United Nations projects that most of the future increase in seafood supply must come from aquaculture. From a national perspective, a compelling case can be made for growing more seafood in the United States. Aquaculture, as a complement to wild harvest fisheries, can help meet the growing demand for seafood and help rebuild our wild fish stocks. Domestic aquaculture is also critical to maintaining an infrastructure in coastal communities to support both commercial fisheries and aquaculture and all of the jobs associated with the seafood industry.

### Global Aquaculture Facts & Figures

- Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing forms of food production in the world. Many worldwide fisheries have peaked and aquaculture is widely recognized as critical to increasing global seafood supplies.
- Aquaculture produces almost half of the fish consumed by humans globally and that trend continues to increase.
- Global wild fish harvest is between 90 and 95 million tons per year.
- Global aquaculture production is nearly 60 million tons, valued at \$70 billion.
- The U.S. remains a net importer of seafood – over 84% of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported from other countries and about half of that is farmed. As a result, the U.S. has an annual seafood trade deficit of over \$9 billion.

### U.S. Aquaculture Facts & Figures

- Annual U.S. seafood consumption (wild and farmed) is 6-7 million tons.
- Based on demand and population growth projections in the U.S., the projected domestic seafood gap will be 2-4 million tons in 2025.
- Total U.S. aquaculture production is about \$1.2 billion annually, compared to world aquaculture production of about \$70 billion.
- U.S. marine aquaculture has a \$200 million farm-gate or 'landed' value.
- U.S. freshwater and marine aquaculture combine to provide about 5% of the seafood consumed in the United States. Marine aquaculture represents only 20% of domestic aquaculture.
- The majority of U.S. commercial marine aquaculture is shellfish – oysters, clams, and mussels.
- Aquaculture is an important tool for stock enhancement of valuable commercial and recreational marine fisheries and restoration of threatened and endangered species and marine habitats.