

# What is Aquaculture?

Aquaculture is the farming of fish, other seafood products and marine life.

Aquaculture differs to wild-catch fisheries in that it requires human intervention in the productivity of aquatic organisms. Human intervention methods include fertilizing the water, feeding the organisms and maintaining water quality.

Aquaculture in Australia takes place in the sea and rivers, on land in tanks or ponds and in freshwater and saltwater.

## Facts & Figures

- Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing primary industry sectors and continues to be an important part of Australian fisheries production.
- Australia produces 240 000 tonnes of fish a year with aquaculture contributing a third to this.
- Over the decade to 2006-07 aquaculture production has almost doubled from 29 300 tonnes to 57 800 tonnes.
- The Australian aquaculture industry value for 2006/2007 was \$793 million. The top five species were:
  - Salmon
  - Tuna
  - Pearls
  - Oysters
  - Prawns
- The industry directly provides more than 7 000 direct jobs and 20 000 indirectly and is estimated to be the fastest growing occupation within primary industries.
- Operational responsibility for the development and management of aquaculture in Australia rests with state and territory governments.



## Benefits of Australian Aquaculture

- Regional economies benefit from aquaculture through new investment and jobs.
- Aquaculture contributes to the Australian seafood industry, which provides consumers with healthy and affordable seafood.
- Aquaculture helps to provide a greater understanding of the biology of fish species.
- Aquaculture improves the catch in some recreational and commercial fisheries through re-stocking programs.
- Seafood is an important part of a healthy diet and contains omega-3 oils, iodine, vitamins and minerals.

## World Aquaculture

Aquaculture is the fastest-growing food-producing sector in the world, yielding 45 million tonnes a year and growing at about nine per cent a year.

- As the world's 90 million tonnes of wild fish is not expected to increase in the near future, demand for farmed fish is likely to have doubled by 2015.

## Plans and Goals

It is estimated that Australia will need an extra 37 million tonnes of fish in the next 20 years to meet global seafood demand. Most of the additional supply will have to come from aquaculture, as there is limited room for expansion in wild catch fisheries.

The goal for the Australian aquaculture industry is to aim for 100 000 tonnes of finfish by 2015.



# Challenges

While the Australian aquaculture industry is vibrant and growing, there are various issues that challenge its future, including:

- Government decision-making: How do we achieve a national vision and agreement concerning Australian aquaculture regulations?
- Public Perception: How do we alter an often negative public perception about the environmental, health and animal welfare issues associated with aquaculture ?
- Feed Issues: How do we maximise growth while minimising feed?
- Product development: As the aquaculture industry expands, is the development of existing species sufficient? What other species could there be in future? What do our consumers want?

The aquaculture industry is striving to overcome the challenges it faces. To ensure that Australian aquaculture continues to develop, significant investment is needed to secure land and water resources, production technologies, supply chain development, value-adding, marketing and promotion and people development. This won't be achieved through one company or one sector but through a unified effort.

The Australian Aquaculture Industry Action Plan reveals the Australian aquaculture industry's commitment to overcoming challenges and improving the aquaculture industry. The plan identifies various initiatives that aim to help improve the operating environment for the Australian aquaculture industry.

For more information about the The Australian Aquaculture Industry Action Plan, visit: [http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/action\\_agenda/action\\_agenda.html](http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/action_agenda/action_agenda.html)

## Clean and Green Aquaculture

The National Aquaculture Council and the Aquaculture Committee (of the Australian Fisheries Management Forum) are committed to the development of the voluntary Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) framework for assessing, auditing and reporting on the ESD of aquaculture, consistent with the national aquaculture policy:

“All Australian Governments commit to working in partnership with the aquaculture industry to achieve maximum sustainable growth, whilst also meeting national and international expectations for environmental, social and economic performance.”

To view the National Aquaculture Policy Statement, visit:

[http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/action\\_agenda/pdf/policy.pdf](http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/action_agenda/pdf/policy.pdf)

## National Aquaculture Council

The National Aquaculture Council (NAC) is the peak industry body representing aquaculture in Australia.



NAC provides the industry with a credible voice at the political level, and strives for greater influence of issues of national significance for Australia's aquaculture industry.

## Australasian Aquaculture 2010 International Conference and Trade Show



The city of Hobart will provide the perfect backdrop as the aquaculture and related industries convene for the highly anticipated Australasian Aquaculture 2010 International Conference and Trade Show.

The conference will take place on 23-26 May 2010 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.

The conference is proudly supported by the Asia Pacific Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS-APC). The Australasian Aquaculture International Conference and Trade Show works in conjunction with WAS-APC to provide a unified and reputable conference and trade show which is beneficial for aquaculture industries in the Asia Pacific region.

Visit [www.australian-aquacultureportal.com](http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com) for more information.