

The **Marine Bio-Technologies Center of Innovation (MBCOI)** has identified opportunities for **MBCOI** to coordinate efforts among our partners and the broader stakeholder community to establish a long-term strategy for North Carolina's **Aquaculture Sector**. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to, aquaculture production (e.g., hatcheries and grow-out facilities) and related activities (e.g., seafood processing, feed, waste and byproducts, aqua-animal health, and market growth).

North Carolina (NC) is well positioned to take a leadership role in the aquaculture industry and associated technologies. A combination of existing aquaculture businesses, a rich seafood/agriculture history, an available, trained workforce, strong university systems, and advanced biotechnology industries in adjacent sectors such as agbiotech and diagnostics, are all foundational elements for aquaculture innovation and growth.

To address this growing sector, **MBCOI** has focused on developing a comprehensive assessment of aquaculture-related capabilities and opportunities within NC. A centerpiece of our strategy is the execution of a **Feasibility Study** to examine the viability of an **aquaculture-focused business center** and its economic impact on the region as well as its potential to catalyze growth and innovation in the larger aquaculture related businesses across NC.

The proposed **NC aquaculture center** represents the vision for a multi-tenant business park in Carteret County, NC, that will provide access to shared amenities and services for both established companies and emerging start-ups. Loosely modeled after the Research Triangle Park (RTP), it will consist of a congregation of companies in aquaculture production, technology, infrastructure, and demonstration. Resources will be designed to assist tenants in their efforts for company growth and facilitate long-term expansion of aquaculture in NC. The NC aquaculture center will offer:

- /// Access to resources such as processing, training, administration and marketing to reach economies of scale for start-ups and corporate expansions;
 - /// Sustainable, environmentally-friendly aquaculture production;
 - /// Expansion capabilities through access to 5-10 acre sites;
 - /// Collaboration with current residents:
- **Marshallberg Farm:** Supports sturgeon aquaculture employing modern re-circulating technologies in tanks totaling 60,000 sq-ft (6,000 m²); a 7,200 sq-ft (720 m²) seafood processing facility with 1,800 sq-ft (180 m²) of refrigerated storage space; a herd of grass-fed Black Angus cattle (www.marshallbergfarm.com);
 - **NCSU Marine Aquaculture Research Center (MARC)** conducting research on vegetated water treatment, culture of hybrid and striped bass, soft-shell blue crabs, and other species;
 - **Underground Farm** utilizes nutrient waste from the fish farm to grow vegetables for local community supported agriculture (CSA);

MBCOI will manage and coordinate the analysis of the NC aquaculture sector, and, in collaboration with our partners (Carteret County EDC, NCGrowth, NCEast Alliance), will conduct on a feasibility study for establishing the park and identifying the regional and broader economic impact that may arise therefrom. For further information on this initiative or to support the **Feasibility Study** for the aquaculture business park please contact:

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MBCOI (www.mbcOI.net) is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, established in 2012 through an inception grant from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center (<http://www.ncbiotech.org>). With headquarters in Wilmington and two regional offices in Morehead City (CMAST) and Research Triangle Park, MBCOI strives to unify North Carolina's marine biotechnology community.