

Anonymous Anonymous

"If the COVID-19 pandemic is teaching us anything, it is that the United States needs to support seafood production as never before. And with the limited capacity of wild harvest to grow beyond its current yield, this supply — our food security — must come from aquaculture. That means all aquaculture — shellfish, seaweed/sea vegetables, and finfish (including land-based freshwater and marine, whether via net pens flow-through, RAS or partial-RAS). In short, support for aquaculture development at the local, state, and federal level is urgently needed, and needed now. If we are to continue to eat one of the most nutritionally beneficial and affordable foods available (and we all need the nutrients that seafood provides to keep our immune systems strong), we need to encourage, support, and foster domestic aquaculture — in all of its varieties — to take place in this country (and this state)."

"Aquaculture can shorten supply chains and grow food locally. On average in the United States, food travels 1,500 miles before it reaches the consumer. Many major countries, from the European Union to the United States and Japan, import most of the seafood they consume at home, making seafood one of the most highly traded commodities on the planet. If we could grow more seafood locally, that would shorten the seafood supply chain, reduce seafood's carbon footprint, stimulate local economies and provide local jobs. With cities growing exponentially across the world, more local food production is becoming a must, but most of the available land for food production in their vicinity has been fully utilized. Most major cities are coastal, and within short distances there is significant aquaculture potential to farm the ocean safely and sustainably. There are still many barriers to making this happen. We need smart policies for aquaculture that enable growth while protecting our environment. Working with businesses, coastal communities, and governments can ensure the future of aquaculture will live up to its potential and exist in harmony with our oceans and coasts."