

WHAT BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE BIPARTISAN AQUAA ACT



ffshore aquaculture has increasingly been recognized as an opportunity to create jobs and economic opportunities in American communities. The industry is also recognized for its ability to help solve many of our food security and environmental challenges. Momentum for the growth of a strong U.S. aquaculture industry has never been greater. The bipartisan Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture (AQUAA) Act would establish National Standards for sustainable offshore aquaculture and clarify a regulatory pathway for offshore aquaculture in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to support growth of the domestic offshore aquaculture industry.



“Aquaculture is the fastest growing food production sector, but the U.S. lacks a comprehensive, nationwide system for permitting in federal waters. This deficiency prevents the development of aquaculture farms, leading to more seafood imports. Our legislation would establish national standards for offshore aquaculture, enabling U.S. producers to create jobs and meet the growing demand for fresh, local seafood.”

Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation

“Hawaii leads the nation in modern and traditional aquaculture practices. With this bipartisan bill, we can expand aquaculture opportunities, opening suitable federal waters for responsible growers. It will create new jobs, spur economic growth in our coastal communities, and ensure our oceans are managed sustainably now and in the future.”

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

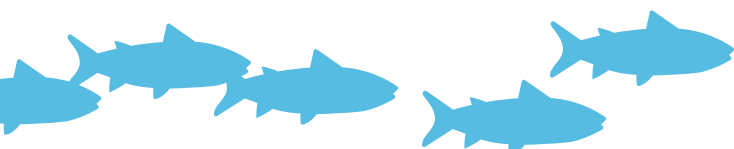
Chair, Senate Democrats’ Special Committee on the Climate Crisis

“Marine aquaculture presents an enormous opportunity for Florida’s economy and for the food security of our nation. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation, alongside Senators Wicker and Schatz, that would streamline the rules for this important industry and responsibly promote its success.”

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)

“The United States imports nearly 90 percent of our seafood, and of that, more than half is produced through foreign aquaculture. The AQUAA Act streamlines the federal permitting process to usher in a wave of American aquaculture and reduce our dependency on foreign seafood imports while we grow a sustainable market. Food security is national security and we must work to ensure America is prepared to meet the needs of tomorrow’s food demand.”

Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-MS)





“To create a sustainable food future, meet the growing demand for seafood and increase food production to supply a growing population we need to develop offshore marine farming and facilitate investment in U.S. aquaculture. This bill creates the opportunity to advance aquaculture in the U.S. by providing regulatory certainty for businesses while adopting national standards that safeguard the environment.”

Dr. Kelly Lucas

Director, Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center, School of Ocean Science and Engineering, University of Southern Mississippi

“Aquaculture off the U.S. coastline provides economic opportunity for soybean farmers, as well as coastal communities and workers, not to mention a safe and affordable supply of seafood. ASA applauds Chairman Peterson’s leadership in recognizing the untapped potential of a domestic aquaculture industry.”

Bill Gordon

Chairman and former President, American Soybean Association

“Responsible marine aquaculture can support a more resilient domestic food portfolio with less impact on the environment and greater assurances it is produced responsibly. The U.S. has the foundational tools for effective management of marine aquaculture to protect human and environmental health in domestic waters. What is missing is a mechanism to support a more cohesive and consistent approach to implementing these regulations among the diverse agencies involved in permitting farms in federal waters. This could be accomplished with a congressional mandate that establishes a lead federal agency to coordinate the NEPA process and provides resources and flexibility for appropriate agencies to collaborate more effectively on inter-agency efforts to permit marine aquaculture projects in federal waters.”

Kim Thompson

Director, Seafood for the Future, Aquarium of the Pacific
