



# MINNESOTA AQUACULTURE PLAN

2025

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is in the process of creating the State Aquaculture Plan.

The Plan will be presented to the Minnesota State Legislature in February of 2025 and will outline opportunities, needs, and challenges for a vibrant aquaculture industry in Minnesota.



PROJECT  
OBJECTIVES



INDUSTRY COLLABORATION  
& PUBLIC INPUT



EXPECTED  
OUTCOMES

# White House National Science and Technology Council Unveils New Aquaculture Plan, First in 40 Years

*February 15, 2024*

Public invited to comment on the National Aquaculture Development Plan through April 5, 2024.

## Working Across Agencies on the Subcommittee for Aquaculture

The Subcommittee on Aquaculture serves as the federal interagency coordinating group to increase the overall effectiveness and productivity of Federal aquaculture research, regulation, technology transfer, and assistance programs.

The Subcommittee on Aquaculture's Economic Development task force includes partner agencies from:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Food and Drug Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency

Learn more about the [Subcommittee on Aquaculture](#) and [NOAA Fisheries Office of Aquaculture](#).





-Aquatic Design Services, LLC.



# National Aquaculture Development Plan

## A STRATEGIC PLAN TO ENHANCE REGULATORY EFFICIENCY IN AQUACULTURE

PREPARED BY THE  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AQUACULTURE

## A NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AQUACULTURE RESEARCH

PREPARED BY THE  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

## STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AQUACULTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY THE  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Public Comment Version – DRAFT



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Aquaculture is Agriculture: USDA's Role in Supporting Farmers of Fish and Shellfish

- supporting economic development that creates jobs and opportunities in rural communities;
- designing aquaculture production systems that use aquatic resources for farming while maintaining healthy ecosystems;
- supporting and conducting research, education, and extension activities that train a skilled work force and support the development of new aquaculture technologies;
- overseeing aquatic animal health; and
- providing marketing programs that educate consumers on the nutritional benefits of seafood products and the sustainable management of responsible aquaculture production.





Sea Grant

# 5-YEAR AQUACULTURE INVESTMENT PLAN

COVERING FISCAL YEARS 2024-2028

Sea Grant is committed to supporting the American seafood industry. Aquaculture plays an increasingly important role in seafood production in the U.S. For over 50 years, Sea Grant has been a leader in promoting safe, strategic and sustainable aquaculture through supporting research, education and extension. This five-year investment plan was developed to allow for consistent, reliable and recurring aquaculture funding opportunities.

## NATIONAL AQUACULTURE INITIATIVES

OFFERED ANNUALLY

Starting in fiscal year 2024, annual funding will be available for National Aquaculture Initiatives (NAIs). Specifically, in even years, an NAI funding competition with the goal of improving aquaculture production will be offered. In odd years, an NAI funding competition with the goal of supporting aquaculture businesses through projects that address topics including food quality, business planning, economics and education, literacy and workforce development will be offered.

## AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGIES AND EDUCATION TRAVEL GRANTS

OFFERED ANNUALLY

Annually, Sea Grant programs may compete for funding to support travel for Sea Grant personnel, researchers, and industry members to domestic and international aquaculture facilities or sites to enhance their knowledge and expertise of aquaculture that can be applied to their specific needs.



Sea Grant

# 5-YEAR AQUACULTURE INVESTMENT PLAN

COVERING FISCAL YEARS 2024-2028

## AQUACULTURE INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM

OFFERED ANNUALLY

Annually, Sea Grant programs may compete for funding to develop or maintain aquaculture internship programs with industry partners to provide hands-on learning experiences for high school, community college, and/or four-year college students and graduate students.

## AQUACULTURE SUPPLEMENTAL

OFFERED BIENNIALLY

In even fiscal years, the National Sea Grant Office will make eligible funds available, at a level of up to 50% of each program's Omnibus commitment in aquaculture, towards funding projects that develop or maintain activities related to expanding and supporting aquaculture research, extension, education or communication, regionally and nationally.

