



MAINE AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

Maine Aquaculture – We Farm Differently

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U.S. is a World Leader in the Development of Sustainable Farming Methods

- U.S. marine farmers were the first in the world to develop externally audited codes of practice based on environmental management principles enacted by the United Nations.
- U.S. marine farmers were the first to develop and use, site rotation, fallowing, nonchemical integrated pest management, nutrient management plans, bay management programs and humane predator deterrence methods.
- U.S. marine farmers are in the forefront of battles to protect water quality and marine ecosystems. Our products and farms depend on clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems to maintain our animal's health and produce safe, healthy seafood.
- Recent feed trials have demonstrated the commercial scale production of finfish that produces more marine protein than they consume.

Aquaculture Can Increase National Food Security and Public Health

- The U.S. is the second largest importer of seafood in the world.
- Over 80% of the seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported, yielding a seafood trade deficit of over \$9 billion (USDA, 2005). Over 50% of these imports are farmed seafood produced in other countries.
- Less than 1% of imported seafood is currently inspected for chemical residues or contaminants. Recent seafood safety scares have focused on imported products.
- Recent national and international studies have recommended significant increases in the consumption of seafood in order to improve public health and reduce disease risks.
- USDA projects seafood demand will increase by over 1 million pounds by 2015 without any per capita consumption increase.
- If recent healthy diet recommendations are followed U.S. seafood demand will double.

U. S. Marine Aquaculture is Small But Has Significant potential

- U.S. aquaculture currently produces approximately 458,000 metric tons of aquatic animals. Only 30 % of that total is produced in marine environments.
- Approximately 1200 marine farms operate on 327,000 acres in state waters. Most of this area is used for non intensive shellfish production.
- U.S. marine farmers grow over 30 different species of plants and animals.
- Recent studies by NOAA estimate annual domestic aquaculture production could increase by 1 million metric tons by 2025.

Critical Needs for Domestic Marine Aquaculture Development.



- Streamlined, “one stop shop” permitting and leasing system.
- Pre-permitted aquaculture development zones.
- Simple and effective environmental monitoring program.
- Investment incentives designed to stimulate development of a National Blue Revolution and transition to Blue-Green economy.
- Commercial scale demonstration farms focused on the development and demonstration of innovative, sustainable and commercially competitive farming methods.
- Targeted infrastructure investments designed to support development of critical mass in the aquaculture cluster.
- Endowment of a revolving aquaculture development loan fund designed to assist existing commercial fishermen to transition to marine aquaculture.
- Investment in marine aquaculture research infrastructure and training facilities.
- Targeted research in aquatic animal health, environmental carrying capacity, breeding and domestication programs and sustainable production methods.