

AUSTRALIAN AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY

Aquaculture is the farming of fish, other seafood products and marine life. The Australian industry value for 2006/07 was \$793million.

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

Aquaculture is an environmentally sustainable industry. Achievements exceed consumer expectations in most cases but there are risks with climate change.

Regional economies benefit from aquaculture through new investment and jobs.

Industry sectors include:

- pearls
- Tasmanian Salmon
- Southern Bluefin Tuna
- Many other fin-fish species (eg. barramundi, yellowtail kingfish)
- Prawns
- Oysters
- Abalone
- Other marine-life such as aquarium fish.

Peak industry body is the National Aquaculture Council. Chairman is Craig Foster.

Aquaculture regulated and administered federally by the Dept Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). DAFF minister is Tony Burke.

At state level the industry is governed by departments of primary industry.

Aquaculture is supported by science in Australia via the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation, the Seafood Cooperative Research Centre and the CSIRO.

Australian seafood produce enjoys an international reputation as clean, safe and of high quality. Domestically, seafood is healthy and cost effective.

Health benefits for seafood consumers are well-documented. Omega 3 helps prevent heart disease, cognitive decline, arthritis, diabetes, Crohn's disease, asthma. It is also helpful during pregnancy.

A biennial Conference and Trade Show is held as the premier forum for industry development and future directions for the Asia-Pacific region – Australasian Aquaculture 2010 International Conference and Trade Show, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart TAS, 23-26 May 2010.

Location of Major Australian Aquaculture Species

(Source: National Aquaculture Council 2004)