## AQUACULTURE COLLABORATIVES

OFFERED BIENNIALLY

In odd fiscal years, Sea Grant programs may compete for funding to establish Aquaculture Collaboratives. Competitions will be focused on specific topics or will be open to topics. Principal investigators and collaborators of previously funded Collaboratives will be eligible to apply as applicable.

## LEGAL NETWORK & MISCELLANEOUS SUPPORT

OFFERED BIENNIALLY

In odd fiscal years Sea Grant programs may compete for funding to support miscellaneous projects or projects that address legal issues related to aquaculture (e.g., permitting, regulation, etc.).



## What is an Aquaculture Opportunity Area?

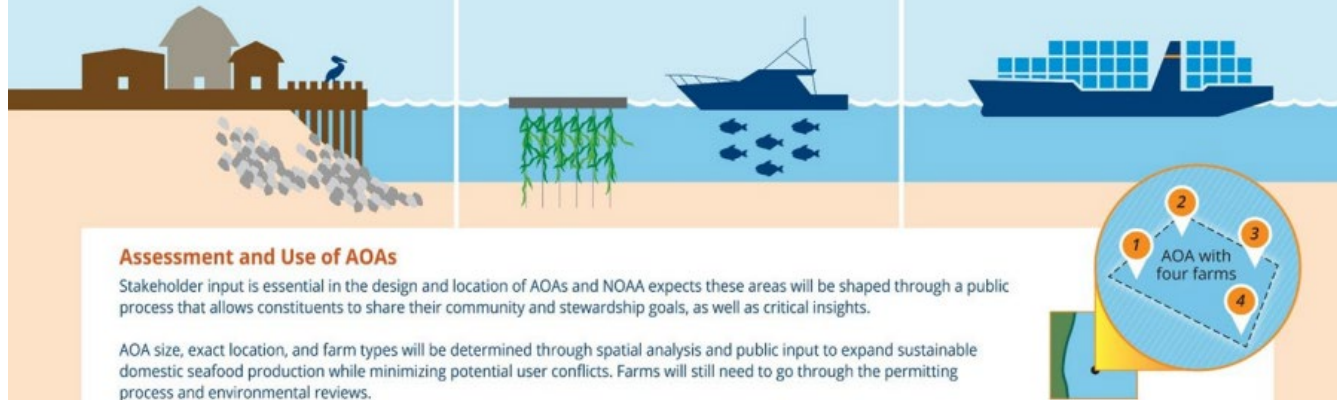


**Aquaculture Opportunity Areas** show high potential for commercial aquaculture. A science and community-based approach to identifying these areas helps minimize interference with other enterprises, account for current fishing patterns, and protect the ecosystem.

AOAs will expand economic opportunities in coastal and rural areas, and increase our nation's seafood security.

AOAs use the best available science to find appropriate spaces for sustainable aquaculture.

AOAs minimize interactions with other users, such as shipping, fishing, and the military.



### Assessment and Use of AOAs

Stakeholder input is essential in the design and location of AOAs and NOAA expects these areas will be shaped through a public process that allows constituents to share their community and stewardship goals, as well as critical insights.

AOA size, exact location, and farm types will be determined through spatial analysis and public input to expand sustainable domestic seafood production while minimizing potential user conflicts. Farms will still need to go through the permitting process and environmental reviews.

