

# THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE

**The Role of Aquaculture  
in Meeting Global Seafood Demand**  
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# Aquaculture is a *tool* which can be used for:

- Commercial production
- Enhancement of wild fisheries stocks
- Recovering endangered species



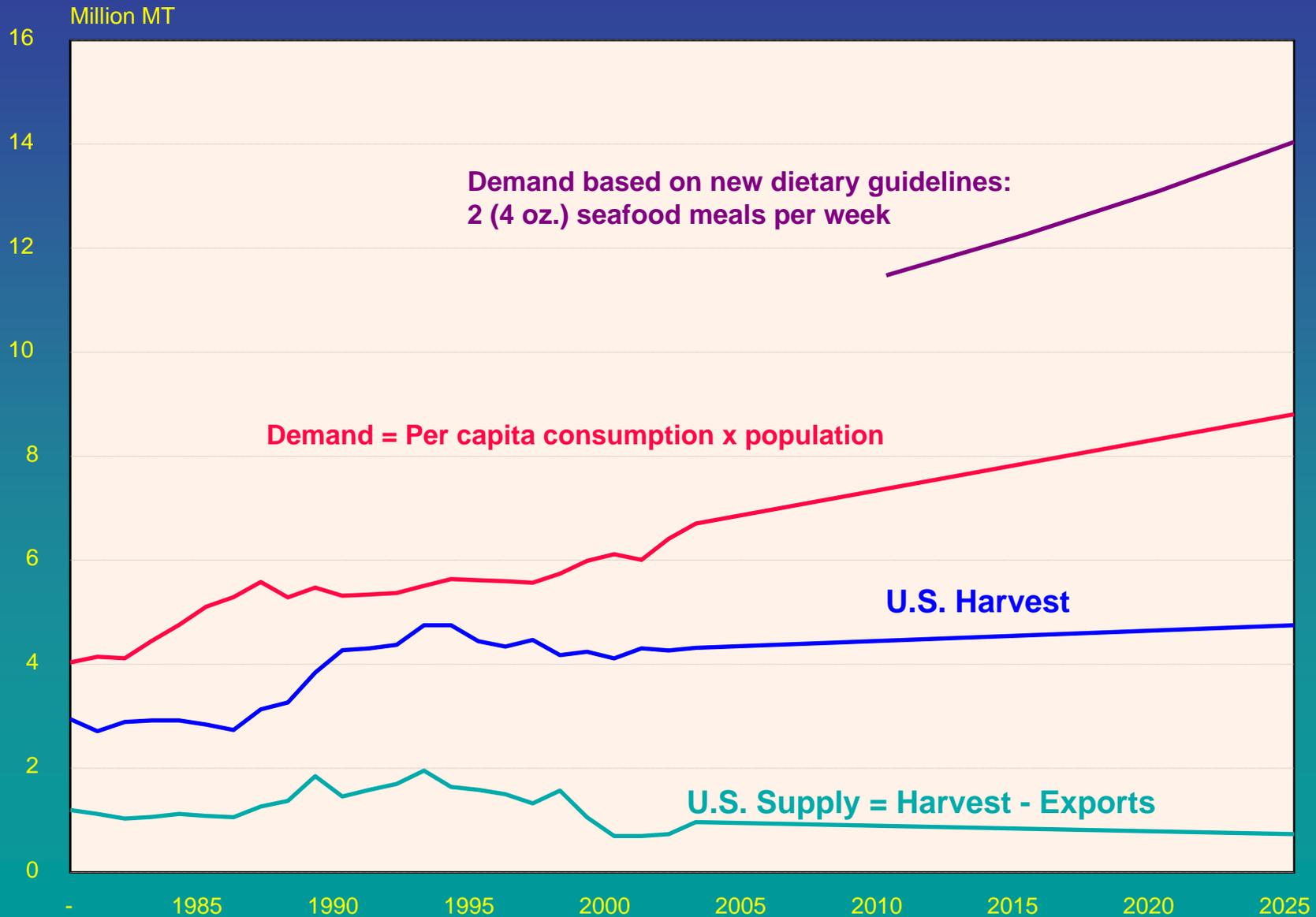
# Current Situation

- Wild capture fisheries are static and unlikely to expand significantly
- Seafood demand increasing
- U.S. demand met through \$11B in seafood imports (\$7.8B deficit); 40% or more is farmed
- Safety of some imports uncertain
- Coastal communities economically depressed



# U.S. SEAFOOD SUPPLY AND DEMAND: PAST AND PROJECTED

(Round Weight)



# Status of U.S. Aquaculture Production

- Primarily catfish and shellfish
- Represented 1.3% of global production by volume and value in 2003 (< 550,000 mt)
- Occurs in state waters and on land
- Regulatory infrastructure differs from state to state
- Meeting increased competition for space in the coastal zone
- Very difficult to move into EEZ without regulatory infrastructure

# DOC Aquaculture Policy Goals for 2025

- Policy adopted in 1999
- Develop technologies and methods to improve production and safeguard the environment
- Increase value of domestic production fivefold to \$5 billion
- Increase export of goods and services fivefold to \$2.5 billion
- Increase jobs in the industry from 200,000 to 600,000
- Enhance depleted wild fish stocks



# The National Offshore Aquaculture Act

## *Gives DOC authority to issue offshore aquaculture permits*

- Site permits; 10 year renewable duration
- Operating permits (species specific)
- Products not subject to “fishing definitions” that restrict size, season, harvest method, and possession limits
- Streamlined permitting process; other permits (e.g., EPA discharge) still required
- Ensures that operators don’t interfere with wild stock conservation and management

## *Provides environmental and other safeguards*

- Environmental requirements
- Monitoring, evaluation, enforcement
- Authority to suspend, modify, revoke permits
- Bonds or other financial guarantees
- Consultations with Federal agencies, FMCs, states, tribes
- Requirement for consistency with state plans

## *Supports development of offshore aquaculture*

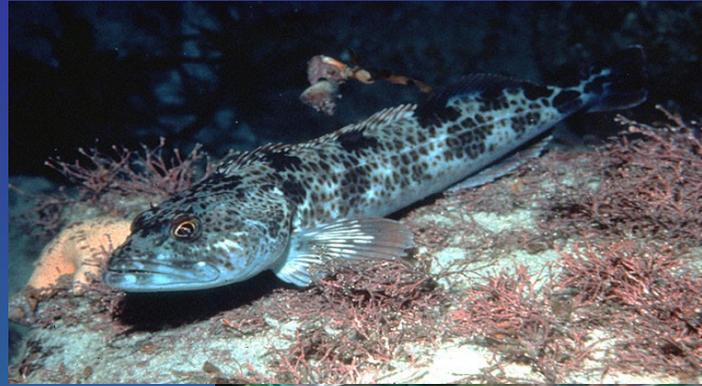
- R&D industry partnerships
- Demonstration projects encouraged
- Biological, social, production and economic data collection

## *Authorizes fees to be collected*

## Next Steps

- Congress to act on legislation introduced by Senators Stevens and Inouye
- Rulemaking through public process with hearings, stakeholder involvement
- Implementation

*Thank you!*



***Aquaculture:*** *“The propagation and rearing of aquatic organisms in controlled or selected environments for any commercial, recreational or public purpose.”*

- National Aquaculture Act, 1980