

The Oregon Ad-Hoc Aquaculture Advisory Board

Background

Population forecasts call for the global population to reach nine billion by 2050. Given the fact that one billion people are hungry today, it is not clear how the world's population will be fed in 2050. Traditional food sources are under attack from concerned consumers who are worried about the environment, opposed to GMOs and want more organic food. Clearly, agriculture as we know it will continue to change. Some industries will collapse and others will represent new opportunities. "With many undersold health benefits and much untapped potential, seafood has an opportunity to become a much more important part of a typical western diet"¹, according to Dr. Barry Costa-Pierce, a researcher from the University of New England.

Dr. Coasta-Pierce is calling for the creation of "centers of innovation" to bring together commercial fisherman, fish and shell fish farmers, environmental groups, academics, land owners, and state regulators to determine best practices and assist would be entrepreneurs with the details of producing and selling more aquaculture products.

Purpose

With this goal in mind, the Director of Agriculture may appoint an unofficial Oregon Ad-Hoc Aquaculture Advisory Board. The Board will meet on a regular basis to determine the potential for expanding aquaculture in Oregon. Oregon is thought to have the necessary resources required to meet this expected demand of seafood products without degrading the environment. However, unlike neighboring states, Oregon does not have a well thought out plan for expanding opportunities in aquaculture. There is a need to collect information, organize stakeholders, streamline regulations and provide potential investors with a well thought out road map for success. The Board will begin the process of analyzing the situation and recommending policies to encourage investment in aquaculture in Oregon when and where warranted. Invited members:

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¹ Jones, Matt, [Aquaculture North America](#), July-August 2013, "Rethinking An Industry".

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