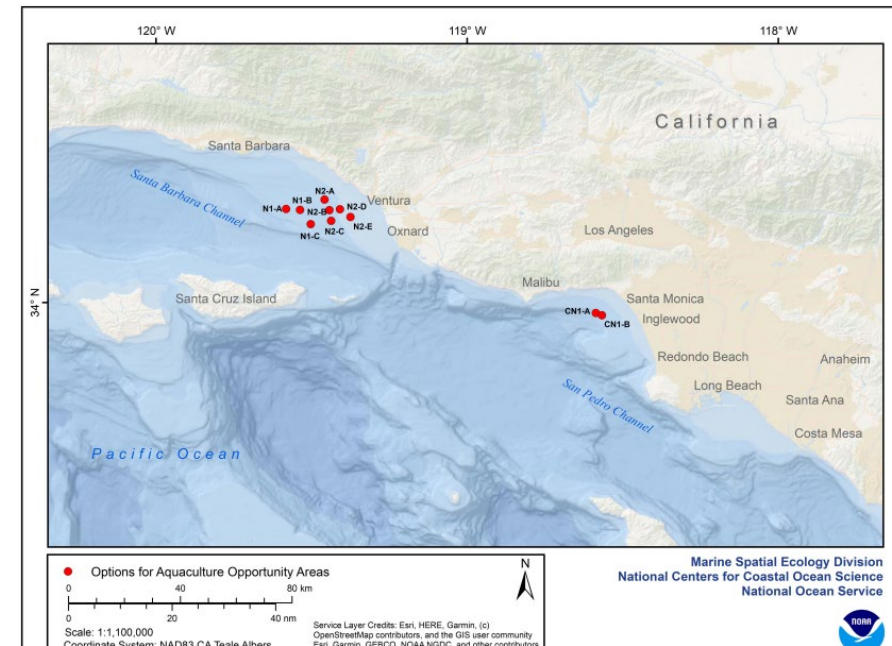
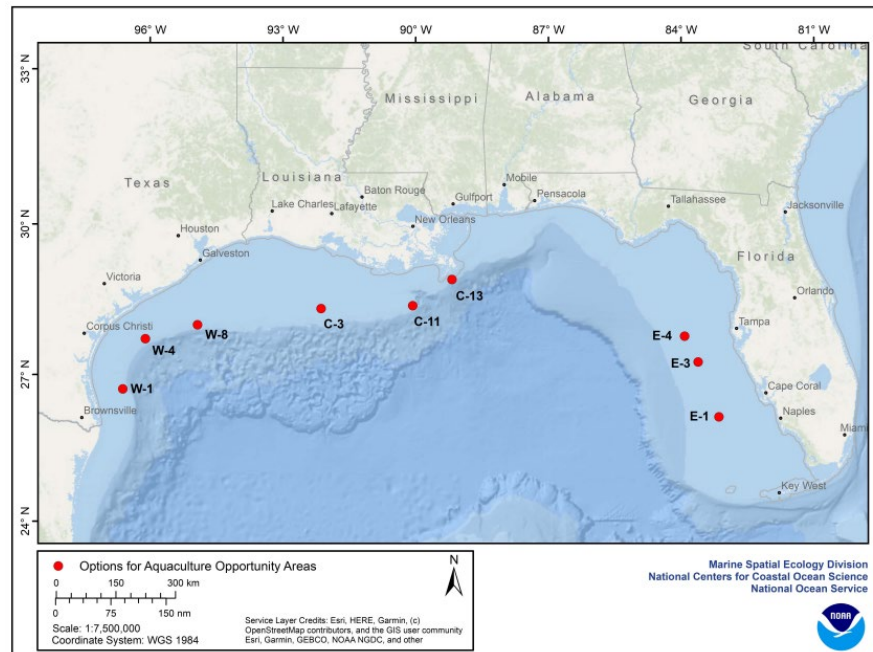
JUNE 2, 2023

## NOAA to identify aquaculture opportunity area in Alaska

Nathan Strout published in Aquaculture



E<sub>d</sub>A - Aquatic Design Services, LLC.



## AQUACULTURE

[Home](#) > [Aquaculture](#)

The State of Minnesota recognizes aquaculture (privately raising fish or other aquatic life) as agriculture.

If you currently raise fish or are interested in raising and selling fish, shrimp, shellfish, or other aquatic life, this page will guide you to information and resources that might be helpful.

### Designing aquaculture systems and raising fish

- Sean Sisler, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Commercial Aquatic Programs & Fish Health Consultant, 651-259-5213, [sean.sisler@state.mn.us](mailto:sean.sisler@state.mn.us)
- Don Schreiner, [Minnesota Sea Grant](#), 218-726-7375, [schr0941@d.umn.edu](mailto:schr0941@d.umn.edu)
- Nick Phelps, [University of Minnesota](#), [phelp083@umn.edu](mailto:phelp083@umn.edu)
- Harold Stanislawski, [Agricultural Utilization Research Institute](#), 218-281-7600 ext. 117, [hstanislawski@auri.org](mailto:hstanislawski@auri.org)
- [North Central Regional Aquaculture Center](#)

### Grants and loans

We offer Value-Added Grants, Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants, Beginning Farm Loans, Farm Opportunity Loans, Livestock Equipment and Expansion Loans, and other kinds of [financial support](#) that aquaculture may be eligible for.

