

# GOVERNING OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE: Issues and Policies

by

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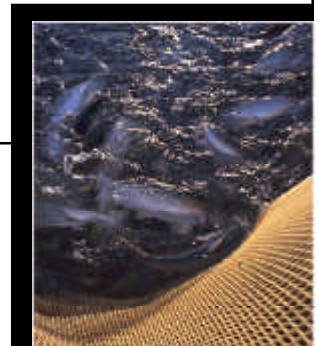


*Governing Offshore Aquaculture: Issues and Policies* is the first comprehensive assessment of federal policy with respect to the development of aquaculture as a new ocean industry in federally controlled waters off the U.S. coast. The report, researched and written by an interdisciplinary, multi-institutional team, considers a range of policy options to address the gaps and deficiencies of current federal policy with respect to the siting and operation of aquaculture facilities in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Developed in consultation with an advisory committee representing the full range of stakeholder interests, the report draws on the experience with marine aquaculture policy in U.S. coastal states and eight other nations and considers international guidelines for the development of environmentally sound and economically sustainable aquaculture.

## THE REPORT:

- ⊕ Describes the current status of marine aquaculture in the United States, the rationale for siting projects further offshore, the major questions and policy issues in the governance of offshore aquaculture, and the experience of the major offshore projects that have sought U.S. approval to date
- ⊕ Presents an overview of the complex framework employed by federal agencies in governing offshore aquaculture under current U.S. law and identifies major gaps and deficiencies in current policy
- ⊕ Identifies alternative approaches based on a review of marine aquaculture policy in U.S. coastal states and eight other nations (Norway, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Chile, Australia, New Zealand and Japan)
- ⊕ Proposes a set of policy options that address the full life-cycle of offshore projects: from planning through the issuance of permits/leases, operation and monitoring of facilities, and eventual abandonment at the end of an offshore aquaculture project.
- ⊕ Advocates the development of an overall policy for planning and governing all activities in the U.S. EEZ, including aquaculture.

**About the authors:** The authors of this report include ocean policy specialists (Cicin-Sain, Knecht and Bunsick), an industry representative (Rheault), a legal consultant (Eichenberg), aquaculture scientists (Halvorson and DeVoe), and a Sea Grant aquaculture specialist (Ewart).



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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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