



A Career in Aquaculture

Aquaculture operations are carried out on land and in marine environments. Different species are grown in different regions of Australia, depending on climate and other conditions.

Land-based farms can involve hatchery, nursery and grow out operations and cover fin fish, crustaceans, algae and some shellfish.

Marine farms have traditionally grown oysters and mussels (for food or pearls) but more recently, new marine farms have been established to grow out various fin fish, especially salmon and tuna, in sea cages.

What sort of jobs are there?

Work in aquaculture operations can be very varied - working with a particular species can require specialised knowledge and skills and, as well, there are other sorts of tasks to be done, such as managing the office, marketing the seafood product and operating and maintaining vehicles and small boats.

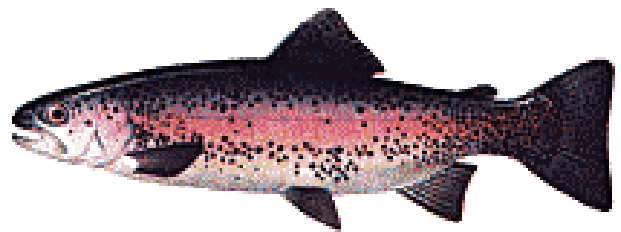
Aquaculture production hands

Most employees are general hands. The duties can be varied and on land-based operations involve cleaning tanks and ponds, feeding, pipe and pump maintenance, general construction, harvesting and packing of stock.

Most marine operations are serviced by small vessels and involve tasks such as handling small boat, feeding stock, maintaining sea cages, diving, gathering stock and packing.

Aquaculture specialists

Many aquaculture operations will employ a specialist, for example to check on the quality of the water and the growth and health of the seafood stocks. Much of this work involves taking samples for laboratory analysis and



assessing the health and quality of the whole aquaculture operation.

Aquaculture managers

All aquaculture operations will have a manager or manager/owner who is responsible for managing the operations and developing markets for the seafood product.

The particular work done in these jobs will vary considerably, often depending on the size of the operation.

In larger operations, there is often an office with clerical support staff; in smaller operations, much of the administration is done by the manager or owner.

Qualifications

Vocational qualifications in aquaculture are available from Certificate I to Diploma. The wide range of electives within each qualification means that

every qualification can be designed to meet the particular needs and interests of employers and trainees.

Some states and territories may have traineeships in aquaculture. For more details, contact Seafood Training Australia or your local Industry Training Advisory Body.