The Path Towards the Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Economic Development

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Seafood Production and Trade

- Aquaculture is critical to the global food supply.
- 50% of global seafood is farmed.
- Wild seafood at or near maximum harvest levels.
- Much room exists to sustainably expand marine aquaculture.
- U.S. Lagging behind much of the world despite having largest EEZ:
  - Seafood trade deficit ~$17 billion.
  - We import over 70% of our seafood.
  - We rank #17 in global aquaculture production.

[Figure 1: World Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture Production]

Aquaculture
Wild Harvest
Industrial uses (e.g. animal feed)

Note: Excludes aquatic mammals, crocodiles, alligators and caimans, seaweeds and other aquatic plants.
The mean greenhouse gas impact* of getting 100 grams of protein from:

- Beef: 50 kg
- Lamb: 20 kg
- Farmed Crustaceans: 18 kg
- Cheese: 11 kg
- Pork: 7.6 kg
- Farmed Fish: 6 kg
- Poultry: 5.7 kg
- Eggs: 4.2 kg
- Peanuts: 1.2 kg
- Beans: 0.8 kg

* in kilograms of CO₂ eq


Climate-Smart Food Production
The Subcommittee on Aquaculture (SCA) has previously been known as the Interagency Working Group on Aquaculture (IWGA) and the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA). The SCA serves as the Federal interagency coordinating group to increase the overall effectiveness and productivity of Federal aquaculture research, regulation, technology transfer, and assistance programs. This interagency coordinating group has been functioning since before the National Aquaculture Act was signed into law in 1980.


National Policy (from the National Aquaculture Act of 1980): "Congress declares that aquaculture has the potential for reducing the United States trade deficit in fisheries products, for augmenting existing commercial and recreational fisheries, and for producing other renewable resources, thereby assisting the United States in meeting its future food needs and contributing to the solution of ventral resource problems. It is, therefore, in the national interest, and it is the national policy, to encourage the development of aquaculture in the United States.”

Reporting Authorities: The SCA is a statutory subcommittee that operates under the Committee on Environment of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) under the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).
Economic Development Task Force

Participating Agencies:

- Department of Commerce: NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Sea Grant, Minority Business Development Administration, Economic Development Administration
- Department of Agriculture: Rural Development, Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of the State
- Department of the Interior: US Fish & Wildlife Service
Goals Overview

Goals in draft outline of EDTF plan:

1. Encourage Industry Investment
2. Support Infrastructure and Workforce Development
3. Expand Market Opportunities for U.S. Aquaculture Products
4. Support Aquaculture Communications and Literacy
Goal 1: Encourage Industry Investment

Objectives
1. Reduce Barriers to Entry
2. Increase Access to Capital
3. Increase Incentives
4. Increase Access to Federal Risk Management Services
5. Improve Economic Data
6. Support State and Regional Initiatives
Goal 2: Support Infrastructure and Workforce Development

Objectives
1. Educate and Train a Skilled Aquaculture Workforce
2. Develop and Encourage the Adoption of New Technologies
3. Increase Investment in Physical Infrastructure
4. Establish Test Beds, R&D Consortiums, and Pilots
Goal 3: Expand Market Opportunities for U.S. Aquaculture Products

Objectives
1. Support New Product Development
2. Expand Domestic Market Opportunities
3. Increase International Trade
4. Explore the Expansion of Aquaculture Purchased by Government Commodity Purchase Programs
Goal 4: Support Aquaculture Communications and Literacy

Objectives
1. Increase Partnerships and Engagement to Connect with the General Public
2. Increase Aquaculture Literacy
3. Community Outreach
4. Interactions with Federal Agencies and Congress
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Please submit any additional comments to our Task Force email