

INWARD INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

in Dorset



SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE



Overview

The UK aquaculture industry, worth an estimated £1.4 billion, is the world's 8th largest producer of finfish from marine and coastal aquaculture. With aquaculture projected to be the prime source of seafood by 2030, the sector is expected to grow faster than the UK economy over the next 10 years¹.

The Dorset opportunity

Seafood purchases in Great Britain are worth around £6.61 billion while aquaculture represents only 17% of this supply. Significant opportunities exist for businesses to meet the growing national and global demand for fish, shellfish and aquatic plants including developing and deploying a diverse range of sustainable aquaculture technologies (sensors, automation, engineering) for life support (nutritional feed, health and welfare), farming and processing fish for sale.

Dorset's unique natural assets, sustainable environment, robust local infrastructure and fully integrated logistics network presents an outstanding location for companies looking to enter or expand into the UK aquaculture market. Dorset's commercial advantages include:

Natural assets

- Aquaculture-friendly coastline:
 - › Shallow and sheltered harbours and land-based development opportunities for hatcheries and recirculation systems
 - › Onshore areas with potential for development of processing facilities



- › Excellent water quality and growth conditions
- › Warm coastal sea water temperatures and less aggressive tidal flows than found in competitor sites
- › A vibrant tourist industry with demand for local fresh fish and renowned fish restaurants

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) is undertaking a full-scale mapping exercise to identify potential sites to develop aquaculture projects for Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG). The FLAG area includes a Marine Protected Area, a Special Protection Area, two Marine Conservation Zones and three Marine Special Areas of Conservation.

continues overleaf ›

¹ Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/how-much-fish-do-we-consume-first-global-seafood-consumption-footprint-published>; <https://www.seafish.org/article/uk-seafood-industry-overview>; <https://www.seafoodsource.com/features/technavio-report-global-aquaculture-markets-growth-accelerating-through-2022>; <https://thefishsite.com/>; <https://www.seafoodsource.com>

The Dorset opportunity (cont'd)

- Poole and Portland harbours:
 - › Sheltered bases for operations in the open ocean
 - › Infrastructure and space for the construction of hatcheries and aquaculture facilities on-land
 - › In-land areas and on-shore facilities available for development
- Additional facilities are also available e.g. Kingston Maurward College
 - › 31 defined leased beds² in the area, three of which are not currently sub-leased and lie dormant
- Other areas identified as opportunities for investment by the FLAG project include Lulworth and Lyme Bay

World-class technology

The Dorset Seaweed Company (aka Jurassic Sea Farms) works alongside Cefas and has extensive experience of the regulation of aquaculture systems and deploying innovative, cutting edge technologies alongside cost-effective data sources.

The region benefits from world-class technology supporting efficiency and innovation in celebrated West Country livestock farming, fishing and food industries. The South West is England's largest rural region with rich, diverse natural resources, a strong and growing network of over 200 innovative agri-tech companies, working with industry leading academics and R&D institutions.



The area attracts major employers including:

Arla Foods UK
Danone
Mole Valley Farms
Mullers
Thatchers Cider
Yeo Valley Farms Production

• World-class research and skills

The region has a ready supply of high-calibre science, technology and labour with industry centred training programmes in higher education institutions and centres of scientific excellence

- › Bournemouth, Exeter, Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Southampton universities and Sparsholt College offer degree courses linked to aquaculture and the wider marine sector
- › Diplomas in fisheries management and fish husbandry at Bridgwater College
- › Marine ecology foundation degree at Kingston Maurward College
- › Southern England has three of the UK's four marine research and development centres at the University of Southampton, University of Portsmouth and the University of Plymouth

• Strong environmental conservation practice

- › Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Salmon & Trout Research Centre, East Stoke, Dorset
- › Blue Marine Foundation, Lyme Bay, Dorset
- › Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

• Access to an integrated supply chain

- › Skilled engineering, marine and scientific workforce
- › Competitive costs
- › Local marine service companies
 - e.g. Quest Marine and Carlin Boat Charters providing crannage, diving expertise, tugboats, dredging and experience of aquaculture farming

