

## The Fisheries Agency's Policy Directions for Aquaculture

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**Abstract:** Aquaculture is an important industry in Japan, and production levels occupy approximately 20% in terms of yield, and 30% in terms of market value, of the country's total fisheries production. However, the economic aspects of aquaculture have been precarious due to the low price of certain products and increasing costs of production. In addition, the guarantee of food safety, minimization of environmental impact, and management of natural stock populations are highly necessitated in order to achieve the sustainability of the industry.

In order to address these problems, the Fisheries Agency held a series of committee meetings during 2013 in order to develop ideal projections for the aquaculture industry. Thereafter, policy directions for aquaculture were put forth as follows:

- 1) Measures to improve unstable business practices of aquaculture should be implemented; this includes the expansion of mutual-aid systems, conversion of feed resources to alternative usages of protein, maintenance of carrying capacity, improvement of systems to compensate for increases in feed costs, and the promotion of planned production including the enhanced exportation of products.
- 2) Measures to improve production techniques should be implemented; this includes achieving improved food safety based on production systems that have high traceability, risk management and the usage of vaccines, conservation of the environment in and around aquaculture grounds, a shift from the use of wild fish seedlings and natural feed resources to the use of artificially-produced seedlings and feeds, the development of enclosed recirculating aquaculture systems, and R&D for advanced aquaculture technologies that will reduce costs and enhance productivity such as offshore aquaculture systems, enhanced breeding methodologies, and raft aquaculture systems for new bivalve species.