

Shellfish Aquaculture – A Look Outside Greece

There are 100,000 species of mollusks. 9,200 species of Bivalves. Only a small portion of these bivalves are commercially farmed or raised by aquaculture practices. The farming of these commercial species takes place on every continent except for Antarctica. We all know about early farming programs in China, Rome, Greece and elsewhere. This presentation is not a history lesson but rather a very small glimpse to what is happening today around the world outside of Greece. The presentation will touch on places like Australia, New Zealand, Africa, China, Europe and North America. Farming methods vary from old established ways to modern state of the art equipment and systems. Today the use of bio-degradable equipment, re-usable equipment and many environmentally friendly methods fits well with the movement for sustainable managed fisheries.

Business models that farm only one product and have only one market are now diversifying to multiple species farming with multiple markets. Branding, marketing options and consumer awareness of your products have an important role in any size farm and ultimately can lead to higher profits. Small family farms to mega companies compete for the same markets. Small farmers should seriously look at value added products and niche markets. The presentation will touch on this as well as sharing ideas on multi species farming.

Time limits on the presentation will limit ideas and suggestions. After the talk the presenter will be available to continue discussions with those interested in sharing information.