



NOAA FISHERIES

Office of Aquaculture

How the National Ocean Policy Supports Aquaculture

On April 16, 2013, the Administration released the **National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan** and an **Appendix** to the plan that prioritize aquaculture and task federal agencies to complete specific actions. A **White House Aquaculture Fact Sheet** explains the intent of the Ocean Policy with reference to aquaculture. The aquaculture-related actions identified are listed below verbatim.

The Ocean Economy

Supporting Economic Growth (page 2 of appendix)

Provide greater accessibility to data and information to support commercial markets and industries, such as commercial fishing, maritime transportation, aquaculture, and offshore energy.

Promoting Jobs (page 4 of appendix)

Increase efficiencies in decision-making by improving permitting processes and coordinating agency participation in planning and approval processes.

2013

- Develop and implement permitting regulatory efficiencies for aquaculture. [NOAA, USDA, EPA, USACE, USCG, DOI (USFWS)] [CS]
- Establish an interagency aquaculture initiative that supports jobs and innovation through the National Science and Technology Council's Interagency Working Group on Aquaculture and other partnerships. [DOC, NOAA, USDA (ARS, NIFA)] [IDIU]
- Through leveraging existing research priorities, provide scientific information on the environmental health effects of finfish aquaculture to streamline permitting and improve water quality monitoring. [Aquaculture Regulatory Task Force] [IDIU]

2015

- Identify and make available best management practices to inform and improve Federal permitting processes for aquaculture. [NOAA, USDA, EPA, USACE, USCG, DOI (USFWS)] [CS]

Provide jobs and economic value by protecting and restoring coastal wetlands, coral reefs, and other natural systems.

2013

- Through the National Shellfish Initiative develop pilot projects to identify ways to both maximize the environmental sustainability and ecosystem benefits (e.g., nutrient filtration,

carbon sequestration, fish habitat) and the commercial value of shellfish aquaculture. This would help develop a comprehensive plan to sustainably increase shellfish production and restore populations in U.S. waters. [NOAA, USDA (ARS, NIFA)] [IDIU]

2015

- Develop an analysis of the contribution and impacts (including job creation) of emerging uses—including renewable energy, aquaculture, and biotechnology—on the economies of the communities and regions dependent on marine and coastal resources. [NOAA, DOE, DOI, FERC, DOL, DOC] [IDIU]

Coastal and Ocean Resilience

Recovering and Sustaining Ocean Health (page 19 of appendix)

Improve coastal and estuarine restoration efforts through better monitoring, coordination, and planning.

2016

- Develop and incorporate adaptation strategies for coastal and ocean species and habitats into future planning and management processes, such as fisheries, protected species, coral reefs, or shellfish aquaculture. [NOAA, DOI, EPA] [CC]



The ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes provide jobs, food, energy resources, ecological services, recreation, and tourism opportunities and play critical roles in our nation's transportation, economy, and trade, as well as the global mobility of our Armed Forces and the maintenance of peace and international security.”

~ President Barack Obama