

## **Media Release**

### **Uplifting Singapore's Aquaculture Sector**

*SFA to consult stakeholders on plans to unlock potential of our sea spaces, encourage technology adoption and review farming practices for sustainable coastal fish farms*

With over 90 per cent of our food being imported, Singapore's food security is vulnerable to global trends, such as population growth, resource scarcity, and climate change. These vulnerabilities will become more acute over time as global crop and fishery yields from the sea are estimated to decline due to climate change.

2 Our local farms play an important role in strengthening our food security as local production will mitigate our reliance on imports and serve as a buffer during supply disruptions from import sources.

### **Increasing aquaculture yields to strengthen food security**

3 Part of our '30 by 30' goal, which is to produce 30 per cent of our nutritional needs locally by 2030, involves producing more protein such as fish in Singapore. Fish is a nutritious source of protein that Singapore farms can produce in a sustainable manner. There is also potential to produce the agricultural inputs (e.g. feed, fry) needed for fish production locally, which will ensure that we can continue to produce fish even when trade flows are disrupted.

4 To ramp up local fish production, the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) plans to unlock the potential of sea-based fish farming<sup>1</sup> through more productive, sustainable and climate-resilient management methods and practices. This will also generate exciting opportunities for upskilling and good jobs in the sector.

### **Partnering the industry to uplift the local aquaculture sector**

5 SFA will partner the industry to uplift the aquaculture sector through a multi-pronged approach:

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<sup>1</sup> There are currently 110 sea-based farms. 108 of them are located in the Straits of Johor (SOJ), with two deep-sea farms located in the Southern Waters. Two of the farms in the SOJ are currently adopting closed containment systems while the rest use open-net cage systems.

(i) Encouraging farms to adopt technology

Adopting technology, such as the use of closed containment systems, will help sea-based fish farms become more productive and resilient against environmental risks (e.g. harmful algal blooms). Farms that are keen to adopt such advanced farming systems can tap on the new Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund for co-funding support. The ACT fund will be open for application later this year.

(ii) Reviewing farming practices to enhance business resilience and sustainability

SFA is engaging the industry on sea-based farming management methods and measures to facilitate the adoption of more sustainable ones. These include monitoring of the impact of aquaculture activities on farming sites, measures to prevent and control the spread of fish diseases, and the use of better feed. This will help sea-based fish farms enhance their business resilience by improving the yield and survival rate of fish and ensuring that our surrounding waters are not degraded over time, which in turn would affect the productivity of our sea spaces.

(iii) Tendering out new sea sites with leases

To optimise the use of sea space for food production, SFA will identify and launch new sea space tenders on leases. Leases will provide farms with greater certainty on the use of sea spaces to amortise their investments and reap the benefits. Details of the leases and sea sites will be announced upon launch of the tenders over the next few years.

6 We will consult the industry on suitable solutions and help farms build capabilities to implement sustainable farming management methods and practices.

### **Co-creating Solutions for the Local Aquaculture Sector with the Industry**

7 SFA has started to engage the industry since February 2021 to share our vision for the local aquaculture sector and to explore ways to co-create a sustainable and high-tech



aquaculture sector. Sufficient time and support will be given to the industry to support their transformation efforts.

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