



English Aquaculture Strategy: Key Highlights

The English Aquaculture Strategy sets out an approach with a delivery plan for the sustainable development of English aquaculture over the next twenty years. It is bold and aspirational, seeing a ten-fold increase in production volume to around 90,000 tonnes by 2040, which can be achieved through a combination of expansion, innovation, integration and proportionate regulation.

The English Aquaculture Vision

By 2040 English aquaculture is a significant contributor to seafood consumption and the Blue Economy, providing sustainable, health food and rewarding employment opportunities

Why is an English Aquaculture Strategy necessary?

There are a number of factors that combine to inhibit growth and new investment into the sector such as:

- Competition for space and resources in a densely populated country
- An opaque and sometimes highly precautionary approach to aquaculture authorisations
- Limited domestic consumer demand in traditionally farmed species
- The vulnerability of marine shellfish farming to poor water quality

Aquaculture production has stagnated in England over the last decade and the industry now faces the uncertainties of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The EU-Exit will bring challenges as well as opportunities. Therefore this was an optimal moment to develop an English Aquaculture Strategy with a clear direction and a call for increased leadership and effective and sustained collaboration between the industry, government and regulators.

The English Aquaculture Strategy

Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd. was commissioned by the Seafood 2040 (SF2040) Seafood Industry Leadership Group to develop the EAS. The SF2040 programme is an England-only strategic and collaborative initiative with government and industry partners from across the entire seafood supply chain. It is facilitated by the Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) and supported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and industry. SF2040 is funded through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Objectives and Principles for English Aquaculture

Strategy Objectives	Strategy Principles
<p>A ten-fold growth and diversification of aquaculture in England over the next 20 years.</p> <p>English farmed production contributes at least 15% of overall seafood consumption in England by 2040</p> <p>Produce sustainable, safe and nutritious food.</p> <p>Provide up to 5,000 secure and rewarding jobs by 2040.</p> <p>An integral component of the English 'Blue Economy'.</p>	<p>Aquaculture production should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.</p> <p>Aquaculture development should be regulated in a proportionate and balanced way.</p> <p>Effective co-existence of aquaculture with other maritime activities, including wild capture fisheries, is key.</p> <p>A co-management, partnering approach is developed between regulators, the industry and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Innovation will be core to the development of new production systems, feeds and products.</p> <p>Encourage the development of low trophic species and the use of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture to contribute to England's net-carbon zero ambitions.</p>

Implementation of the Strategy

The EAS has a life-span of 20 years and will be implemented through a combination of national and regional actions in the delivery plan, capitalising both on the regional marine planning process and on provincial aquaculture strategy initiatives, such as in Dorset. Its success is dependent on collaboration across industry, government and regulator stakeholders.

A watershed moment in English Aquaculture

We are at a watershed for English seafood production with the opportunity for aquaculture to make a significant future contribution. Wild fisheries – which are mostly at or near maximum sustainable yield – have limited potential for expansion, but aquaculture is less constrained. Aquaculture can develop a greater role within the wider Blue Economy, working with capture fisheries and other maritime users such as offshore energy production. Growth is likely to be supported by the increasing scale and economic viability of land-based aquaculture, especially through the use of technological approaches such as in-pond raceways and recirculated aquaculture systems. The rewards could be substantial, with English aquaculture providing a critical contribution to food security and bringing jobs to coastal communities.

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For further information and to download the Strategy Summary and/or the full report, please go to [SF2040 English Aquaculture Strategy](#) on the Seafood website.

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