



The Need for New Legislation to Permit Aquaculture in the U.S. EEZ

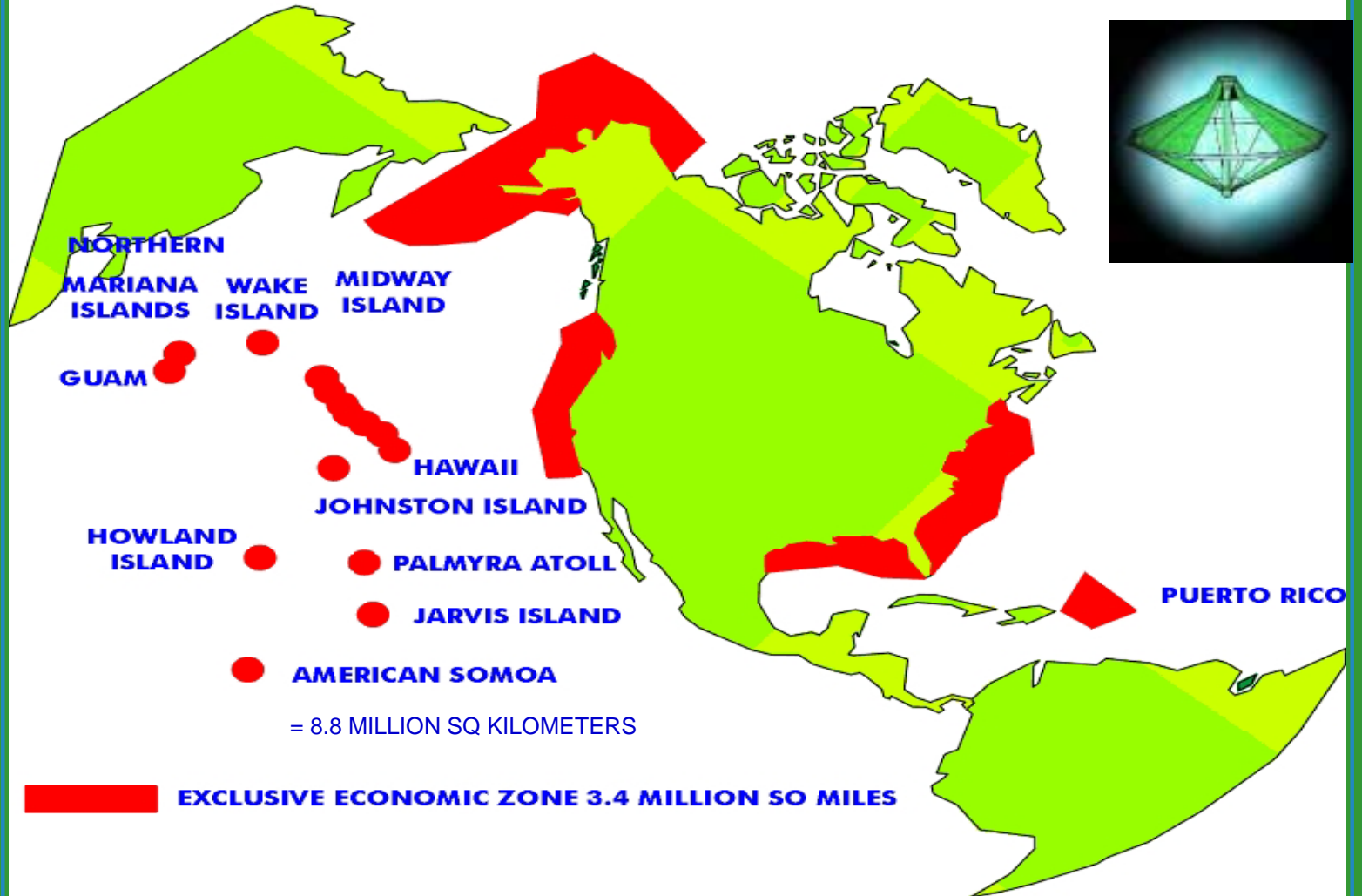
November 17, 2003

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A Varied Environment

UNITED STATES EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE



New Finfish Species For Pacific Coast Marine Aquaculture

Commercial Aquaculture

- Black cod
- Halibuts
- Tunas
- Striped bass
- White seabass
- Ling cod
- True cod
- Rockfishes

