

## **United States Department of Agriculture**

National Agricultural Statistics Service
Northeastern Regional Field Office
Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture



March 7, 2022

Dear Pennsylvania Aquaculture Producer,

The Pennsylvania office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is requesting your response to the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Census. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return them in the included postage paid envelope by March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Aquaculture producers whose completed questionnaires have not reached our office by March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, will be contacted by telephone to request completion of the survey.

Response to this census is required by Pennsylvania law per section 4217 of the Agriculture Act of 1998. This act states that persons licensed under sections 4220 and 4222 whose businesses involve the sale of fish shall submit a summary report of sales specifying the amount or weight of each species sold and gross receipts. The contents shall be used by the department solely for statistics. The individual summary reports are not public records and shall not be made public.

These data will be used as a basis for reporting the amount and value of aquaculture products sold. Businesses and government organizations need independent and unbiased information to accurately assess industry needs. Producers and processors also use the data to help develop marketing strategies. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Veronica Pereira, the survey coordinator, at (800)- 498-1518.

Sincerely,

King Whetstone Director, Northeastern Regional Field Office

Enclosure (1)