

## **National Policies for the development of the aquaculture sector in Brazil**

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First of all, I want to salute the Brazilian aquaculture producers as well as the foreign ones, large or small, so vital for the development of fisheries production chain, an economic sector that in the Brazilian case, was born strong due to the great potential our country has to offer. I want to say that I am very excited and also very thankful to our President Dilma Rouseff for having trusted me with the mission to take over and strengthen the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture. More than that, she asked me and challenged me to make Brazil produce more, play a larger role in this sector, invest more and offer much more seafood products that it offers today to Brazilians and to the world. The goal is clear, we must move fast and work hard to increase production and consumption of this extremely healthy and flavorful protein that is Brazilian seafood. The more fish, crustaceans, mollusks, etc. we produce, the more frequent will seafood be present on the table of our children, adults and the elderly while also generating foreign exchange for our country. And if consumption increases, this is a sign of development, industrialization, an increase in exports, more money to spend and a much better life for Brazilian fishermen and aquaculture producers. This is the cycle that we have to make sure functions well. For this, you must unlock everything that hinders and prevents aquaculture producers from doing what they do well: to produce aquatic organisms with an incredible diversity of types and flavors. To occupy the aquaculture areas available in this land of waters that is Brazil. Our struggles are common and well known to all of us: less bureaucracy in the granting of environmental licenses for aquaculture in our oceans, rivers and reservoirs; greater integration, dialogue and transparency in the actions and agreements between the sector, municipalities, state governments and the federal government; greater attention to training and qualification of our producers, more credit, the undertaking of scientific research and the pursuit of new technologies so that we can make the most of our capacity and resources with little waste of our efforts. We all know that Brazil has 12% of the planet's freshwater and more than 8.500 km of coastline, not to mention its hydroelectric plants that are not only energy sources but can also be used for the production of fish and crustaceans. Compared to the large cattle, swine and poultry production chains, aquaculture in Brazil had an increase in production of approximately 44% in the 2007 to 2009 period, a significant leap in the results of the sector. For this to happen, the policies of the Federal Government, through the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture (MPA), were essential for the activity to reach its record production of over 415 thousand tons in 2009, representing 33% of all seafood produced in the country. Given this historical milestone, Brazil today is among the countries with the highest growth in aquaculture worldwide. And we want to show the world that here, in our waters, our commitment is towards further growth of the aquaculture sector under three pillars, economic development, environmental responsibility and social inclusion. Recent developments show that certainty. We have already celebrated important breakthroughs such as Presidential Decree No. 4895 of 2003 authorizing the use of waters under federal domain, such as the ocean, rivers, reservoirs and bays for fish farming. However, recent advances have yet to become a reality. If the MPA's role is to plan, order, structure and promote national aquaculture, we acknowledge that we need to simplify and to speed up environmental licensing in order to take the big leap that is needed in seafood production in the next few years. We will seek to act in unison with state governments, as well as the productive sector, to meet the goals of expediting this matter. I have already begun an intense agenda in the states in this direction and have found a positive climate for speeding up environmental licensing and simplifying bureaucratic matters. We are certain that these actions will allow for aquaculture to continue to grow, promoting social inclusion, respecting the environment and ensuring favorable conditions for socio economic development of the activity through sound and consistent policies. To accomplish this, I will need to rely on and count upon the cooperation of each shellfish farmer, shrimp farmer, fish farmer, that is, of all Brazilian aquaculture producers, so that together we can transform Brazil into a leading world producer of seafood.