

Why Aquaculture? Why Michigan? Why Now?

(Sea) Food for Thought

Michigan House of Representatives Agriculture Committee

Dan Vogler



Who are we?



- Volunteer member organization representing the majority of Michigan's commercial fish farm production.
- Our goal is to ensure that fish farming is done sustainably by farmers who act as stewards of natural resources while putting fresh, affordable and healthy seafood on the table and providing wholesome recreation.

Why Aquaculture?

- US Consumers currently eat an average of 15.8 lbs. of fishery products per capita (less than half of the USDA recommendation)
- 92% of the seafood consumed by Americans is currently imported
- The current US trade deficit in fisheries products is \$20.3 Billion
- Aquaculture now accounts for over 50% of all seafood consumed
- World Aquaculture Value: \$265 Billion
- US Aquaculture Value: \$1.5 Billion Less than 1%

Global Reality Check:

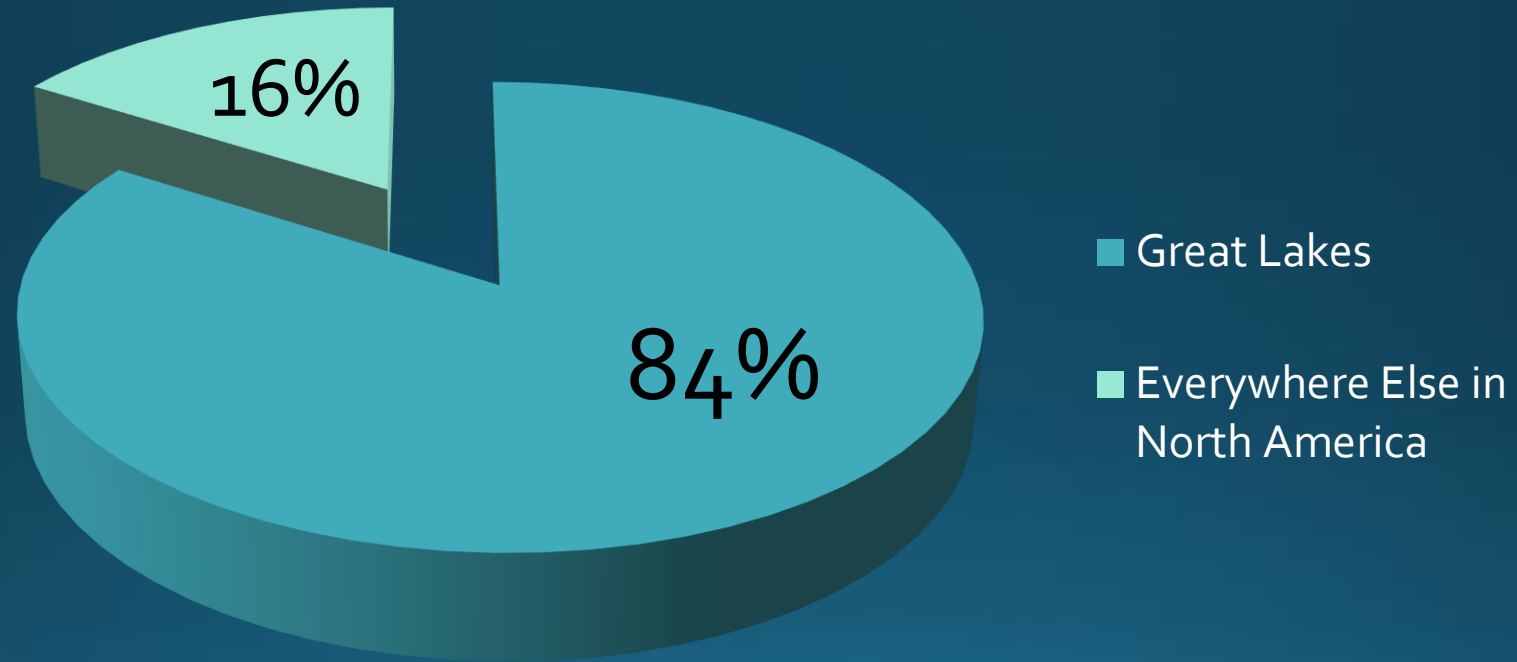
- By 2050, global food production must DOUBLE
- In the next 20 Years, the global middle class will increase by 2.5-3 Billion people
- Most of this growth will be in developing countries, not in the US
- This growth in buying power will create new competition for the seafood that is currently imported by the United States

Why Michigan?

- Michigan is strategically situated in the center of **20% of the World's Fresh Water Supply**
- The Great Lakes account for **84%** of the Fresh Water in North America

Why Michigan?

Comparative Fresh Water Resources



Why Now?

- Without significant growth in domestic production, global competition for imported fisheries products will cause sharp **increases in prices** and/or **shortages** of available products in the next 5-15 years
- It will take time to build a productive, and sustainable aquaculture industry

Contact Information:

Dan Vogler

President

Michigan Aquaculture Association

231-389-2514

dan@harriettahills.com