



U. S. Aquaculture

Why Is Aquaculture Important For The United States?

- More than 80% of the seafood Americans consume is imported.
- Almost half of seafood imports are farmed.
- Americans consume between 6 and 7 million tons of wild and farmed seafood a year.
- Demand continues to grow as more Americans seek the health benefits of eating seafood.
- The United States may need to import as much as 4 million tons of seafood by 2025, based on demand and population growth projections.
- Even with production from wild capture fisheries at fully sustainable levels, increased aquaculture production from domestic or foreign sources will be required to meet demand.
- Growing demand for seafood creates an enormous opportunity for economic growth and new jobs in the U.S. aquaculture industry.

The United States needs both wild and farmed seafood products to meet future demand for seafood. Working together, the federal and state governments, research institutions, the aquaculture industry, and coastal communities are exploring options for increasing aquaculture production in the United States.

What Is Aquaculture?

Aquaculture is the breeding, rearing and harvesting of plants and animals in all types of water environments, including ponds, rivers, lakes and the ocean. Similar to agriculture, aquaculture can take place in the natural environment or in a manmade environment.

Marine aquaculture is the culturing of saltwater aquatic species, such as oysters, clams, mussels, shrimp, and salmon in ocean waters. It also includes stock enhancement, which is the release of hatchery raised fish and shellfish to restore populations in the marine environment.



Delaware Aquaculture



John W Ewart—Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service
Jim Alderman and EJ Chalabala—Delaware Center for the Inland Bays

Delaware Marine Aquaculture Opportunities for Growth

- Shellfish farming
- Shellfish restoration

Delaware has expanded its shellfish and finfish aquaculture operations in recent years. Delaware cultivates tilapia, hybrid striped bass, yellow perch, largemouth bass, and koi. Ongoing research projects are focusing on the cultivation of crawfish, baitfish, and freshwater prawns. One company is currently working with pacific white shrimp in freshwater recirculating systems for live market sales. The State is also cultivating hard clams, soft shell clams, and oysters for shellfish restoration in demonstration projects.

In 2005, 3 commercial aquaculture farms reported to USDA with an estimated worth of \$1.8 million. With the advent of new technologies and investment, there are increasing opportunities for expansion and development of aquaculture in Delaware.



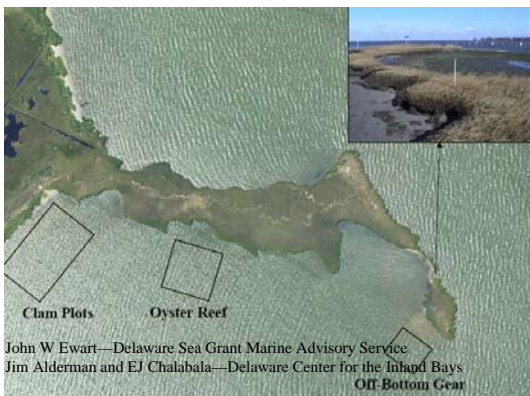
John Ewart—University of Delaware Sea Grant
Keri Maull—Center for the Inland Bays

Information Links

Delaware Sea Grant
<http://www.ocean.udel.edu/seagrant/>

Delaware Aquaculture Resource Center
<http://darc.cms.udel.edu>

Delaware Aquaculture Association
<http://darc.cms.udel.edu/daa/daa.html>



John W Ewart—Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service
Jim Alderman and EJ Chalabala—Delaware Center for the Inland Bays