



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.



Washington Aquaculture



Washington State produces a diverse array of aquaculture products. In 2005, 194 farms reported \$93.2 million in sales.

Atlantic salmon and Pacific oysters are the major components of Washington's total aquaculture output. Manila clams are the most popular clam, although other clams are grown. Coho salmon, trout, steelhead, and arctic char are also cultured in Washington.



Washington Marine Aquaculture Opportunities for Growth

- Shellfish production of oysters, clams, mussels, and geoducks
- New species such as black cod (sable fish)
- Culture of salmon and steelhead
- Open ocean aquaculture pilot projects in the Straights of Juan de Fuca
- Stock replenishment of severely depleted rockfish species
- Production of submersible offshore fish pens



Information Links

Washington Fish Growers Association
<http://www.wfga.net/>

NOAA Fisheries
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/>

University of Washington
Western Regional Aquaculture Center
<http://www.fish.washington.edu/wrac/>

Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association
<http://www.pcsga.org/>