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.
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.
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
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 workforce 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 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.

AQUACULTURE INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM
OFFERED ANNUALLY
Annually, Sea Grant programs may compete for funding to develop or maintain aquaculture internships 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 BIEINNALLY
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 BIEINNALLY
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 BIEINNALLY
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.).

Disclaimer: Funding dates, amounts, and availability are subject to change.
What is an Aquaculture Opportunity Area?

Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) 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 sizes, exact location, and form 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.

NOAA to identify aquaculture opportunity area in Alaska

(Area published in Aquaculture)
AQUACULTURE

Commercial Licenses
Commercial Fishing Licenses
Fish Packer License
Fish Vendor Vehicle License
Crayfish
Frogs
Turtles

Commercial Aquaculture Licenses
Aquarium Facility License
Aquaculture Farm License
Private Fish Hatchery License (sales greater than $500)
Private Fish Hatchery License (sales less than $500)

Commercial Minnow Licenses
Exporting Minnow Dealer License
Minnow Dealer License
Minnow Dealer, Exporting, and Minnow Retailer Vehicle Licenses
Minnow Retailer License

Private fish hatchery (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, 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 in a 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 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 Fry 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 cultivating 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 license within a year, a new inspection may be required to relicense 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 Aquaculture 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: