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# Report: Sustainable aquaculture could create more than 20 million jobs by 2050, but investment gaps remain

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By Responsible Seafood Advocate

## Sustainable aquaculture could create 22 million jobs, but scaling it requires major investment, policy reform and public-private collaboration

A new report by the World Bank and WWF has projected that sustainable aquaculture could generate up to 22 million jobs and \$1.5 trillion in investment by 2050, positioning the sector as a cornerstone of future food systems and blue economy growth.

The report, *[Harnessing the Waters: A Trillion Dollar Investment Opportunity in Sustainable Aquaculture](https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/publication/harnessing-the-waters-sustainable-aquaculture)* (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/publication/harnessing-the-waters-sustainable-aquaculture>), outlines two scenarios for the industry's growth: A "business-as-usual" path, requiring \$500 billion in investment, could increase production to 159 million metric tons (MT) and create up to 14 million jobs. A more ambitious approach, backed by \$1.5 trillion, could raise output to 255 million MT and support as many as 22 million jobs by mid-century.

"To realize aquaculture's full potential, we must shift toward practices that are not only productive, but



Sustainable aquaculture could create 22 million jobs, but scaling it requires major investment, policy reform and public-private collaboration. Photo by [Raul Ling](https://www.pexels.com/photo/scenic-view-of-faroe-islands-fish-farms-30737277/) (<https://www.pexels.com/photo/scenic-view-of-faroe-islands-fish-farms-30737277/>).

also environmentally responsible, socially inclusive and economically viable,” said Genevieve Connors, acting Global Director, Department of Environment at the World Bank. “This is a call to action – to deepen collaboration, to invest boldly in new aquaculture technologies, and to foster stronger alignment between public and private sectors.”

With global demand for seafood continuing to rise and wild fisheries facing increasing pressure, aquaculture has emerged as a critical component of global food security, economic development and environmental sustainability. Today, the sector accounts for nearly 60 percent of the world’s seafood supply. Compared to other forms of animal protein production, aquaculture also has the lowest carbon footprint and generates the fewest greenhouse gas emissions.

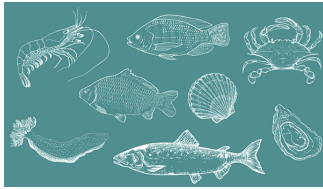


(<https://link.chtbl.com/aquapod>).

“Aquaculture is among the most sustainable ways to produce animal protein and will be essential in feeding the world’s growing population,” said Sergio Nates, Senior Director for Aquaculture at WWF. “As the sector continues to expand, it holds immense potential to deliver positive social impact globally. It’s critical that we guide this growth through sustainable and responsible production practices.”

To reach its full potential, aquaculture will require innovative financing models, particularly in emerging markets. The report examines investment trends and financial tools shaping the industry, emphasizing the need for a shift from small-scale operations to more intensive, sustainable production.

## World Bank releases investment guide for developing sustainable aquaculture



The World Bank has released a guide designed to boost investment in sustainable aquaculture, the world’s fastest-growing food sector.



Global Seafood Alliance

Drawing on case studies from Bangladesh, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Thailand and Vietnam, the analysis highlights how financial mechanisms and public-private collaboration have driven growth in mature aquaculture industries. Aimed at financial institutions, governments, philanthropies and private investors, the report positions aquaculture as a key pillar of future food systems – and a growing opportunity in the blue economy, with seafood production projected to rise 14 percent by 2032.

**[Read the full report here \(https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/publication/harnessing-the-waters-sustainable-aquaculture\)](https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/publication/harnessing-the-waters-sustainable-aquaculture)**.

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