

# Business Incubation in Maine for Marine Finfish Aquaculture: 20 years of Improvement and Lessons Learned

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# **CCAR History**

- Penobscot Salmon, 1989
  - 24 acre site
- Maine Economic Improvement Fund, 1997
  - Targeted seven economic sectors in Maine
- Research → Industry









#### The CCAR Site





#### **CCAR's Mission**

#### To grow the aquaculture sector in Maine through...

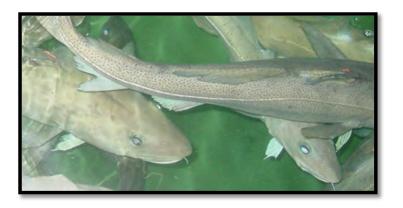
- Innovation Develop and improve farming technologies for aquatic species
- **Demonstration** Pilot trials and demonstration projects
- Facilitation Facilities for industry and researchers to carry out projects and trials
- Collaboration Work with others towards sustainable aquaculture and fisheries
- Education Train staff and students and educate the public about aquaculture



## Species at CCAR

#### **Past**

- Atlantic cod, 2003-2018
  - Demonstration, cataracts, and breeding
- Black sea bass, 2012-2017
  - Growth, feeding, and marketing trials (AHI)



#### **Present**

- Atlantic halibut, 2000
- Yellowtail kingfish, 2012
- Lumpfish, 2018
- American eels, 2018
- Marine polychaete worms
  - Bait, IMTA, bioremediation, alternative feed
- Green sea urchins
- Marine ornamentals
- Macro and micro algae



# **Funding**

- Maine Economic Improvement Fund
  - Supports CCAR to this day through annual state appropriations to UMS
- Sponsored research projects
  - Maine Sea Grant, National Sea Grant, NRAC, SBIR, and NSF
- Infrastructure funding
  - Economic Development Administration
    - EDA Taunton Bay Marine Hatchery
  - Maine Technology Asset Fund (bond-funded)
    - MATL
      - 2.6M, 2008
    - MABI







# Cost Recovery

- Fees paid to CCAR for incubation space
- Hatchery services
  - Egg and juvenile sales
- Training courses









#### **Business Incubation**

- Current Industry Partners
  - Sea and Reef Aquaculture, 2012
  - American Unagi, 2018
  - Kingfish Maine, 2020
  - Springtide Seaweed, 2017
- Past Industry Partners
  - Maine Halibut, 2003-2010
  - Acadia Harvest, 2012-2017
  - Great Bay Aquaculture, 2005-2010









## Workforce Development

- Introduction to Aquaculture
- Marine Hatchery Technician Training
- Internships
- Summer Programs
- SMS 449: Aquaculture Systems
  - Pilot 12 credit certificate
    - RAS
    - Shellfish and Finfish Husbandry
    - Aquatic Animal Health
    - Shellfish Farming
    - Industry Internship













# Why Maine?

Maine has a strong aquaculture business development and incubation infrastructure

















## Why do some fail to commercialize?

#### **Causes of Commercialization Failure**

- Lack of capital
  - Greater economic environment (lack of private investment)
- Public funding in Maine
  - Double-edged sword



#### **Conditions for Success**

- Startup capital
  - For CCAR operations and off site expansion
- Public funding in Maine
- Detailed business plan
- Solid understanding of aquaculture and business



## Thank you!

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