

Matthew Thompson
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Professional Experience

Aquaculture Programs Manager **2022-Present**

New England Aquarium, Boston, MA.

- Ongoing corporate advisory work.
- Aquaculture and sustainable seafood mentoring for early stage start-ups with ocean benefit as part of the BlueSwell Incubator program.
- Leading ACCOL/NEAq efforts to set effective U.S. offshore aquaculture policy.
- Led permit application reviews for local aquaculture and risks to protected species in New England waters.

Aquaculture Project Lead **2013 - 2022**

New England Aquarium, Boston, MA.

- Sub-grant Principle Investigator on Sea Grant: Increasing Northeast US Marine Aquaculture Production by Pre-Permitting Federal Ocean Space.
- Principle Investigator Waitt Foundation funded: Cost-effective Technology to Ensure Healthy and Safe Oysters.
- Principle Investigator Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) funded: Comparison of farmed shrimp certifications.
- Project leader in key areas of seafood sustainability, including participation on various technical committees for leading aquaculture certifications.
- Co-managed the Global Aquaculture Alliance 250K fund, providing funding to address the key challenges facing global aquaculture.

Senior Aquaculture Specialist **2009 - 2013**

New England Aquarium, Boston, MA.

- Developed tools and metrics for assessing aquaculture operations for sustainability.
- Consulted for major seafood buyers on environmentally responsible seafood sourcing strategies, policies, and improvement strategies.
- Educated procurement staff and management on seafood sustainability.
- Evaluated aquaculture certification programs for content, processes and adherence to FAO certification guidelines
- Developed aquaculture certification through technical committee roles, extensive public comments, and direct negotiations leading to improvements leading to the formation of Global Aquaculture Alliance's Standard Oversight Committee.
- Completed auditor training from GAA and GLOBALG.A.P. and informally audited aquaculture operations in Belize, Ecuador, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Aquaculture Specialist **2007 - 2009**

New England Aquarium, Boston, MA, USA

- In-depth research and report writing on environmental impacts of farmed species.

- Farm assessment and improvement work with Orion Seafood International that lead to a corporate partnership around an environmental responsible farmed shrimp product.
- Public messaging on environmentally responsible seafood.

Technician	2006 - 2007
Marine Biotech, Beverly, Massachusetts, USA	
Aquaculture Intern – Algal Culture	2005
Bar Harbor Oceanarium, Bar Harbor, Maine, USA	
<i>(Note: Gap between dates due to moving to the USA and included temporary work position)</i>	
Information Officer	2002-2004
Stirling Council, Stirling, UK	
Aquaculture Intern – Lobster Hatchery	1999
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida, USA	

Education

Masters	Aquaculture – Stirling University, Scotland, UK	2000-2001
Bachelors	2:1 Marine Science – Southampton University, UK	1996-2000

Additional Information

Aquaculture Certification

Best Aquaculture Practices Farmed salmon revision committee	2019-Present
Best Aquaculture Practices Farm Standard Committee	2019-2020
Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative Aquaculture Tool Revision Committee	2019-2020
Best Aquaculture Practices Zonal Technical Committee	2015-2017
Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative Consultant	2015-2017
Aquaculture Stewardship Council Marine Ingredient Technical Working Group	2014-2017
Best Aquaculture Practices Hatchery Technical Committee	2013-2014
Best Aquaculture Practices Salmon Technical Committee	2009-2011

Select Conferences

- Speaker (2018). [Building Confidence in Aquaculture](#). GOAL. Ecuador
- Keynote speaker (2017). Seed and Sustainability. Taiwan Fisheries and Seafood Show.
- Panelist and organizer (2014). What's in a Claim? Making environmental market claims in the Seafood Market Claim. Seafood Summit. New Orleans.

Publications

- Fujita, R., Brittingham, P., Cao, L., Froehlich, H., **Thompson, M.** & Voorhees, T. (2023). Toward an environmentally responsible offshore aquaculture industry in the United States: Ecological risks, remedies, and knowledge gaps. *Marine Policy* 147: 105351
- Tlusty, M.F., **Thompson, M.** & Tausig, H. (2015). Statistical tools to assess the breadth and depth of shrimp aquaculture certification schemes. *Fisheries Research* 182: 172-176
- Tlusty, M., Tausig, H., Taranovski, T., Jeans, M., **Thompson, M.**, Cho, M., Eppling, M. Clermont, J.J., Goldstein, J. and Fitzsimons, E. (2012). Refocusing Seafood Sustainability as a Journey Using the Law of the Minimum. *Sustainability* 2012(4): 2038-2050