

Developing Irish Aquaculture

Why developing aquaculture is important for the Irish economy, jobs, exports and rural communities.

Aquaculture is a diverse and constantly developing food sector. Farming the sea, which covers two-thirds of the world's surface, is a key strategic goal for the global economy to meet growing populations, scarce resources and overcome fertility and output issues in traditional commodity sectors. At a national level, exporting aquaculture goods, whether as raw material or value added product, adds to Ireland's balance of payments and enhances the basket of food products from the country on foreign markets. At local level, jobs and economic activity created by sea and freshwater farming are vital, especially in the current economic climate. Areas where fish and shellfish farming takes place tend to be in less-favoured and isolated areas with very few alternative opportunities, thereby helping to keep otherwise vulnerable coastal and rural communities alive.

Statistics, reports and information on world aquaculture: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/aquaculture/en>

The World Bank's [resource page for fisheries and aquaculture](http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/0,,contentMDK:20451222~menuPK:1308455~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336682,00.html) and [report on the potential for fish and shellfish farming](http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/0,,contentMDK:20451222~menuPK:1308455~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336682,00.html): <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/0,,contentMDK:20451222~menuPK:1308455~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336682,00.html>