



# AQUACULTURE IN TEXAS

Economic Impact  
on Texas:

**\$5M**

Ranks 11<sup>TH</sup> in the U.S. for  
Annual Aquaculture Sales:

**\$62.5M**

As demand for seafood continues to increase, aquaculture, or farming in the water, is an environmentally responsible and especially efficient method of protein production, and an option we must consider to complement our sustainably managed wild fisheries.

## What does Texas Grow?

Texas is number one in the U.S. for hybrid striped bass, red drum and marine shrimp production. It ranks two in crawfish production and four in catfish production. It's a diverse industry, including sportfish, baitfish, tilapia, oyster, and marine algae production and home to one of only two freshwater prawn hatcheries in the U.S.

## State Businesses

State aquaculture businesses are thriving, providing the case for expanded aquaculture operations in the U.S. Congress should pass legislation for offshore fish farming in our waters, allowing the U.S. to reap significant economic and health benefits. Notable Texas businesses include:

- [Sysco, Houston, TX](#)
- [Rangen, Angelton, TX](#)
- [Prestige Oysters, San Leon, TX](#)

## The Most Sustainable Protein

The aquaculture industry utilizes science-based practices to produce farm-raised seafood in the most efficient way possible, which helps protect and preserve our natural resources in a changing climate. Finfish aquaculture is the most sustainable and efficient method of animal protein production. Further, technological advancements in feed production, using soy and microalgae oil, have led to the development of

new plant-based feed solutions. Shellfish and seaweed farming require no feed inputs, and actually act as filters to clean the ocean environment.

## How Does Aquaculture Address Food Security?

Food security and food safety start locally. U.S. aquaculture producers must adhere to strict environmental and product safety rules and regulations, so that Texans can be certain that the fish they're eating is safe. The U.S. ranks 16th and contributes a mere 0.6% to global aquaculture production resulting in up to 85% of the seafood we consume being imported. 50% of our seafood comes from farms, so, why not grow our own local food?

### RESOURCES

- [Texas Aquaculture Association](#)
- [Texas Sea Grant](#)
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension](#)