

UAE Aquaculture Market By Species (Pelagic Fish, Demersal Fish, Freshwater Fish), By Distribution Channel (Traditional Retail, Supermarket and Hypermarkets, Specialized Retailers, Online Stores, Others), By Region, Competition, Forecast and Opportunities, 2020-2030F

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Abstracts

UAE Aquaculture Market was valued at 475 tonnes in 2024 and is expected to reach 620 tonnes by 2030 with a CAGR of 4.54% during the forecast period. The UAE government, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is actively working to build a robust and sustainable aquaculture sector that will not only meet the country's fish supply needs but also enhance its food security and drive economic transformation. This strategic partnership aims to develop innovative solutions and implement cutting-edge technologies to improve the overall sustainability and productivity of the UAE's aquaculture industry through extensive research and development activities. Currently, several ambitious aquaculture projects are underway in the UAE, showcasing the nation's commitment to this sector's growth and potential. One such project is Fish Farms LLC, which stands out as a notable example.

This forward-thinking venture incorporates a state-of-the-art hatchery and other advanced facilities, serving as a testament to the tremendous opportunities and success that aquaculture enterprises can achieve in the Middle East region. Moreover, the UAE is determined to emerge as a market leader and trendsetter in the global aquaculture industry. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAEE) has taken proactive steps by publishing an extensive aquaculture guide. This comprehensive resource aims to disseminate modern techniques of fish farming, promote sustainable practices, and foster the development of the aquaculture sector within the UAE.

By providing valuable knowledge and guidance, the MOCCAIE is empowering farmers and entrepreneurs to adopt efficient and environmentally-friendly approaches in their aquaculture operations. In conclusion, the UAE is poised for impressive growth and advancement in its aquaculture market. With substantial investments in research and development, the implementation of sustainable practices, and the adoption of modern farming techniques, the country is well on its way to significantly boosting its aquaculture production, reducing dependence on imports, and securing a sustainable and resilient food supply for its population.

Key Market Drivers

Growing Demand for Seafood

One of the primary factors contributing to the substantial growth of the UAE's aquaculture industry is the notable shift in food consumption patterns among its population. As awareness about the health benefits of seafood continues to spread, more and more consumers are actively incorporating a diverse range of seafood into their diets. With its abundant nutritional value, including high-quality, low-fat proteins and essential omega-3 fatty acids, seafood has become a sought-after choice for health-conscious individuals. This growing appreciation for seafood and its positive impact on overall well-being is not only shaping individual dietary choices but also actively driving the expansion of the aquaculture market.

The UAE's diverse population, coupled with a high-income bracket, has resulted in an increasing appetite for fish and seafood, reflecting a cosmopolitan culinary culture that celebrates a wide range of flavors and gastronomic experiences. With its thriving culinary scene and a growing number of seafood enthusiasts, the UAE has emerged as the highest consumer of fish among all GCC countries. This robust demand for seafood, fueled by a passion for culinary exploration, is pushing the nation's aquaculture sector to continuously expand its production capacity and diversify its offerings to meet the evolving tastes and preferences of its discerning consumers.

Key Market Challenges

Complexities Associated with Disease Management

Disease management in aquaculture is a highly intricate and multifaceted task, necessitating a thorough understanding of the diverse range of pathogens and health

concerns that can potentially impact fish populations. The vulnerability of fish to diseases is further compounded by the high density of fish in aquaculture settings, which provides an optimal environment for the rapid spread of diseases. Consequently, the aquaculture industry faces substantial challenges in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) concerning disease control.

One of the predominant disease-related challenges encountered in the UAE's aquaculture sector is the prevalence of viral diseases, such as the Nervous Necrosis Virus (NNV), which has the capacity to affect a wide spectrum of fish species. Additionally, bacterial diseases, including *Streptococcus agalactiae*, pose a considerable threat to fish health and productivity.

Key Market Trends

Growing Demand of Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)

RAS, short for Recirculating Aquaculture Systems, represents a revolutionary approach in aquaculture that addresses several critical challenges faced by the industry. These challenges include disease control, efficient water use, and minimizing environmental impact. In a RAS setup, water is continuously cleaned and recycled, significantly reducing the need for freshwater. This feature makes RAS particularly appealing in arid regions like the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where water resources are scarce, and conservation is vital.

