

Problems with land-based abalone farming

The World Wildlife Fund has raised a number of concerns with this type of aquaculture. These include:

- Farm siting/infrastructure: Unappealing aesthetics, noise, odor and/or dust; limited access to or alienation from public land; habitat destruction and rehabilitation
- Energy use: High use of electricity to run large-scale flow-through and recirculating abalone culture systems
- Feed inputs: Unsustainable kelp or wild seaweed harvest; fish meal and fish oil content in manufactured feed
- Biosecurity: Transfer of diseases to and from the wild, within the wild and within aquaculture systems; pathogen amplification; exotics (e.g., translocation of pests and pathogens)
- Ecosystem effects: Benthic impacts, such as sedimentation and erosion; eutrophication; habitat destruction; and wildlife interactions (e.g., marine mammals/endangered species)
- Waste management: Effluents (e.g., nutrients, sediment and chemicals), biological waste (e.g., shell, dead animals and sludge disposal) and solid wastes (e.g., plastics, operational equipment and building materials)
- Social responsibility: Abalone aquaculture sometimes employs a large number of workers on farms and in processing plants, potentially placing labor practices and worker rights under public scrutiny.