Aquaculture is...

Fresh, nutritious and healthy. It is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, shellfish and aquatic plants - it’s essentially agriculture, but in the water.
Population growth, rising per capita incomes and urbanization are expected to fuel a growing demand for fish.

Over the past 30 years global output from aquaculture grew at a rate of 9.1 percent while output from capture fisheries grew an annual average rate of 1.2 percent.

Source: Fish to 2030 (2013)
It’s Good for the Economy

Our seafood is in high demand around the world. Our biggest customers are the USA, followed by China, Japan and 25 more countries.

Jobs

Aquaculture employs 15,000 full time workers mostly in rural and coastal communities.
The Canadian aquaculture industry operates in an unprecedented environmental and food safety climate helping to ensure the aquaculture industry is environmentally sustainable.
It’s Good for Our Environment

» Fish stocks are facing intense pressure worldwide. Seafood farming reduces pressure on wild fish stocks, helping to sustain and enhance the wild fishery.

» Fish farming is the most efficient use of resources to produce a healthy meat protein. Canadian finfish farmers use less than 1.2 kg of feed to produce 1 kg of fish.

» The production of shellfish such as mussels or oysters has a very low carbon footprint because these animals take up carbon in the formation of their shells.
Farmed and wild fish offer the same health benefits, so you can feel good about choosing either. Farmed seafood has the additional benefit of being available fresh, year-round.

Farmed fish and shellfish are both natural sources of essential nutrients, including omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins and minerals.

The Canada Food Guide recommends eating at least two servings of fish per week.
We farm more than a dozen types of fish and shellfish. Key species: Atlantic and Pacific Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Rainbow & Brook Trout, Arctic Char, Sablefish, Atlantic Cod, Mussels, Oysters, Clams, Scallops, and Tilapia.

Aquaculture generates $3.1 billion of economic activity in Canada.

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Aquaculture occurs in every Canadian province, including the Yukon.

Canada sustainably farms approximately 187,000 tonnes of seafood a year.
Seafood farmers in Canada are committed to working in partnership with the federal government, First Nations, stakeholder and provincial governments across Canada to secure a new regulatory regime that is science-based, transparent and accountable.

A proposed new federal Canadian Aquaculture Act would continue to foster a responsible, sustainable and transparent industry that can compete globally.
Aquaculture is the fastest-growing food production sector in the world and already provides over half of all the fish we eat.
Eight in ten Canadians support regulated expansion of our national aquaculture industry.
The Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA) is the national association that speaks for Canada’s seafood farmers, representing their interests in Ottawa to regulators, policy makers and political leaders. With a membership that reaches coast to coast to coast, comprised of finfish, shellfish and aquatic plant farmers, feed companies and suppliers, as well as provincial aquaculture associations, CAIA is a passionate advocate for the quality and sustainability of farmed seafood.