Aquaculture Site Selection Checklist

Environmental factors

- Distance from shore: The recommended distance of 0.2-6 km should be achieved.
- Water quality, temperature, and salinity: Has dissolved oxygen been measured? Have water quality tests been carried out for fecal coliforms, nutrients levels, and the presence of pathogenic bacteria?
- Wave activity: What is the current velocity in the proposed area? For finfish, is the recommended velocity of 0.05 - 0.2 m/s achieved?
- Tides and currents: Are the cages or lines in protected bays? Are the proposed cages or lines protected from any leeward sides of islands?
- Bottom type, bathymetric maps, and navigation channels: For finfish, is the bottom muddy? Has the recommended depth >40 m been reached?
- Presence of sensitive habitats: Are there corals and seagrasses present in the area? Are the cages or lines sited far enough away and/or with enough depth to not impact or shade sensitive habitats?
- Plankton occurrence and distribution: Has a plankton abundance study in the local waters been done?
- Bioremediation, mitigation needs: Are there sufficient nutrients to farm these species?
- Likelihood of impacts from climate change: Is sea level rise projected in this area?

Operational and logistical factors

- Water quality, temperature, and salinity: What are the temperature and salinity ranges for this area and is there a suitable depth profile?
- Operational and logistical factors: Is there a system of security guards or personnel to safeguard equipment being stored on the farm?
- Real estate suitability: What is the cost of fingerlings or seed of the chosen species?
- Plankton occurrence and distribution: Are there significant navigation channels or ports in the area? Are there sewer outfalls in this area? Is the desirable distance more than 1000 m away?
- Use conflicts, number of access areas: Is the recommended distance of 0.2-6 km achieved?
- Existence of tenure rights: Are there indigenous or local communities that need to be consulted prior to putting a farm in this area?
- Ease of gaining permits: Is it difficult to obtain permits for marine aquaculture in this area?
- Likelihood of impacts from climate change: Is current velocity in the proposed area? For finfish, is the recommended velocity of 0.05-0.2 m/s achieved?

Availability and cost of feed/fingerlings or seed:

- For finfish and other fed species, is there a local source of feed in the nearby area? If not local, where is feed procured from and are there risks in the supply chain?
- For finfish, is there a dock or a storage area where feed can be kept for daily feeding?
- Are the cages or lines easily accessible? Is the dock easily accessible?
- Is there access to a dock where the boats or water vessels can be docked at?
- Will freshwater be needed for processing and where will it be sourced?
- What kind of processing is locally available?
- Are there specialized people that can carry out specific tasks such as cage or line construction?
- Are there enough local labor to carry out regular (daily in the case of finfish) farm operations?
- Is the recommended depth of 20-60 m reached?
- Are bathymetry maps available to evaluate sea/ floor depth? For finfish, is the recommended depth >40 m reached?
- For finfish, if the bottom is muddy, has the recommended depth >40 m been reached?
- What is the type of sediment under the cages or lines?
- What are the temperature and salinity ranges for this area and is there a suitable depth profile?
- Has a plankton abundance study in the local waters been done?
- Is there water stratification present in the proposed area?
- Is there a thermocline present in the proposed area?
- Is there a river runoff present in the local area? Will it negatively affect production?
- Are the cages or lines sited far enough away to ensure that finfish farms affect algal blooms? Could seaweed or shellfish farms be affected by HABS?