

Senator [Mike McGuire](#), Chairman of the [Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) (JCFA), will host a hearing “[Crab Season Outlook for 2016-17 and Modern Aquaculture in California](#)”. The informational hearing will include a brief update on the upcoming crab seasons and in-depth presentations and discussions on Modern Aquaculture in California. Aquaculture panels will address: aquaculture overviews, offshore finfish, shellfish, inland production and agency perspectives. The hearing will be held Tuesday October 4, 2016 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the [Bodega Marine Laboratory](#) in Bodega Bay, California. The public is welcome to attend.

The hearing is a follow-up to previous Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture hearings on crab and aquaculture ([December 3, 2105](#), [February 11, 2016](#), [April 28, 2016](#) and [August 10, 2016](#)).

The [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH) and the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW) recently released [Domoic Acid Background and Potential Option for Future Events](#) a memorandum that describes domoic acid and a potential options for continued harvesting under a domoic acid event. They will further describe progress on these options and provide the [latest test updates](#) on pre-season crab sampling.

The United States is the leading global importer of fish and fishery products, with 91% of the seafood we eat (by value) originating abroad – half of which is from aquaculture. Driven by imports, the U.S. seafood trade deficit has grown to over \$11.2 billion annually ([NOAA Fisheries](#)).

According to a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization [report](#), a major turning point in human history was reached in 2014. That was the first year that people ate more farmed fish than wild. World per capita fish supply reached a new record high of 20 kg in 2014, thanks to vigorous growth in aquaculture, which now provides half of all fish for human consumption. This development highlights a new era, indicating that aquaculture will increasingly be a main driver of change in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The JCFA will hear testimony on how the aquaculture industry will address this change with modern techniques and what challenges and hurdles the industry faces.

Aquaculture presentations will be made by representatives from: [California Aquaculture Association](#), [Hubbs-Seaworld Research Institute](#), [Aquarium of the Pacific](#), [Hog Island Oyster Company](#), [Coast Seafoods Company](#), [Professional Aquaculture Services](#), [The Fishery](#), [CDFW](#), [National Marine Fisheries Service](#) and more.

Additional information including links to: press releases, the agenda, latest information on crab/domoic acid, articles about the hearing, live stream links, and presenter biographies can be viewed at the [committee web site](#) under the “[hearings](#)” heading, [related links](#) (includes links for aquaculture), and our [compilation of crab information](#) which contains a vast amount of press releases, information and articles about crab. The agenda is under development and will be posted in the near future.

The JCFA hearing will be preceded by a tour of the [Marine Lab](#) facilities which recently celebrated their [50th anniversary](#). Tour space is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. To RSVP for the tour please contact [Diane Windham](#), Aquaculture Coordinator California for the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region.