# **Cates International**

By Randy Cates

## **Presentation Outline**

History -

- Where we are today
- Where we will be in a few years
- What the challenges are facing Aquaculture in the U.S.

 What are the consequences if we don't farm our fish?

 Conclusion and Discussions

# History of Fish Farming in Hawaii

# Ancient Hawaiians survival relied on fish farming

#### ©2002 HawaiiWeb.com

Old technology still being used today

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### Cates International History

**Research & Development** 1998 <u> 1999</u> Installed first sea cage 2000 **Formed Cates International** In year round production **2**002 NOAA awards Cates International as the first offshore fish farm in U.S. **2005** Produced nearly 1 million pounds of fish • 2005 Automated feeding, start construction of fish hatchery

#### **Company Profile**

Four full-time employees
Two part-time employees
Company does Marine Salvage and Research
Four Sea Cages
Five vessels

### **Moi Production History**





#### **Future for Cates International**

- 2005 Started construction of commercial fish hatchery
- 2006 Expand current site and production up to 4 millions pounds per year
- 2007 Expand to a second site and production up to 12 million pounds per year
- 2010 Have a successful company and work less, or be broke and work less

### The More Distant Future

**Current and Future Production** 

Historical
 Future



#### Challenges for open ocean fish farming

- Creating a new industry with no impact
- It is impossible to do, Everything has impact!
- Finding the right place to locate farms It is not appropriate for every community
- Educating the public about our industry

# Open Ocean Aquaculture is a reality

- Due to the success of the salmon fish farming
- Depleted wild stocks, and increase consumer demand for seafood
- Can be conducted in an environmentally sound manner
- And is profitable



### Consequences of not supporting Aquaculture, and Open Ocean Fish Farming

- In the long run, we will do more damage to our fisheries
- We will continue to increase imports
- Imports will continue to be of less quality, and continue to use chemicals to treat product for freshness
- We will not be using our resources in a sustainable manner
- Finally, we will not be meeting the needs of our communities



Issues raised by opponents to ocean fish farming Fish farms pollute the ocean! Water quality study shows, not true Benthics – In the open ocean, much less of a concern The further offshore we go, the less impact there will be Not all nutrient loading is negative

### It takes fish to feed fish

Fish meal industry is sustainable Only 20% of fish meal is for Aquaculture There are substitutes for fish meal • What is the impact of using more land space to grow substitutes FCR conversion rates - Beef 10 to 1 <u>– Pork 8 to 1</u> - Chicken 7 to 1 – Fish 1.5 to 1

Fish farm escapes affect wild fish population

This issue is a solvable one

Use only native fish

Fishing has impacted the gene pool for centuries

Fish Farming has no fishing by-catch!

# Fish farming hurts commercial fishing

This is the main reason for opposition
Should we not allow fish farming to protect commercial fish prices?

Would we do the same for other industries like U.S. Oil?

How are we going to best utilize our ocean resources sustainably?



## **Conclusion and Discussion**

We are a new industry

 We have worked very hard to become an Industry

 We have earned the right to be represented on panels who want to make regulations for our Industry

#### My two cents

Regulations will only work if the Industry has been involved - this has not occurred yet There is much to be learned from Hawaii Hawaii is the leading role model for offshore fish farming Other countries are taking the time to consult with us here in Hawaii

### My third cent

 We have a responsibility to produce seafood in a sustainable manner, and we now have the knowledge on how to do it
 We will overcome all of our challenges and mistakes

 The ocean is a public resource, not just for the wealthy



