

NOAA AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER INITIATIVE

In June, 2011 the Department of Commerce and NOAA released national policies that support marine aquaculture in the United States. To help implement these policies, NOAA also announced its Aquaculture Technology Transfer Initiative (the Initiative). Under the Initiative, NOAA will work with partners in the private sector, academia, government, and communities to advance technology, monitor performance indicators, and showcase best practices.

American expertise and innovation has played a significant role in the development of aquaculture in foreign countries. The DOC and NOAA policies and this Initiative will promote innovative practices and developments in the U.S. so that American ingenuity can be applied here at home. The domestic aquaculture industry, both freshwater and marine, currently supplies about five percent of the seafood consumed in the U.S. The cultivation of shellfish, such as oysters, clams, and mussels, comprises about two-thirds of U.S. marine aquaculture. Salmon and shrimp aquaculture contribute about 25 percent and 10 percent, respectively. Current production takes place mainly on land, in ponds, and in coastal state waters.

The objective of the Initiative is to transfer innovative technology for development of commercial aquaculture in the United States. NOAA will combine its environmental stewardship, science, R&D, and financial assistance capabilities with investment and participation by private and/or foundation sources to develop sustainable aquaculture projects. Research institutions and NGOs will be invited to contribute their expertise to advance technology, and to monitor performance indicators and showcase best practices or market-based standards. The initiative will be implemented with the active involvement of NOAA's regional offices and science centers, National Sea Grant College Program, and other federal, state, local and non-governmental partners.

The Initiative will be focused on regional projects that showcase innovative, sustainable practices that will increase domestic aquaculture production and create jobs. Projects supported under the Initiative will:

- Show a credible potential to create 'blue green' jobs.
- Include environmental monitoring.
- Show economic viability and run at a scale large enough to show economic impact.
- Include a transparent web presence and an outreach plan.
- Be any type of marine aquaculture (fish, shellfish, and algae).
- Be based on best science available.