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New York Aquaculture Producer Survey Report Summary for 2023

Barry Udelson
Aquaculture Specialist
aquaculture@cornell.edu

New York Sea Grant distributed a voluntary and anonymous survey to the aquaculture industry members from the private sector and those producing for research and restoration. In 2023, a total of 99 operations were identified and 70 responded to the survey. This is a summary of the results. The full report can be found at: www.nyseagrant.org/aquaculturepublications

The state of New York was depicted on a map and divided into 11 regions. Long Island had 39 survey participants and the Finger Lake region was the 2nd highest with 10. All other regions had some participants except for the New York City and capital regions. The average age of these operations is 27 years. There were thirty-two operations less than 10 years old and twenty-five older than 30 years. Many of these older operations are likely the state-run fish hatcheries. The private sector represented 44 of the survey participants and the remainder was either not-for-profit organizations or municipal operations funded by the state or local towns.

Half (n=35) of the survey participants were grow-out operations that purchase seed or juvenile fish from hatcheries while 23 were just hatcheries that produce seed. Nine selected as a hatchery and grow-out facility, but this did not rule out their acquisition of seed from other hatcheries as well. Those operations that selected they acquire seed from a hatchery, were also asked if these were local or out of state hatcheries. There were 17 operations that acquire seed from within New York while 10 acquire seed from out of state. An additional 17 get seed from both in and out of state hatcheries.

The industry utilizes several types of production methods, and many operations use more than one system. The survey results showed the following disposition: flow-through (n=31), floating gear (n=26), on-bottom gear (n=15), ponds (n=15), and recirculating (RAS) (n=11). Shellfish production was recorded by 43 participants (consumption = 33 and restoration = 10). Finfish are produced by 29 operations (restoration = 22 and consumption = 7). Macroalgae by 6 participants and aquaponics by 4. The survey listed options and asked participants to select the species they produced the most. The top species were oyster (n = 33) and trout (n = 13). Other species in order of selection were: baitfish/ornamentals, salmon, clam, tilapia, terrestrial plants (aquaponics), and macroalgae. The total breakdown of production can be found in the table below. The industry supported a total of 418 jobs with 265 of these being full-time positions.

Operation Type	Metric Tallied	Total Produced
Shellfish Hatchery	Number of seed distributed	155,944,456
Shellfish Farmers	Number of market-sized pieces sold	8,255,000
Finfish Hatchery	Number of eggs, fry, or fingerlings	461,297,759
Finfish Farms	Pounds of fish sold	1,737,565
Macroalgae Nursery	Number of sugar kelp spools	150
Macroalgae Farmer	Pounds of sugar kelp raised	20,000
Aquaponic Plants	Pound of plants raised	460

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