

OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES: AN UPDATE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

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Currently, there is no clear mechanism for the permitting of marine aquaculture in U.S. federal waters, yet there is significant potential for aquaculture production in this area of the ocean, which extends from the outer boundary of U.S. coastal states to the 200-mile limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone. This regulatory uncertainty is widely acknowledged as the major barrier to the development of offshore aquaculture in the United States. To solve the problem, the federal government proposed legislation to establish a regulatory structure for offshore aquaculture in the United States. If enacted, the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007, which has been introduced in the U.S. Senate (S. 1609) and U.S. House (H.R. 2010), will facilitate the permitting of marine aquaculture operations in federal waters. The speaker will provide an update on the current status of proposed federal legislation and other regional policy initiatives which focus on aquaculture federal waters.