

Aquaculture Opportunity Area Timeline



SUMMER 2020

1

Select regions for areas for evaluation. Convene NOAA AOA Implementation Teams.

2

Announce selected regions to regulatory partners, stakeholders, and general public.

3

National Center for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) compiles siting data for the first two regions (ongoing).

4

Outreach to fishery management councils, marine fisheries commissions, stakeholders, and the public.

FALL 2020

1

Publish Request for Information (RFI) to gather public input.

2

Continue outreach and engagement to stakeholder groups.

3

Host five public listening sessions and review submitted RFI comments.

4

Using best available data, NCCOS conducts siting analysis to find areas that may support sustainable aquaculture development.

WINTER 2020-2021

1

NCCOS drafts an Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas to present maps and share the results of their siting analysis.

2

Combine results of draft Atlas with RFI public input to select areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Southern California to evaluate in more depth during the NEPA process.

3

Consider information collected through RFI, including industry interest, state agency input, and ecosystem factors to begin selection of regions to assess for possible future AOAs.

4

Continue outreach for current and future AOA efforts.

SPRING 2021

1

Publish Atlases as peer reviewed NOAA tech memos for each region.

2

Publish Notice of Intent (NOI) for each programmatic EIS in the Gulf of Mexico and Southern California, beginning in-depth evaluation of potential areas.

3

Continue to coordinate with other federal agencies, Fishery Management Councils, Marine Fisheries Commissions, states, and tribes.

4

Announce selection of next region(s) of focus for AOA identification using best available scientific data and stakeholder input.