

## Grower Profile:

# Carlsbad Aquafarm

*By Rebecca Richards, Acacia Pacific Investments, LLC/Carlsbad Aquafarm*

Carlsbad Aquafarm is Southern California's only shellfish aquafarm growing over 1.5 million pounds of shellfish annually. Located on the Agua Hedionda Lagoon in Carlsbad, the site was originally founded as an aquaculture research facility in 1968 for San Diego State University. Co-owners John Davis and Acacia Pacific Investments have been farming at this site since 1990. We grow California, eco-friendly Mediterranean mussel, Pacific oyster, San Diego's green abalone, and native red seaweed. Speckled scallop, bay scallop, and manila clam will join the product portfolio in 2014/15. The farm has also developed a secondary line of products for the marine aquaria trade known as live-feed that includes micro and macro algae, copepod, amphipod, and brine shrimp.

Both product lines allow the farm efficient use of its facilities, marine biologists, harvest crew, and grow-out systems. Suspended long-line cultivation and shore-based seawater tanks have minimal impact on marine habitats, wild fish populations, water quality, and the community. Rigorous laboratory testing and ultra-violet purification systems help ensure product safety while close proximity to the Los Angeles and San Diego metropolitan areas and major airports allow the farm a quick turn-around from harvest to shipping and delivery. The result is fresh, high quality, Southern California products with a small carbon footprint.

The success and growth opportunities of Carlsbad Aquafarm are dependent upon its relationships with other growers, hatcheries, equipment vendors, academia, and seafood wholesale companies. Much of this has been greatly enhanced since becoming a member of PCSGA in 2012. Their purpose, to represent and work on behalf of its west coast growers and hatchery members, promotes and invites an invaluable forum for open dialogue, information exchange, networking, and collaboration.

Carlsbad Aquafarm is committed to sustainable mariculture and pursuing a necessary balance between the demand for responsible seafood production and the preservation of our oceans' resources.



*Oyster harvesting at Carlsbad Aquafarm. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Richards*