



## 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.



# New Jersey Aquaculture



## New Jersey Marine Aquaculture Opportunities for Growth

- Infrastructure (two demonstration facilities)
- Premium quality oysters
- Ethnic markets for live fish (tilapia and hybrid striped bass)

**N**ew Jersey's aquaculture is diverse, consisting of a wide range of cultivated shellfish, finfish, or ornamental species. New Jersey's aquaculture industry consists of clams, oysters, and varieties of finfish, such as hybrid striped bass, carp, tilapia, and trout. Ornamental fish and baitfish are also raised in New Jersey.

In 2005, New Jersey had nearly 5,000 acres of saltwater in production on 70 aquaculture shellfish farms and 17 farms reported 51 acres of freshwater in production. Hard clams alone provided \$2.1 million in sales for New Jersey in 2005.



## Information Links

New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
Aquaculture Office  
<http://www.jerseyseafood.nj.gov/aquaculture.html>

New Jersey Aquaculture Association  
<http://www.ccnj.edu/departments/aquaculture/njaa.cfm>

New Jersey Marines Sciences Consortium  
[http://www.njmssc.org/Sea\\_Grant/](http://www.njmssc.org/Sea_Grant/)