



Is Aquatic Farming Right for You?

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

1. Have you developed a realistic written business plan with monthly objectives for the first 5 to 10 years?
2. Have you determined expenses for construction or improvement of the farm site?
3. Do you own or have access to the necessary equipment (e.g. boats, predator control devices, buoys, anchors, etc.)?
4. Can you secure adequate capital for start-up costs, permitting, and initial operations?
5. Will your lender accommodate fluctuations in your production cycle or crop loss?
6. Is the profit potential adequate compensation for your labor and resources?
7. Can you afford to wait 18 to 36 months for your first crop to attain marketable size?
8. Do you have adequate cash reserves for emergency costs (e.g. equipment failure, storm damages, crop losses, etc.)?
9. Have you inquired about insuring your facility?

MARKETING CONSIDERATIONS

1. Have you assessed the existing market size and demands for product?
2. Have you determined an area within the market where you can compete?
3. Have you determined primary and alternative markets?
4. Do you know what form you will market your product (alive, shucked, canned, value added)?
5. Can you harvest your product throughout most of the year?
6. Have you considered the advantages/disadvantages of joining a cooperative?
7. Are you familiar with the safety and legal issues associated with marketing and selling your product?
8. Have you considered the physical logistics of getting your product to your markets?

PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS

1. Do you know the biology of the species you intend to culture?
2. Have you explored the different production technologies being used and identified one that suits your interests and available resources?
3. Have you considered potential sources for seed? Can you reliably get shellfish seed?
4. Do you have appropriate predator control, including human poaching?
5. Do you have adequate dry space to store supplies and unused equipment?

PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Are you willing to work long, hard hours (18+ hrs/day, 7 days/week), often in inclement weather?
2. Can you communicate effectively with people?
3. Are you comfortable with recordkeeping practices and basic math skills?
4. Are you comfortable with mechanical troubleshooting?
5. Will you seek help when needed?
6. Do you know others in the business that will provide help or information?
7. Have you talked to the different shellfish growers associations in the state?
8. Do you enjoy working outdoors?
9. Do you subscribe to and read aquaculture periodicals?
10. Do you take the initiative?
11. Does your family support your work?

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

1. Have you identified resource conflicts at the proposed site?
2. Is the site suitable for growing shellfish (away from sewage outflows and pesticide use)?
3. Have you considered a site suitability study for the proposed site?
4. Is it feasible to culture the organism that you selected at the site you selected?
5. Is the site sufficiently large for anchorages and expansion if desired in the future?
6. Do you live close enough to the site to monitor the site year-round?
7. Have you identified nearby sensitive or critical habitats (e.g. eagle nests, anadromous streams, haul-outs, pupping areas, etc)?
8. Have you identified the upland owners and determined any potential conflicts that may arise?
9. Will any wastes produced at your site be properly disposed of offsite?
10. Have you identified all potential predators at your site and made provisions to deter them from your farm site?
11. Can you identify diseases and parasites affecting your product?
12. Can you identify all of the permits that will be necessary to permit and legally operate your farm?

After considering the questions on this checklist, you may want assistance or additional information. Please see the back of this checklist for a list of resources available to you.

AQUATIC FARMING PERMITTING AGENCIES

Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries

Aquaculture Section

1255 West 8th Street

Juneau AK 99811

Ph: (907) 465-6150

Fax: (907) 465-4168

E-mail: cynthia.pring-ham@alaska.gov

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov>

Aquatic Farm, Hatchery, Nursery Operation Permit;
Shellfish or Aquatic Plant Transport Permit; Aquatic
Stock Acquisition Permit; Surveys

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Health

Food Safety & Sanitation Program

555 Cordova Street

Anchorage, AK 99501

Ph: (907) 269-7636

Fax: (907) 269-7510

E-mail: carol.brady@alaska.gov

<https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/shellfish/>

Water Quality Classification; Shellfish Harvest Permit;
Shellfish Shipper Permit; Shellfish Shucker Packer
Permit; Shellfish Repacker Permit; Export Certification.

U.S.D.A. Forest Service

Chugach National Forest

(907) 743-9500

www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach

Tongass National Forest

Ph: (907) 225-3101

www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass

OTHER AQUATIC FARMING RESOURCES

USDA Alternative Farming Systems Info Center

<http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/aquaculture-and-soilless-farming/aquaculture>

Alaska Sea Grant

<https://alaskaseagrant.org/our-work/aquaculture/>

<http://aquaculture.seagrant.uaf.edu/>

Gary Freitag

Marine Advisory Agent

Robertson / Hamilton Technical Center

600 Stedman Center

Ketchikan, AK 99901

Ph: (907) 617.8990

E-mail: gary.freitag@alaska.edu

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Division of Mining, Land, and Water

Aquatic Farming Program

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 900C

Anchorage, AK 99501

Ph: (907) 269-8543

Fax: (907) 269-8913

E-mail: karen.cougan@alaska.gov

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/aquatic/>

Aquatic Farm Land Lease

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Southeast Region:

Juneau Regulatory Field Office

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

8800 Glacier Highway, Suite 106

Juneau, AK 99801-8079

Ph: (907) 790-4490

E-mail: regpagemaster@usace.army.mil

<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/hm/default.htm>

Southcentral Region (Prince William Sound,
Southcentral, and Kachemak Bay):

Anchorage Field Office

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

P.O. Box 6898

Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-0898

Ph: (907) 753-2712

Letter of Permission

Individual permit

***Other permits may be necessary from additional agencies if the aquatic farm site is located within a critical habitat, national monument, a national forest, or other protected habitats**

AQUATIC FARMING ASSOCIATIONS

Alaska Shellfish Grower's Association

<http://www.alaskashellfish.com/>

Pacific Coast Shellfish Grower's Association

<http://www.pcsnga.net/>

BC Shellfish Grower's Association

<http://bcsga.ca/>