



Calling all fishermen!

Interested in shellfish or seaweed aquaculture?

Island Institute is working to help fishermen and people from fishing communities diversify into shellfish or seaweed aquaculture. Have you ever thought about gaining a new source of income through growing mussels, oysters or seaweed? We would love to help you get started! We are now accepting applications to join our second cohort of the no-fee Aquaculture Business Development Program.

Why apply?

Shellfish or seaweed aquaculture can mean good money for you, your family, and your community. Best of all, aquaculture can fit well into your existing career. Economists, scientists, and existing industry experts say that Maine's growth potential in aquaculture is enormous. Now is a great time for fishermen and other motivated individuals from fishing communities to diversify their income with aquaculture.

The rules, regulations, and complex supply chains that support Maine's aquaculture industry can be challenging. This program will help you to navigate these challenges by providing one-on-one assistance with business planning and marketing, and helping you establish relationships with industry members and other experts.

Who is eligible?

We will accept the applicants who are most motivated to start a business in the aquaculture industry. Fishermen and marine business people, from islands and other rural coastal communities with strong fishing cultures, are strongly encouraged to apply.

What's involved?

The Aquaculture Business Development program will kick off in April 2017. Throughout the course of the next year, the cohort will:

- Meet 2-3 times to cover essential topics, such as site and species selection, the state leasing process, marketing, community relations, and biosecurity;
- Take a two-day trip to visit aquaculture operations in southern New England in the **first week of May**, and later also visit Maine aquaculture sites, to gain a better understanding of aquaculture work and meet existing industry partners; and
- Receive personalized, one-on-one business planning and support for the first 2-3 years of operation, and gain access to flexible, patient financing.

How to apply?

Submit your application by March 28, 2017, which can be found on the other side of this announcement or here: www.islandinstitute.org/aquaculture#abd. If you think you might be in a better position to apply next year, please contact us this year! (See application for contact information.)



Aquaculture Business Development Application Form

Either in a Word document or in the body of an email, please answer these questions, and submit your application **by email to**

Stephenie MacLagan (smaclagan@islandinstitute.org) and

James Crimp (jcrimp@islandinstitute.org) **by March 28, 2017.**

If you have questions, please call us at 207-745-3371 or 907-440-6703.

Name:

Current Occupation:

Email:

Phone Number:

Physical Address:

Questions:

1. What is your experience in fishing and/or business?
2. What interests you about aquaculture, and makes you motivated to get into shellfish or seaweed aquaculture?
3. Do you have any prior knowledge, experience, or connections with aquaculture or fishing industry in Maine? If so, please explain.
4. What type of aquaculture operation, including possible location and species, are you interested in starting, and do you see this as being complementary to other sources of income or becoming your primary source of income?
5. What makes this Aquaculture Business Development program attractive to you?
6. How could we be of most help to you in starting an aquaculture operation?