- Grants, 651-201-6500
- Loans, 651-201-6004

### Marketing fish and fish products

- [Minnesota Grown](#) program
- Our [Make it Minnesota](#) program

### Licenses, permits, and rules

- [Aquatic farm license](#), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- [Wastewater permit](#) to apply fish manure to land or discharge water from fish farms, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 651-296-6300 or 800-657-3864
- [Commercial fish feed manufacturing and distribution license](#), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), 651-201-6027
  - If you mix or blend feed for your own fish from raw ingredients, you don't need an MDA license or permit.
- Minnesota [statutes](#) and [rules](#) (search for "aquaculture")

### State aquaculture plan

We are currently working with aquaculture industry leaders on the creation of a state aquaculture plan. The plan is due to the Legislature in February of 2025 and will outline opportunities, needs, and challenges for a vibrant aquaculture industry in Minnesota.



[Home](#) > [Recreation](#) > [Fishing](#) > [Commercial Business Information](#) >

### Commercial Licenses

[Commercial Fishing Licenses](#)

[Fish Packer License](#)

[Fish Vendor Vehicle License](#)

[Crayfish](#)

[Frogs](#)

[Turtles](#)

### Commercial Aquaculture Licenses

[Aquarium Facility License](#)

[Aquatic Farm License](#)

[Private Fish Hatchery License \(sales greater than \\$200\)](#)

[Private Fish Hatchery License \(sales less than \\$200\)](#)

### Commercial Minnow Licenses

[Exporting Minnow Dealer License](#)

[Minnow Dealer License](#)

[Minnow Dealer, Exporting Minnow Dealer, and Minnow Retailer Vehicle Licenses](#)

[Minnow Retailer License](#)

## Private fish hatchery license (sales less than \$200)

A private fish hatchery is a licensed facility for hatching, raising, rearing, and culturing private aquatic life for sale. A private fish hatchery license can include ponds, vats, tanks, raceways, and other indoor or outdoor facilities that an aquatic farmer owns or has the right to use. This license is only for small operations with sales less than \$200/license year. If sales exceed \$200, you must upgrade the license. A five-year license is available. You pay for the entire five-year fee in the first year of the five-year term (you will receive an updated license each year during your five-year term). Six endorsements are available for holders of A private fish hatchery license:

1. [License to Take Sucker Egg from Public Waters](#)
2. [Minnow Retailer License](#)
3. [Minnow Dealer License](#)
4. [Exporting Minnow Dealer License](#)
5. [Minnow Dealer, Exporting Minnow Dealer, and Minnow Retailer Vehicle Licenses](#)
6. [Fish Packer License](#)

These endorsements allow the license holder to conduct the same activities as an individual license for that activity would allow. They are simply a way to consolidate all licenses into one for the convenience of the licensee.

### Pond/Facility Licensing

All ponds and facilities that you want to use for culturing private aquatic life must be approved and listed on your private fish hatchery license. If a pond is dropped from a license and not transferred to another licensee within a year, a new inspection may be required to re-license that pond. To license a new pond, submit a Private Fish Hatchery and Aquatic Farm New Pond Application along with required inspection fees to your [regional fisheries manager](#).

### Adding a Species to Your Aquatic Farm License

You may request to add a species to your license at any time during the license year by simply drafting a short letter to your [regional fisheries manager](#) including: your name, hatchery license number, and the species of aquatic life that you are requesting for approval. Species of aquatic life must be approved and listed on your list of licensed waters, before they are brought into your licensed waters. It is a violation to bring a species of aquatic life into your licensed waters unless those waters are licensed for that species.

All species of aquatic life fall into one of the three following categories: