

**Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee  
International Game Fish Association, Dania Beach, Florida  
March 3, 2006**

**Offshore Aquaculture Act - Resolution**

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (the Committee), in light of:

1. The growing scientific recognition of the health benefits of seafood;
2. The growing dependence of the U.S. on imports and the resulting trade deficit to meet growing demand;
3. The increasing recognition of the importance of food security in today's world;
4. The opportunity to conduct commercial aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) consistent with environmental, conservation and protected species goals;
5. The opportunity to provide direct economic benefits to coastal communities through development or expansion of shore-based support services and complementary economic strategies and incentives.
6. The opportunity to establish mechanisms for cultured and wild market development and education (e.g. marketing councils); and
7. The opportunity for U.S. leadership to develop, test and implement best practices for offshore aquaculture; therefore

The Committee strongly supports the need for legislation to authorize establishment of a regulatory framework to permit commercial aquaculture in the EEZ.