

Recommendations listing AAC or NJDA as Acting Agency

1. Form marketing committee in the AAC to develop immediate and long-term marketing options for the industry.
2. Regulatory amendment to include farmed fish and shellfish promotion under the Jersey Fresh program.
3. Support efforts that move farmed seafood under the specialty crop program or create a separate funding source within the USDA for this commodity group.
4. State legislature to appropriate and allocate funds to promote New Jersey farmed seafood over the next five years.
5. Aquaculture industry within NJ examine possible long-term funding solutions for marketing and promotion.
6. Develop guidance on shellfish aquaculture agritourism practices that complies with applicable regulations. Leadership Recommendations
7. Continue to strengthen current efforts (e.g., SAWG) to recognize the NJDA Office of Aquaculture Coordination as the lead for industry development and coordination of regulatory interactions.
8. Review composition of AAC given changes to member agencies and industry since first created via NJ Aquaculture Development Act. Process of evaluating representation should consider potential increase in industry seats on the Council. Changes require statutory amendments.
9. Develop an appropriate method to have shellfish aquaculture interests represented and considered by the Tidelands Resource Council.
10. Consolidate state-level applications within a single common application using the Aquatic Farmer License application as a template.
11. Develop guidance on building hatchery & nursery facilities within specific planning areas of CAFRA, and size and location conditions that may apply (e.g., impervious surface percentages). Include path to streamline permitting of land-based hatchery & nursery facilities within a General Permit during future rule amendments. Lease Recommendation
12. Request a Shellfisheries Councilmember or NJDEP, Bureau of Shellfisheries staff member provide a periodic update on leasing and lease utilization to the AAC. Further discussions on the topic may result in additional ideas for lease use promotion as well as identification of potential conflicts (e.g., shellfish lease where finfish could be grown).
13. Develop specific production value thresholds for shellfish farm operations under 5 acres.
14. Determine how to incorporate the spatially distinct components of shellfish aquaculture— hatchery & nursery systems, leases, dealer facilities— into a right to farm program.
15. Reevaluate the current aquaculture AMP document to determine what changes may be required to better suit the current industry.
16. Recommendation: Develop a differential tax program for aquaculture which mirrors programs provided for terrestrial agriculture (e.g., develop a “Coastal Conservation Program”).
17. Recommendation: Develop a comprehensive spatial plan for shellfish aquaculture in New Jersey, based on current aquaculture suitability research as well as decades of work by the Shellfisheries Council/NJDEP.
18. The New Jersey Aquaculture Advisory Council should be considered a priority stakeholder for any discussions of aquaculture within the region’s federal waters (e.g., waters off New Jersey and neighboring states). The AAC will keep up to date on national policy development for federal waters.