

# AQUACULTURE

## INTRODUCTION

Aquaculture is the culture or farming of food fish, shellfish, or other aquatic plants and animals. This activity is of statewide and national interest. Properly managed, it can result in long-term over short-term benefit and can provide economic justification for protection of the resources and ecology of the shoreline. Aquaculture is dependent on the use of the water area and, when consistent with control of pollution and prevention of damage to the environment, is a preferred use of the water area. Potential locations for aquacultural enterprises are relatively restricted due to specific requirements for water quality, temperature, flows, oxygen content, wind protection and, in marine water, salinity. The utility and productivity of these sites is threatened by activities and developments which reduce water quality such as waste discharge, nonpoint runoff, and in some circumstances, disruption of bottom sediments. The technology associated with present-day aquaculture is still in its formative stages and experimental. Policies and regulations for aquaculture, therefore, recognize the necessity for some latitude in the development of this emerging economic water use as well as its potential impact on existing uses and natural systems.

## POLICIES

1. Locate aquaculture enterprises so that the navigational access of upland owners, recreational boaters and commercial waterborne traffic is maintained.
2. Consider and mitigate insofar as practical the possible detrimental impact aquacultural development might have on view from upland property of the general aesthetic quality of the shoreline area.
3. Encourage development of aquaculture structures which do not significantly interfere with navigation or seriously degrade the aesthetic quality of county shorelines.
4. Discourage aquaculture or fisheries enhancement requiring extensive structures or shoreline alterations in areas sensitive to development or which are scarce and valuable in the region such as marshes, estuaries and accretion shorelines unless it can be demonstrated that no adverse impacts will result.
5. Protect areas suitable for aquaculture from incompatible and preemptive development by other uses having less critical site requirements.
6. Update maps indicating potentially productive aquaculture areas as information becomes available.
7. Identify and resolve resource use conflicts and resource management issues in regard to use of identified sites.
8. Define aquaculture zones as a one-mile radius around identified aquaculture areas. Evaluate proposed developments and activities within the zone for impact on identified productive or potentially productive aquaculture areas. Identify impacts and mitigate impacts through permit conditions and performance standards. Consider alternate locations and designs for such proposals if potential adverse impacts are significant.

9. Require physical or visual public access to shorelines when physical and operational characteristics allow.
10. Encourage joint development of aquacultural projects.
11. Give preference to proposals which produce aquacultural resources over those which merely harvest resources.
12. Ecological balance should be considered when introducing non-native fish or shellfish, plant or animal life.

## **REGULATIONS**

### ***General***

1. The processing of aquacultural crops, other than on a tending boat or barge, shall be governed by the use regulations for ports and water related industries in this program.
2. Areas with either an existing or high potential for aquacultural activities shall be protected from degradation by other types of uses which may locate on the adjacent upland or within a one mile radius. Demonstration that such use could result in irreparable damage to, or destruction of, the identified aquacultural area shall be grounds for the denial of such use.
3. Aquacultural enterprises shall not be located so as to impede or restrict commercial traffic within delineated shipping channels.
4. Publicly owned aquacultural enterprises shall be open to the public to the maximum extent feasible.
5. Aquacultural enterprises shall be required to mark site boundaries of their aquaculture activities so that public use of the water can occur without interference with the operation.
6. Aquacultural enterprises shall be required to control nuisance factors such as noise, odor, degradation of water quality and degradation of beach quality.
7. Structures, equipment and material other than boats shall not be stored or abandoned in the shoreline environment.

### **Natural Environment**

1. Aquaculture, not involving the construction of facilities, is permitted in the natural environment upon the issuance of a conditional use permit PROVIDED that the natural ecosystems of the environment shall not be significantly altered.
2. Floating aquacultural structures are not permitted.

### **Conservancy Environment**

1. Aquaculture is permitted in the conservancy environment subject to the general regulations and PROVIDED that the natural ecosystems of the environment shall not be significantly altered.
2. Floating aquacultural structures or other structures extending above the water surface shall not unduly detract from the aesthetic qualities of the surrounding environment.

### **Rural Environment**

1. Aquaculture is permitted in the rural environment subject to the general regulations.

### **Suburban Environment**

1. Aquaculture except home aquaculture, is permitted in the suburban environment only upon the issuance of a conditional use permit. Home aquaculture (production of food and/or materials for the consumption of occupant only) is permitted in the suburban environment.

### **Urban Environment**

1. Aquaculture is permitted in the Urban Environment only upon the issuance of a conditional use permit. (Ord. 82-011 adopted 3-3-82)