The increasing demand for seafood, combined with limited wild fish stocks, is driving the rapid growth of the RAS market in the UAE. Consumers today are more conscious about the quality and sustainability of their food choices, especially when it comes to seafood. RAS provides a solution that meets these demands, delivering high-quality, sustainably sourced seafood to the market. This presents a significant opportunity for the UAE aquaculture industry to expand its production and enhance profitability.

Key Market Players

Sheikh Khalifa Marine Research Center

Al Jaraf Fisheries LLC

Fish Farm LLC

Alwathba Investment LLC (Emirates Fish Farm)

Aquaculture and Marine Studies Center at Abu Al Abyad island

Report Scope:

In this report, the UAE Aquaculture Market has been segmented into the following categories, in addition to the industry trends which have also been detailed below:

UAE Aquaculture Market, By Species:

Pelagic Fish

Demersal Fish

Freshwater Fish

UAE Aquaculture Market, By Distribution Channel:

Traditional Retail

Supermarket and Hypermarkets

Specialized Retailers

Online Stores

Others

UAE Aquaculture Market, By Region:

Dubai

Abu Dhabi

Sharjah

Rest of UAE

Competitive Landscape

Company Profiles: Detailed analysis of the major companies present in the UAE Aquaculture Market.

Available Customizations:

UAE Aquaculture Market report with the given market data, TechSci Research offers customizations according to a company's specific needs. The following customization options are available for the report:

Company Information

Detailed analysis and profiling of additional market players (up to five).

Contents

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

- 1.1. Market Definition
- 1.2. Scope of the Market
 - 1.2.1. Markets Covered
 - 1.2.2. Years Considered for Study
 - 1.2.3. Key Market Segmentations

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. Objective of the Study
- 2.2. Baseline Methodology
- 2.3. Key Industry Partners
- 2.4. Major Association and Secondary Applications
- 2.5. Forecasting Methodology
- 2.6. Data Triangulation & Validation
- 2.7. Assumptions and Limitations

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. Overview of the Market
- 3.2. Overview of Key Market Segmentations
- 3.3. Overview of Key Market Players
- 3.4. Overview of Key Regions/Countries
- 3.5. Overview of Market Drivers, Challenges, Trends

4. UAE AQUACULTURE MARKET OUTLOOK

- 4.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 4.1.1. By Value & Volume
- 4.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 4.2.1. By Species (Pelagic Fish, Demersal Fish, Freshwater Fish)
 - 4.2.2. By Distribution Channel (Traditional Retail, Supermarket and Hypermarkets, Specialized Retailers, Online Stores, Others)
 - 4.2.3. By Region
 - 4.2.4. By Company (2024)
- 4.3. Market Map

- 4.3.1. By Species
- 4.3.2. By Distribution Channel
- 4.3.3. By Region

5. DUBAI AQUACULTURE MARKET OUTLOOK

- 5.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 5.1.1. By Value
- 5.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 5.2.1. By Species
 - 5.2.2. By Distribution Channel

6. ABU DHABI AQUACULTURE MARKET OUTLOOK

- 6.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 6.1.1. By Value
- 6.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 6.2.1. By Species
 - 6.2.2. By Distribution Channel

7. SHARJAH AQUACULTURE MARKET OUTLOOK

- 7.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 7.1.1. By Value
- 7.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 7.2.1. By Species
 - 7.2.2. By Distribution Channel

8. MARKET DYNAMICS

- 8.1. Drivers
- 8.2. Challenges

9. MARKET TRENDS & DEVELOPMENTS

- 9.1. Recent Developments
- 9.2. Product Launches
- 9.3. Mergers & Acquisitions

10. POLICY & REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

11. UAE ECONOMIC PROFILE

12. COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

12.1. Sheikh Khalifa Marine Research Center

12.1.1. Business Overview

12.1.2. Company Snapshot

12.1.3. Products & Services

12.1.4. Current Capacity Analysis

12.1.5. Financials (In case of listed)

12.1.6. Recent Developments

12.1.7. SWOT Analysis

12.2. Al Jaraf Fisheries LLC

12.3. Fish Farm LLC

12.4. Alwathba Investment LLC (Emirates Fish Farm)

12.5. Aquaculture and Marine Studies Center at Abu Al Abyad island

13. STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

14. ABOUT US & DISCLAIMER

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