

What are the long term trends that make North Central aquaculture attractive?

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Aquaculture developed in the South mostly in response to low row crop prices and efforts to find alternative use for marginal farmland as the Midwest is experiencing today.

1. Aquaculture and corn and soybeans production provide synergistic advantages, i.e., aquaculture provides a ready, local market for corn and soybeans as low-cost commercial feed.
2. The Midwest has the demand base with proximity to large food markets including Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and St. Louis. About one-half of the U.S. population can be reached within a day's drive.
3. The U.S. has a deficit in seafood trade and projections are that global seafood demand will, at least, triple by 2025. Growth in aquaculture will help to meet the projected market growth.
4. Bait fish production from aquaculture is needed to meet the increasing demand from the recreational fishing/angling and tourism industries.

The aquaculture industry can grow in the North Central and Midwest region to supply the food and recreational needs in the region. Currently, over 90% of the needs are met with supply from outside the region.