

Open Net Pens or Cages

How do they work?

Open net pens and cages enclose fish in offshore coastal areas or in freshwater lakes.

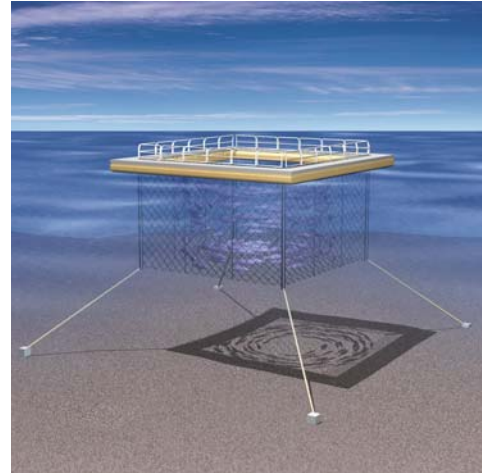
What do they farm?

Salmon and tuna are typically raised in net pens or cages.

What are the issues?

- Waste from the fish passes freely into the surrounding environment, polluting wild **habitats***
- Farmed fish can escape and compete with wild fish for natural resources.
- Escaped fish can interbreed with wild fish of the same species, compromising the hardiness of the wild population.
- Diseases and parasites can be spread to wild fish living near or swimming past net pens.

Fish Farming Methods Fact Card



*Habitat

A place fish (and other animals) need to feed, breed, seek shelter and raise young.

To learn more about how fish are caught and farmed and to get a guide to seafood choices that are good for the environment, visit www.seafoodwatch.org.
© Monterey Bay Aquarium

Ponds

How do they work?

Ponds enclose fish in a coastal or inland body of fresh or salt water. Wastewater can be contained and treated.

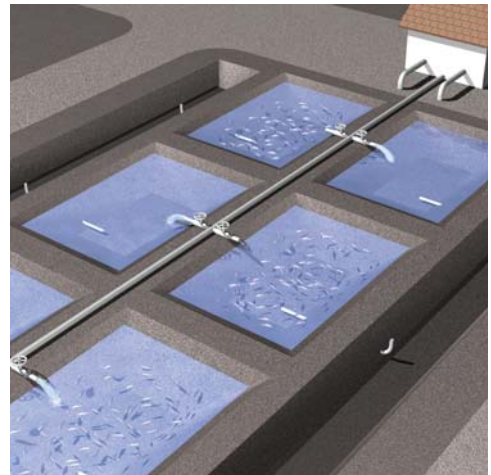
What do they farm?

Shrimp, catfish and tilapia are some of the most common species raised in ponds.

What are the issues?

- The construction of shrimp ponds in mangrove forests has destroyed more than 3.7 million acres (1.5 million hectares) of coastal **habitat*** important to fish, birds and humans.
- The discharge of untreated wastewater from the ponds can pollute the surrounding environment and contaminate groundwater.

Fish Farming Methods Fact Card



*Habitat

A place fish (and other animals) need to feed, breed, seek shelter and raise young.

To learn more about how fish are caught and farmed and to get a guide to seafood choices that are good for the environment, visit www.seafoodwatch.org.
© Monterey Bay Aquarium

Raceways

Fish Farming Methods Fact Card

How do they work?

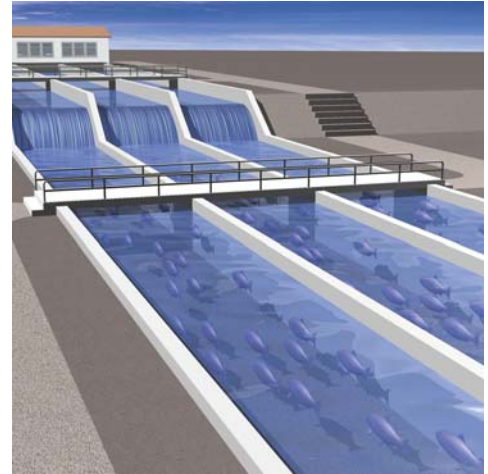
Farmers divert water from a waterway, like a stream or well, so that it flows through channels containing fish. Farmers usually treat the water before diverting it back into a natural waterway.

What do they farm?

In the U.S., farmers use raceways to raise rainbow trout. The government requires strict regulation and monitoring of on-site and nearby water quality.

What are the issues?

- If untreated, wastewater from the raceways can contaminate waterways and spread diseases.
- Farmed fish can potentially escape and compete with wild fish for natural resources. Escaped fish can also interbreed with wild fish of the same species, compromising the hardiness of the wild population.



To learn more about how fish are caught and farmed and to get a guide to seafood choices that are good for the environment, visit www.seafoodwatch.org.
© Monterey Bay Aquarium

Recirculating Systems

Fish Farming Methods Fact Card

How do they work?

Recirculating systems enclose fish in tanks, where water is treated and recirculated through the system.

What do they farm?

Almost any finfish species such as striped bass, salmon and sturgeon can be raised in recirculating systems.

What are the issues?

- Recirculating systems address many environmental concerns associated with fish farming: fish cannot escape, and wastewater is treated.
- However, recirculating systems are costly to operate and rely on electricity or other power sources.



To learn more about how fish are caught and farmed and to get a guide to seafood choices that are good for the environment, visit www.seafoodwatch.org.
© Monterey Bay Aquarium

How does it work?

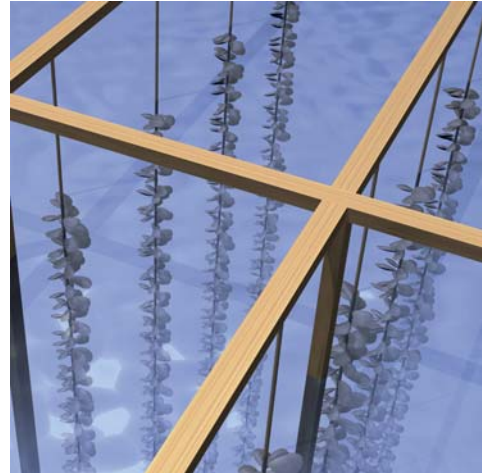
Farmers grow shellfish on beaches or suspend them in water by ropes, plastic trays or mesh bags. The shellfish farmed using these methods are filter feeders and require only clean water to thrive.

What does it farm?

Oysters, mussels and clams are cultured using these methods.

What are the issues?

- Since oysters, mussels and clams are filter feeders, they can actually cleanse nutrient-rich water.
- Farming shellfish in high densities in areas with little current or tidal flow can lead to the accumulation of waste.
- Historically, shellfish culture has been responsible for the introduction of exotic species that can sometimes out-compete native species for natural resources.



To learn more about how fish are caught and farmed and to get a guide to seafood choices that are good for the environment, visit www.seafoodwatch.org.

© Monterey Bay Aquarium