Meeting growing seafood demands through sustainable aquaculture growth

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on behalf of a large author team

IFFO Members Meeting

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The human population and demand for food is growing



Nourishing the planet will require innovation in food systems

Freshwater

Marine



Wild Cultured

Limited opportunity for land-based growth



Foley et al. (2004) Science

Large opportunities for growth in sustainable mariculture



FAO (2020) SOFIA

What is the future of sustainable mariculture?

Seafood price (USD / mt) Best case with current technology

Mariculture supply (mt of seafood)



Mariculture supply (mt of seafood)



Mariculture supply (mt of seafood)

Efficiency Best case with current technology innovations

Seafood price (USD / mt)

> Mariculture supply (mt of seafood)

Pathways to expand mariculture

- 1. Ensure sustainable practices through improved governance
- 2. Ease regulatory barriers and streamline permitting
- 3. Technological innovations in production efficiency
 - Lower costs
 - Better yields
 - More raw material for feed
 - Better feed efficiency

The ocean could produce 36% more food in 2050 than today, with the greatest growth in mariculture



Tradeoff #1: Direct vs. indirect consumption of fish

Direct human consumption

Indirect human consumption



Tradeoff #2: Direct vs. indirect consumption of plants

Direct human consumption



Indirect human consumption



Froehlich et al. (2020) PNAS

Tradeoff #3: More plant-based ingredients could means more pressure on land

(but if diets change towards aquaculture, less land is needed)



% change in land spared by diet shift towards fish

Froehlich et al. (2020) PNAS

Tradeoff #4: Environmental impacts



Hilborn et al. (2020) Frontiers in E&E

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