

# Wild and farmed fisheries - Debate



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# Presentation outline

- Personal perspective
- Drivers that are pushing us towards expansion
- Obstacles to expansion
- Conclusion

# A personal perspective

- Shellfish tastes great
- It's versatile
- It's good for you!
- But there needs to be more than my personal taste....

# Why now?



Seven reasons:

1. It has economic benefits
2. There are obvious health benefits
3. UK and world population is expanding
4. It can contribute to the UK's food security
5. It can complement wild capture fisheries
6. Some consumers are becoming increasingly interested in the sustainability of the food they eat
7. There is political interest in the sector

# Driver: Economic benefits and prospects for expansion



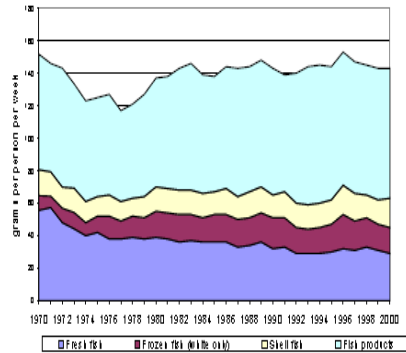
**Iceland explores mussel farming potential**

SHELLFISH farmers in Iceland have announced that they are considering farming blue mussels for export. According to reports in the Icelandic media, the plan was announced by members of Iceland's Association of Shellfish Cultivators.

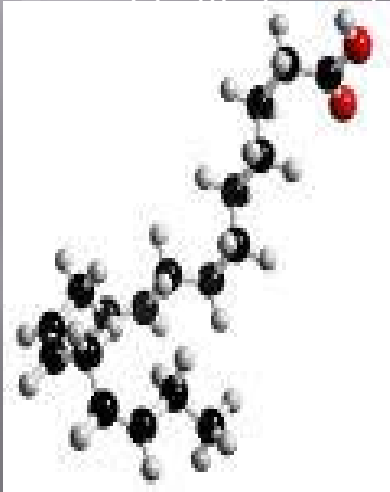
- Its a marketable product with growth potential
- In principle, all existing shellfish production techniques could be considered suitable for further expansion in England
- There may also be potential for expansion of on-bottom shellfish cultivation in some areas
- In 2008 just over 38.6 thousand tonnes of shellfish, worth an estimated £33 million at first point of sale, was produced in the UK
- This is an increase of about 40% over the level of production in 2007. This increase is mainly attributable to a much greater level of activity in Northern Ireland together with a small increase in production in Scotland. Activity in England and Wales is similar to that in 2007
- Natural recruitment
- If we don't do it others will

# Driver: Health benefits

Household Consumption of Fish (grammes per person per week)



- In England alone, nearly a quarter of men and women and about 10% of children are now obese, with a further 20-25% of children overweight.
- Majority of UK population does not consume enough fish and shellfish



Omega-3 fatty acids are low in fat and are a good source of selenium, iodine, and copper and some types such as mussels and oysters are good sources of omega 3 fatty acids.

A diet low in omega 3 in the diet can lead to dietary diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, arthritis, skin disorders, and mental health issues like hypertension, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and depression.

# Driver: Food security

- Food security could be defined as:

*“Ensuring the availability of, and access to, affordable, safe and nutritious food sufficient for an active lifestyle, for all, at all times.”*

- Need to look at sustainability and security together. We have a vested interest in the sustainability of our food
- As a modern trading economy, the UK enjoys a high degree of food security
- Supported by *UK food security assessment* (August 2009)
- However, one sector identified as "very unfavourable" and showing no sign of improving is global fish stocks.

