

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.



Hawaii Aquaculture



Hawaii has a rich history associated with aquaculture — Native Hawaiians farmed fish more than 1,000 years ago. Today, Hawaii's aquaculture industry includes a commercial production sector and a research and technology transfer sector. In the commercial sector, 100 farms raise more than 30 different species of plants and animals. Sales from these farms totaled \$40 million in 2006. Products from Hawaii include algae, shellfish, finfish, and other plants and animals such as ornamentals and broodstock.

Investments in commercial and research aquaculture have led to the development of two open ocean aquaculture operations. One operation raises moi in open water cages off Oahu and another grows yellowtail off Kona, Hawaii. Because Hawaiians' seafood consumption is almost three times more than the national average the local price for these products is attractive to many buyers.

Leaders in aquaculture innovation such as the Oceanic Institute and the University of Hawaii are working in cooperation with the private sector to make Hawaii a major aquaculture R&D center.

Hawaii Marine Aquaculture Opportunities for Growth

- Open ocean farming of Hawaiian marine finfish
- Hatchery production of mollusks seed stock (oysters & clams)
- High health shrimp broodstock
- Marine algae used in annual feeds and in food pharmaceutical, and industrial products
- Tank and pond production of marine fish, shrimp, ornamental fish, and aquatic plants



Information Links

State of Hawaii Aquaculture Development Program

<http://www.hawaii.aquaculture.org>

Oceanic Institute

<http://www.oceanicinstitute.org/nav.php>

Pacific Aquaculture & Coastal Resources Center
University of Hawaii at Hilo

<http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/~pacrc/>