



Texas Aquaculture Association

40th Annual Conference & Trade Show

www.texasaquaculture.org

Bay City Civic Center

P. O. Box 768, 201 Seventh Street

Bay City, Texas 77404-0768

Voice 800-806-8333, Fax 979-245-1622

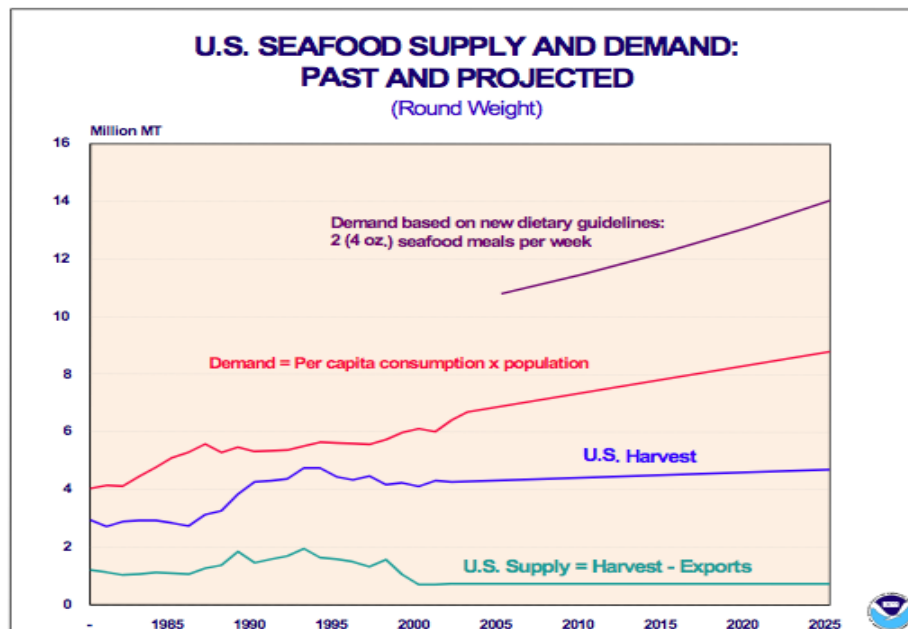
Web site: <http://www.visitbaycity.org/>

January 27-29, 2010

The Texas aquaculture industry has great potential in assisting the United States (US) offset part of its large fish and shellfish trade deficit. New information on the health benefits of fish, the growing demand for frozen and easy to prepare meals, and changes in lifestyles are trends impacting seafood consumption. The US needs the aquaculture industry. According to USDA:

- US fish and shellfish trade deficit was over \$9 billion 2008
- 2009 seafood trade deficit expected to be higher
- Seafood ranks about 22nd in all US trade deficits
- US has shown a growing demand for farmed fish since 1970:
 - Wild-catch decreased by 2.1 lbs. per capita consumption
 - Farmed fish increased by 7.0 lbs per capita consumption
- Total annual value of U.S. Aquaculture is now over \$1 billion
- US aquaculture industry supports at least \$167 million annual payroll

All sources indicate that aquaculture continues to be the fastest growing sector of US agriculture.



How does Texas fit in the big picture? The Texas aquaculture industry:

- Is made up to at least 250 operations
- Produces an estimated 40 million pounds of products annually
- Worth an estimated \$57 million
- Total impact of over \$171 million annually to the state's economy

Looking to the future, Texas Parks and Wildlife has finalized rules and regulations for offshore aquaculture in state waters and the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council finalized their fisheries management plan that will permit commercial offshore aquaculture of native species in the Gulf EEZ, and has forwarded their recommendation to the US Dept. of Commerce for the plan's implementation. The potential for offshore aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico offers the US a way to help offset part of its huge seafood trade deficit and produce more of its own fish. No organization or government group expects commercial offshore aquaculture to supply all the US seafood demand, but it could supply some of that demand and help keep more US money at home and provide high paying jobs to Gulf Coast residents. The Texas aquaculture industry has great potential in the future helping the US offset part of its seafood trade deficit with catfish, red drum and hybrid striped bass production and with the potential of offshore aquaculture production of a variety of marine finfish and shellfish.

Want to learn more and be a part of this annual event? You can choose to participate in one of three ways: Attendee, Exhibitor and/or Sponsor. This is your invitation to become a part of this great tradition; the 40th Annual Texas Aquaculture Association Conference, Trade Show at the Bay City Civic Center, 201 7th Street, Bay City, Texas; January 27-30, 2010. Attendees will find informative speakers on many facets of aquaculture; Trade Show with a variety of vendors; breakfast each morning; Walkin-Talkin lunches on Thursday and Friday; breaks; and our *TAA Aquaculture Banquet* on Thursday evening. Exhibitors will have all the benefits of an Attendee plus the Social on Thursday evening is in honor of all Exhibitors and Sponsors. Your Exhibitor Fee includes two entrants!

On Thursday, January 28, 2010 we are bringing back an old tradition with our organization: *TAA Aquaculture Banquet*. This event is a casual affair with an abundance of great food. Of course we will have all the "fixin's" and your favorite beverage. This *TAA Aquaculture Banquet* is something you won't want to miss! In fact, invite your family and your co-workers/employees!!

See the following for ways you can participate in our **40th Annual Conference & Trade Show**. Don't miss this opportunity to network with producers, suppliers, researchers and regulators. Check the registration form for events and prices. Come partake in the fun and food for which Texas Aquaculture Association is famous.

See you there!

Brian Brawner
Conference Chairman
Texas Aquaculture Association
P.O. Box 752
Kemah, TX 77565
(979) 695-2040