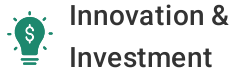




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New South Wales government invests in growing aquaculture

30 June 2026

By Responsible Seafood Advocate

Funding to support 31 projects, ranging from oyster farming to help production to clean energy, to expand New South Wales' aquaculture industry

The New South Wales (NSW) government will invest \$27 million (U.S. \$18.5 million) in 31 aquaculture projects, part of a \$41 million (U.S. \$28 million) funding package aimed at expanding production, creating jobs and supporting innovation across the state's seafood industry.

The funding will support a range of projects, including modern oyster cultivation systems, expanded kelp farming and seafood production powered by clean energy. The New South Wales government increased its original funding allocation by \$7 million (U.S. \$4.8 million) after receiving a strong response from businesses proposing projects focused on modernization, innovation and productivity.

"This \$41 million investment demonstrates the Minns Government's commitment to building a modern, sustainable aquaculture sector and positioning NSW as the leader in quality seafood production and marine bioproducts," said Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional NSW Tara Moriarty. "This



The New South Wales government will invest U.S. \$18.5 million in 31 aquaculture projects, part of a U.S. \$28 million funding package to grow the state's aquaculture industry. Photo credit: The Blue Economy CRC.

funding program is new to the industry and delivers on our plan to grow this unique sector so we can boost jobs and innovation along our coast and inland waterways now and into the future.”

According to the government, New South Wales' aquaculture sector contributes nearly \$250 million (U.S. \$171 million) to the state economy each year and supports about 2,200 jobs. The government said the investment will increase production, encourage more sustainable farming practices and strengthen the industry's long-term growth.



(<https://bspcertification.org/>).

“Our seafood products are amongst the best in the world, and we need to increase production, enhance supply chain efficiency and sustainability, so that our local businesses can take advantage of market demand for quality and low-carbon footprint seafood,” said Moriarty.

Research project finds ‘high degree’ of support for developing restorative aquaculture along New South Wales coast



Restorative aquaculture could significantly drive economic growth in the NSW South Coast but implementation challenges remain.



Global Seafood Alliance

The 31 funded projects span a broad range of aquaculture sectors, from shellfish and seaweed to finfish and seafood processing. They include expanding Sydney rock oyster nurseries, increasing kelp processing capacity, modernizing oyster farms, developing renewable energy systems for aquaculture operations and building new fish processing facilities.

“This investment will help Armstrong Oysters increase production and support the industry’s goal of doubling output by 2030,” said Brandon Armstrong, co-owner of Armstrong Oysters. “This project will improve supply and help build a stronger, more resilient NSW oyster industry.”

Other projects will focus on recovering seafood industry by-products for use in bait, pet food and aquaculture feed. At the same time, one Indigenous-led initiative will expand sea urchin processing and develop new food and agricultural products from harvested urchins.

“This investment helps OceanWatch do what we do best – bring industry, science, government and communities together to solve practical environmental challenges,” said OceanWatch CEO Lowri Pryce. “It will allow us to work directly with NSW oyster growers, fishers, co-operatives and seafood businesses to turn end-of-life plastics, shells, fish frames and seafood by-products into new circular economy products – reducing waste while creating value for regional communities.”

The funding builds on the New South Wales Aquaculture Vision Statement, launched in 2024 to double the industry’s economic output by 2030.

[Read more here \(https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/investment-aquaculture-boosts-jobs\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/investment-aquaculture-boosts-jobs).

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