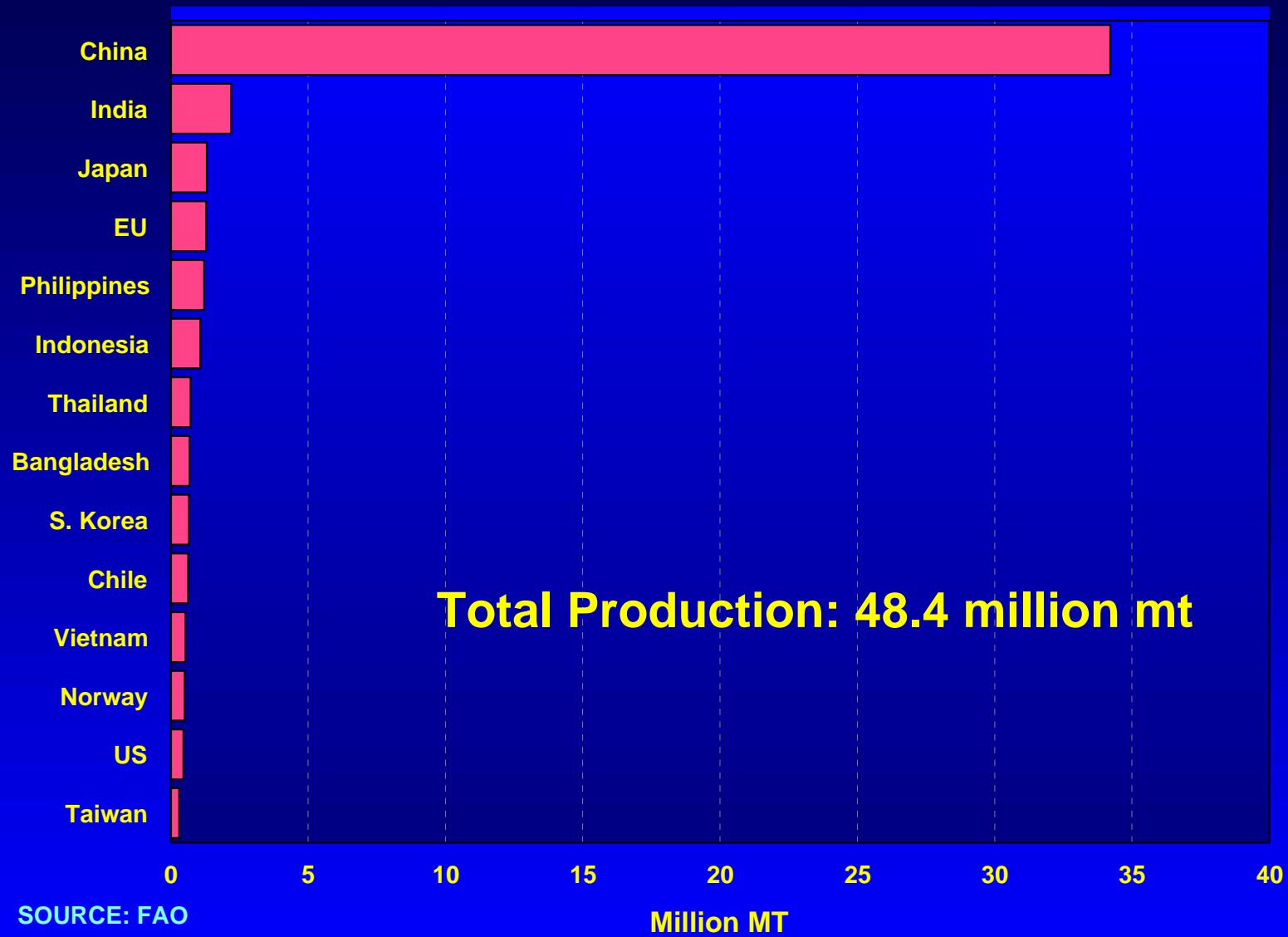




The Need For Offshore Aquaculture Legislation

- Fisheries alone cannot meet national seafood demand
- Failure to get permits slows US industry expansion
- Competition for space in State waters
- Inshore water quality/HABs
- Federal marine aquaculture policy inadequate
- No clear regulatory authority for aquaculture to locate in the EEZ

TOP AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS, 2001



Comparison of Aquaculture Location

	Pro	Con
Land-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Waste containment ❑ Environmental control of production factors ❑ Aesthetics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Capital costs ❑ Land availability ❑ Operational costs ❑ Product quality ❑ Waste disposal ❑ System failures
Inshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Low capital costs ❑ Reliable water supply ❑ Protected sites ❑ Easy access to shore base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Competition for coastal space ❑ Obtaining permits ❑ Poor water quality/HABs ❑ Aesthetics ❑ Organic waste accumulation ❑ Escapes
Offshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Low capital costs ❑ Reliable water supply ❑ Less competition for space ❑ Better water quality ❑ Less organic accumulation ❑ Aesthetics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ No permitting process ❑ High energy environment ❑ Distant from shore base ❑ Escapes