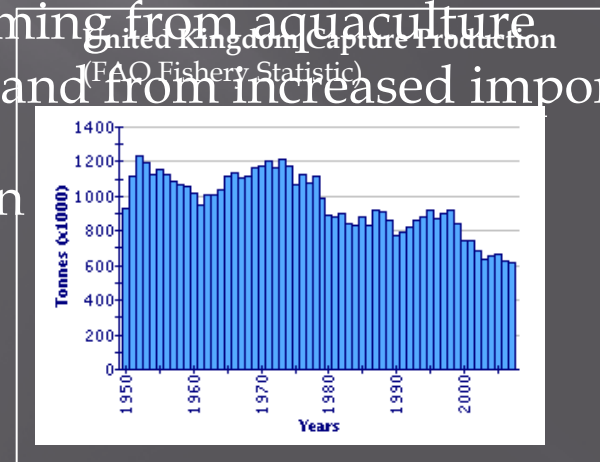


# Driver: Complementing capture fisheries

- According to the FAO in 2006 total world fisheries production was 92 million tonnes capture fisheries, 51.7 million tonnes aquaculture. Of that, 110.4 million tonnes was used for human consumption, with the remainder going to non-food uses (livestock feed, fishmeal for aquaculture)
- FAO has classified most wild fisheries as either fully exploited or over exploited

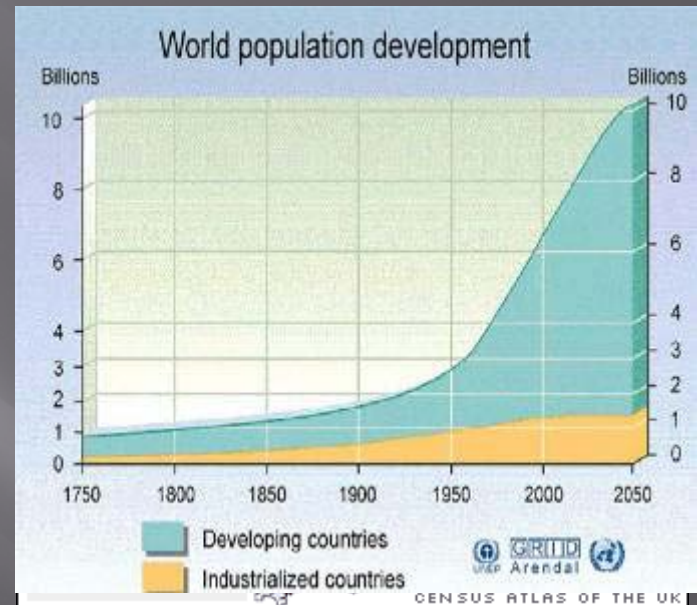
- EU27 capture fisheries have declined over recent years, with the balance of supplies coming from aquaculture production and from increased imports

- UK situation world



# Driver: Population growth

- World population expected to grow to 8,909 million by 2050.
- Current food production will need to increase by over two-thirds
- UK population is forecast to grow to almost 71 million by 2035



# Driver: Consumer interest

- Consumers have experienced a long-term increase in the real prices of fresh and frozen fish and this trend is likely to continue
- Health benefits of fish consumption remains clear, with FSA advising to eat two portions of fish a week. Need to balance this with sustainable growth
- Consumer interest in sustainability peaked (e.g. *“The end of the line”*).

Essential that consumers are well informed about the role aquaculture plays both in providing a continuing source of fish and shellfish and in the interaction it has with the local and wider environment.

- Retailers important.



# Driver: Political interest

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Draft Structural Reform Plan

16<sup>th</sup> July 2010

- Defra's Structural Reform Plan: *Support and develop British farming and encourage sustainable food production*
- April 2009 the European Commission published *Building a sustainable future for aquaculture*

□ UK food security assessment published in August 2009



□ European Commission report 'Securing food supplies up

to the challenge of climate change and other challenges faced by the UK'

□ European Energy Framework Directive

□ European Regional Development Fund. €6.4 million potential

funding for micro and SMEs available in England

# Obstacles

- ▣ Perceptions of aquaculture
- ▣ Lack of clear strategy
- ▣ Lack of streamlined planning and environmental regulations.
- ▣ Spatial and environmental limiters (suitable space for farming, with the right planning system)
- ▣ Water quality
- ▣ Investment and profitability
- ▣ Innovation. R&D is needed to solve issues

# Conclusion

- ▣ Can we afford not to expand (food security, health, economics, population growth)?
- ▣ No denying that encouraging the expansion of sustainable aquaculture will have its difficulties, but in the words of Dale Carnegie:

*“Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.”*

*I commend this motion to the  
House*