



NOAA AQUACULTURE PROGRAM



Sustainable aquaculture will create employment and business opportunities in coastal communities; provide safe, sustainable seafood; and complement NOAA's comprehensive strategy for maintaining healthy and productive marine populations, species, and ecosystems and vibrant coastal communities.

For more information on the new policy, go to our website:

<http://aquaculture.noaa.gov>

Overview of NOAA's Aquaculture Policy

In June 2011, NOAA issued a new policy to enable the development of marine aquaculture within the context of NOAA's multiple stewardship missions and broader social and economic goals.

Under the new policy, NOAA will:

1. Encourage and foster sustainable aquaculture development that provides domestic jobs, products, and services and that is in harmony with healthy, productive, and resilient marine ecosystems, compatible with other uses of the marine environment, and consistent with the National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, our Coasts, and the Great Lakes (National Ocean Policy).
2. Ensure that agency aquaculture decisions protect wild species and healthy, productive, and resilient coastal and ocean ecosystems, including the protecting of sensitive marine areas.
3. Advance scientific knowledge concerning sustainable aquaculture, in cooperation with academic and federal partners.
4. Make timely and unbiased aquaculture management decisions based upon the best scientific information available.
5. Support aquaculture innovation and investments that benefit the nation's coastal ecosystems, communities, seafood consumers, industry, and economy.
6. Advance public understanding of sustainable aquaculture practices; the associated environmental, social, and economic challenges and benefits; and the services NOAA has to offer in support of sustainable aquaculture.
7. Work with our federal partners, through the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture and other avenues, to provide the depth of resources and expertise needed to address the challenges facing expansion of aquaculture in the United States.
8. Work internationally to learn from aquaculture best practices around the world and encourage the adoption of science-based sustainable practices and systems.
9. Integrate federal, regional, state, local, and tribal priorities along with commercial priorities into marine aquaculture siting and management and ensure that aquaculture development is considered within other existing and potential marine uses to reduce potential conflicts.

The policy establishes priorities for NOAA's aquaculture initiatives in four areas: 1) science and research; 2) regulation; 3) innovation, partnerships, and outreach; and 4) international cooperation.

The policy includes detailed NOAA guidance for aquaculture in federal waters that 1) establishes goals for NOAA's regulatory actions and 2) provides a list of principles and approaches that NOAA will take to achieve each goal.

To view the policy, go to: <http://aquaculture.noaa.gov>.