

Washington Aquaculture

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waters*



Source: NOAA Aquaculture Program

Washington State has been a leading producer of seafood from aquaculture for over a century. In fact, shellfish have been farmed commercially in tidal areas of the state for more than 150 years.

Today, Washington produces an array of valuable cultured products and high tech equipment, including submersible cage systems for open ocean farming. Washington is also a research leader for stock enhancement, alternative fish feeds, and environmental monitoring.

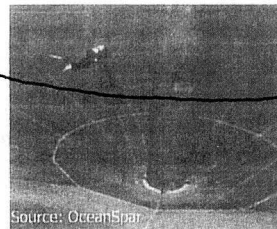
In 2005, 194 farms reported \$93.2 million in sales. These farms provide thousands of jobs in Washington's coastal communities.

In terms of production, Atlantic salmon and Pacific oysters top the list. The state's oyster harvest alone produces about 8 million pounds each year and routinely ranks first or second in the nation. Manila clams are the most widely cultivated clam in the state.

Other finfish grown in Washington are coho, trout, steelhead, and arctic char.

Washington Aquaculture Opportunities for Growth

- Shellfish production, including oysters, mussels, Manila clams, and geoduck clams
- New finfish species such as black cod
- Culture of salmon and steelhead
- Open ocean aquaculture in the Strait of Juan de Fuca
- Stock replenishment of severely depleted rockfish species
- Production of submersible offshore fish cages
- Hatchery technology development



Source: OceanStar

Sources & Information Links

NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center
www.nwfsc.noaa.gov

University of Washington
Western Regional Aquaculture Center
www.fish.washington.edu/wrac

Washington Sea Grant Program
<http://wsq.washington.edu>

Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association
www.pcsqa.org

Pacific Aquaculture Caucus
www.pacaqua.org