

Aquaculture Opportunity Area Timeline



SUMMER 2020

- 1 Select regions for areas for evaluation. Convene NOAA AOA Implementation Teams.
- 2 Announce selected regions to regulatory partners, stakeholders, and general public.
- 3 National Center for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) compiles siting data for the first two regions (ongoing).
- 4 Outreach to fishery management councils, marine fisheries commissions, stakeholders, and the public.

FALL 2020

- 1 Publish Request for Information (RFI) to gather public input.
- 2 Continue outreach and engagement to stakeholder groups.
- 3 Host five public listening sessions and review submitted RFI comments.
- 4 Using best available data, NCCOS conducts siting analysis to find areas that may support sustainable aquaculture development.

WINTER 2020-2021

- 1 NCCOS drafts an Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas to present maps and share the results of their siting analysis.
- 2 Combine results of draft Atlas with RFI public input to select areas in the Gulf of Mexico and southern California to evaluate in more depth during the NEPA process.
- 3 Consider information collected through RFI, including industry interest, state agency input, and ecosystem factors to begin selection of regions to assess for possible future AOAs.
- 4 Continue outreach for current and future AOA efforts.

SPRING 2021

- 1 Publish Atlases as peer reviewed NOAA tech memos for each region.
- 2 Publish Notice of Intent (NOI) for each programmatic EIS in the Gulf of Mexico and Southern California, beginning in-depth evaluation of potential areas.
- 3 Continue to coordinate with other federal agencies, Fishery Management Councils, Marine Fisheries Commissions, states, and tribes.
- 4 Announce selection of next region(s) of focus for AOA identification using best available scientific data and stakeholder input.