



# Help Us Help NATURE-POSITIVE AQUACULTURE

Exploring the opportunity to expand  
restorative marine aquaculture in the U.S.

***A collaborative initiative, led by The Nature Conservancy and akorn environmental, will develop practical pathways to expand restorative aquaculture nationwide as a form of nature-positive food production. By participating in this project, you can play a key role in creating a vision for a food system that serves people and the planet.***

## THE OPPORTUNITY

Aquaculture doesn't just provide nutrient-rich food, good jobs, and cultural fulfillment. When practiced thoughtfully, it also offers a variety of environmental advantages, from providing wildlife habitat and improving water quality to assisting species migration and protecting coastlines.

However, current estimates of these benefits have primarily been measured at the farm level. To promote the growth of restorative aquaculture, it is crucial to understand the impact on the ecosystem at large. This information is increasingly in demand from a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, community leaders, Tribal organizations, non-profits, investors, philanthropic groups, and industry. By providing a clearer picture of the benefits of restorative aquaculture, we expect to garner more support and resources for these practices.

## THE PROJECT

The goal of this project is to generate more information about the full range of benefits provided by restorative shellfish and seaweed aquaculture and develop a roadmap to its expansion.

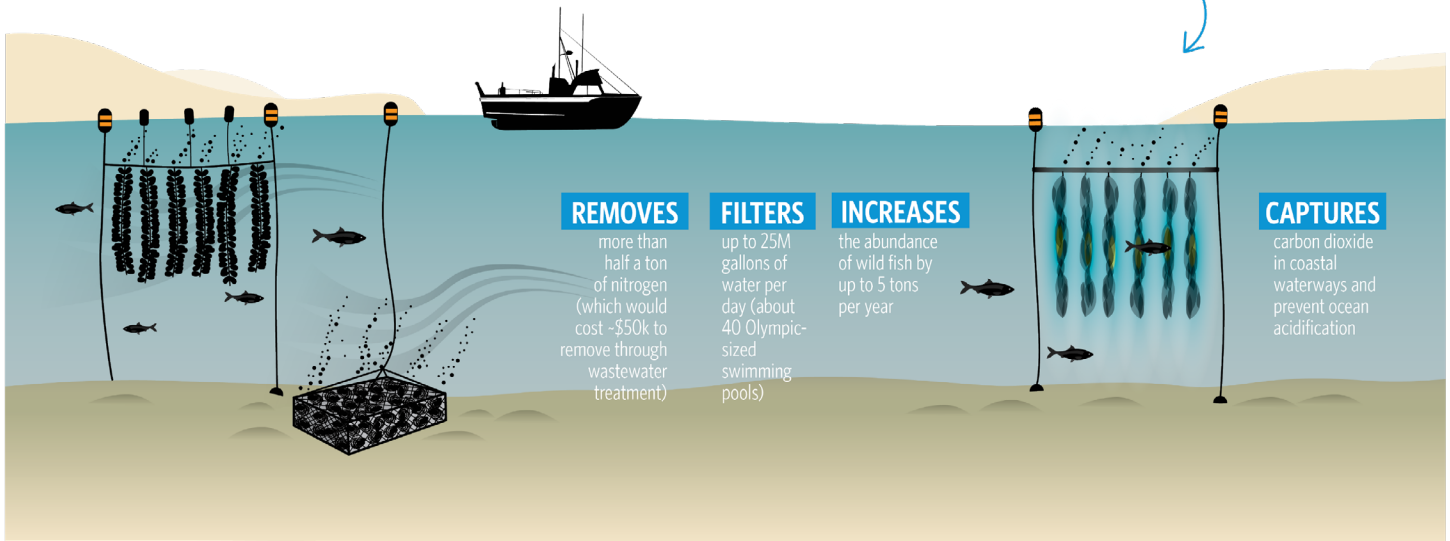
Your input is needed to evaluate various development scenarios for restorative marine aquaculture in the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawai'i. Our project team is gathering information from agency and industry experts through an online survey and during one-on-one and small group interviews. Based on the responses provided, we can identify how shellfish and seaweed aquaculture could generate benefits for larger ecosystems, mitigating major environmental issues such as biodiversity and habitat loss, water quality degradation, and climate change.

We'll be exploring two scenarios that may unfold over the next 10 years:

- *What will happen: We will predict where aquaculture may be in the future based on current trends, or "business as usual."*
- *What should happen: We will define a vision for the future and chart a path towards that vision.*

Equipped with a clearer picture of what the future could and should look like, the project team will then estimate the social and environmental benefits that may emerge under each scenario and identify the conditions that would fully realize those benefits.

## A SINGLE HECTARE OF RESTORATIVE FARMS...



## WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

As an industry, agency, Tribal, academic, NGO, or other expert, your knowledge is invaluable in guiding us towards a desirable future for restorative aquaculture in the U.S. Your input will help us gain a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with achieving social and environmental benefits through restorative aquaculture. This includes regulatory frameworks, permitting and siting considerations, social outcomes and acceptance, and the availability of funding. By addressing these factors, we can work support a vibrant future for restorative aquaculture.

It will take up to 30 minutes to complete the survey. Your participation is completely voluntary, and no personally identifiable information will be shared beyond the project team – all results will be shared in aggregate.

Once our [project team](#) has closed the survey and reviewed the responses, survey participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the results. Following the survey, we will conduct targeted one-on-one and small group interviews to fill in gaps and to brainstorm additional areas for exploration. The project team will use the results of the survey, interviews, and analyses to develop a manuscript that will be submitted to an open-access scientific journal in 2024. We plan to develop a brief research summary as well.

**To participate in the survey, please [visit this link](#).** The survey will be available starting January 8 and will close on February 4th. To thank you for your time, participants with a primary affiliation with the industry (farmers, growers, hatchery operators, etc.) will have the opportunity to enter a sweepstakes to win one of a variety of prizes, including gift cards and marine gear.

If you have any questions or need assistance filling out the survey, please contact Heidi Alleway at [heidi.alleway@tnc.org](mailto:heidi.alleway@tnc.org) or Aaron Kornbluth at [aaron.kornbluth@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.kornbluth@gmail.com).