Status of the National Offshore Aquaculture Act

History of the National Offshore Aquaculture Act

- NOAA workshop identified need, 1997
- Requested by Congress, 1997
- First drafted, 1998
- To OMB, 1999
- Reviewed by Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture, 1999
- Re-written, 2002
- Approved by the NOAA Executive Council, 2003

Moving the Act Forward

- To OMB & JSA, 2004
- Address JSA concerns, 2004
- To Congress, 2004





The National Offshore Aquaculture Act

Findings: In the EEZ it is the US policy to:

- Support a successful aquaculture industry to produce food, protect wild stocks in the EEZ
- Encourage the development of responsible aquaculture by providing necessary authorities
- Establish a practical permitting process
- Promote research & development

The National Offshore Aquaculture Act

Secretarial Responsibility In order to make EEZ available for development of Aquaculture, The Secretary of Commerce will:

- Prescribe procedures necessary to implement the permitting process
- Coordinate the process with other federal agencies
- Exemption of offshore aquaculture from MSA
- Compliance with other federal, state, tribal statutes



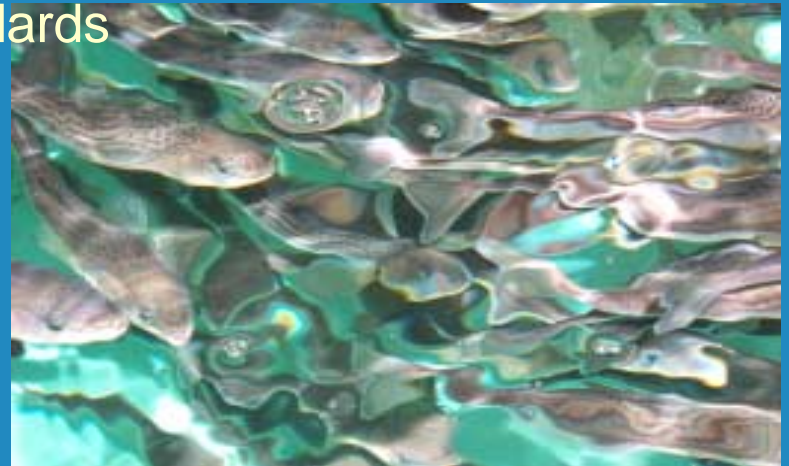
The National Offshore Aquaculture Act

Permits Two types of permits required:

- Site permits (10 years)
- Operating permits
- Eligibility
- Transferability
- One-stop permitting process

Criteria for issuing permits

- Operator meets environmental standards
- Consistent with international law
- Compatible with other uses of EEZ
- Risk to natural resources minimized
- Consistent with CZMA



The National Offshore Aquaculture Act

Fees and other payments The Secretary shall establish:

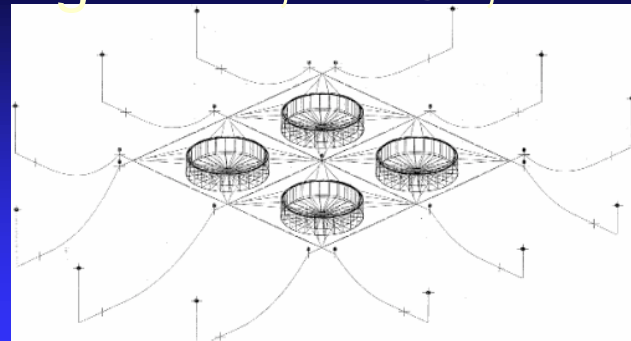
- Application & annual permit fees
- Can waive certain fees/payments
- Aquaculture Fund



The National Offshore Aquaculture Act

Provides environmental and other safeguards

- Environmental standards consistent with states
- Monitoring, evaluation, enforcement
- Authority to suspend, modify, revoke permits
- Bonds or other financial guarantees.
- Consultations with Federal agencies, FMCs, states, tribes



The National Offshore Aquaculture Act

Research and development

- R&D partnerships with industry
- Multidisciplinary scientific research
 - improved husbandry
 - environmental impacts
 - economic viability
 - production scale demonstration

DOC financial assistance programs__

