

## [Group Recommendations for the Oregon Aqua Farming Program](#)

The Oregon Shellfish and Inland Aquaculture Advisory Group (OSIAAG), in line with its mission, “*to promote and facilitate an innovative state-wide program to develop aquaculture as an agriculture sector in Oregon that is economically beneficial, environmentally friendly, and socially responsible<sup>1</sup>*”, and referring to the recent overview of the State’s aqua farming program presented to the Group [*Developing Additional Investment in Aqua Farming in Oregon: a roadmap for sustainable development*]:

A. Endorses the conclusions that:

1. sustainable aqua farming is a responsible agricultural practice for Oregon;
2. the Oregon aqua farming program must expand and diversify to ensure greater economic, social and nutritional benefits;
3. a higher level of collaboration among all stakeholders is needed to achieve the aim of an expanded and diversified program;
4. a state aqua farming plan [including one-stop-shop and strengthened producer associations] is necessary; and,
5. more human and financial resources are required from both the public and private sectors.

B. Recommends that:

1. ODA should be the lead agency in this program that encompasses a variety of other state and federal agencies as well as civil society;
2. OSIAAG should guide the expansion and diversification of the program;
3. the core of the Oregon aqua farming program should be producing foods for local consumption as well as export;
4. efforts should be taken to educate people as to the realities of aqua farming as well as how to undertake the practice in a bankable and responsible way; and,
5. action should be taken immediately [see below].

C. Proposes and prioritizes actions for the immediate- and short-term:

1. ODA nominate/appoint some one as the focal point for aqua farming;
2. Institute pre-application conferences for aqua farms;
3. Secure means to undertake the elaboration of a state aqua farming plan;
4. Identify ways and means to increase investment in aqua farming across the state;
5. Establish pathway for increased OSIAAG action including the support to sub-groups on inland, marine/shellfish and aquatic plant/algal farming as well as regulatory and monitoring mechanisms [i.e., four sub-groups];
6. Design and implement a set of activities to educate Oregonians about aqua farming, addressing both pros and cons in a science-based and objective way;
7. Design and implement a curriculum to train aqua farmers and would-be aqua farmers in market and business planning;
8. Prepare and circulate a quarterly aqua farming newsletter;
9. Undertake a comprehensive assessments of, and research and development on the market, resource base, production options and regulatory environment; and,
10. Put in place mechanisms to ensure more accurate and comprehensive statistics for the program.

---

<sup>1</sup> Reference: Advisory Group Mission, Vision and Action Statements of March 2014