LOCAL INDUSTRY SUPPORT:



DORSET LEP

Tailored soft-landing packages for new investors

- Relocation support, commercial property searches, local economic intelligence provision, introductions to local sector networking groups

<http://dorsetlep.co.uk/>

- A wide range of funding and finance options via Dorset Gateway

<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/finding-finance>



CEFAS

Comprehensive range of services including research, advice and consultancy; laboratory services and analysis; modelling; surveys; and technology services

<https://www.cefasc.co.uk/>

DCF (DORSET COAST FORUM)

Enables investors to discuss issues, gain access to latest data and information, access support for the design and delivery of innovative projects, and network with key industry stakeholders

<https://www.dorsetcoast.com>



DORSET AND EAST DEVON FLAG

Strengthening the aquaculture sector in Dorset

- Improving infrastructure and equipment to enable safe, sustainable working ports and harbours
- Enabling innovation to increase the value of catch and products

<https://www.dorsetcoast.com/projects/flag/>



REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INDUSTRY SUPPORT:

- Cefas
- Dorset and East Devon FLAG
- Dorset Coast Forum
- Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
- Seafish
- Fisheries Society of the British Isles
- Institute of Fisheries Management
- Aquaculture Stewardship Council
- Aquaculture Research Collaborative Hub UK
- The Natural Environment Research Council
- South West Agritech
- UK Marine Industries Alliance

LOCAL COMPANIES ALREADY EXPLOITING THE AQUACULTURE OPPORTUNITY IN THE REGION:

- Dorset Cleaner Fish
- Othniel Oyster
- The Dorset Seaweed Company (aka Jurassic Sea Farms)
- Houghton Springs Farm
- Offshore Shellfish



DORSET – A HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND DYNAMIC PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

- Thriving economy – £17 billion GVA
- Growing population – 795,000+
- 47,000+ businesses
 - » Low churn and high survival rates compared with the rest of the UK
- City region encompassing Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- Third largest financial sector in the UK after London and Edinburgh
- Second largest international education sector outside of London
- High levels of skills, qualifications and disposable incomes
- Low unemployment
- Outstanding coastline and countryside
- A superb quality of life – acting as a magnet for skilled people



Endorsement

"As a marine fish consultant with 45 years' industry experience including working in Norway for several companies, I can highly recommend Dorset as an excellent region offering several investment opportunities in seaweed and shellfish culture as well as on shore finfish Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) for farming marine species such as sole. The Invest in Dorset team at Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership is a tremendous source of advice and support to any business setting up here, as we found out first hand when we recently set up our own seaweed and shellfish business."

Richard Prickett, Dorset Cleaner Fish and The Dorset Seaweed Company (aka Jurassic Sea Farms)

"Dorset's long Jurassic coastline, warm plankton rich sea-water, combined with its skilled marine workforce, experience, infrastructure and industry network make the region an extremely attractive place for aquaculture companies. As established industry investors, we have been impressed by the valuable local support from Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and Cefas which gives our business credibility and enables us to concentrate on the practical side of seaweed and shellfish aquaculture."

Hugh Wiltshire, Director, The Dorset Seaweed Company (aka Jurassic Sea Farms) and Quest Marine

"The marine environment has been part of Dorset's heritage, and is a key component of its future. The opportunities presented by skills development in aquaculture, for the development of sustainable and progressive forms of both nutrition and resource development, are immense, as are the opportunities for business generation and growth. Kingston Maurward College is proud to work with Dorset LEP in this area."

Luke Rake, Kingston Maurward CEO and Dorset LEP Board Member

"Dorset already has the ingredients to provide world-class products from its indigenous aquaculture industry. In this rapidly growing market Dorset also has capacity, support from local government, advice on potential funding streams and business support from Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership with ambition in its local industrial strategy to respond to the world-wide market with high quality products. There has never been a better time to invest in Dorset's aquaculture industry."

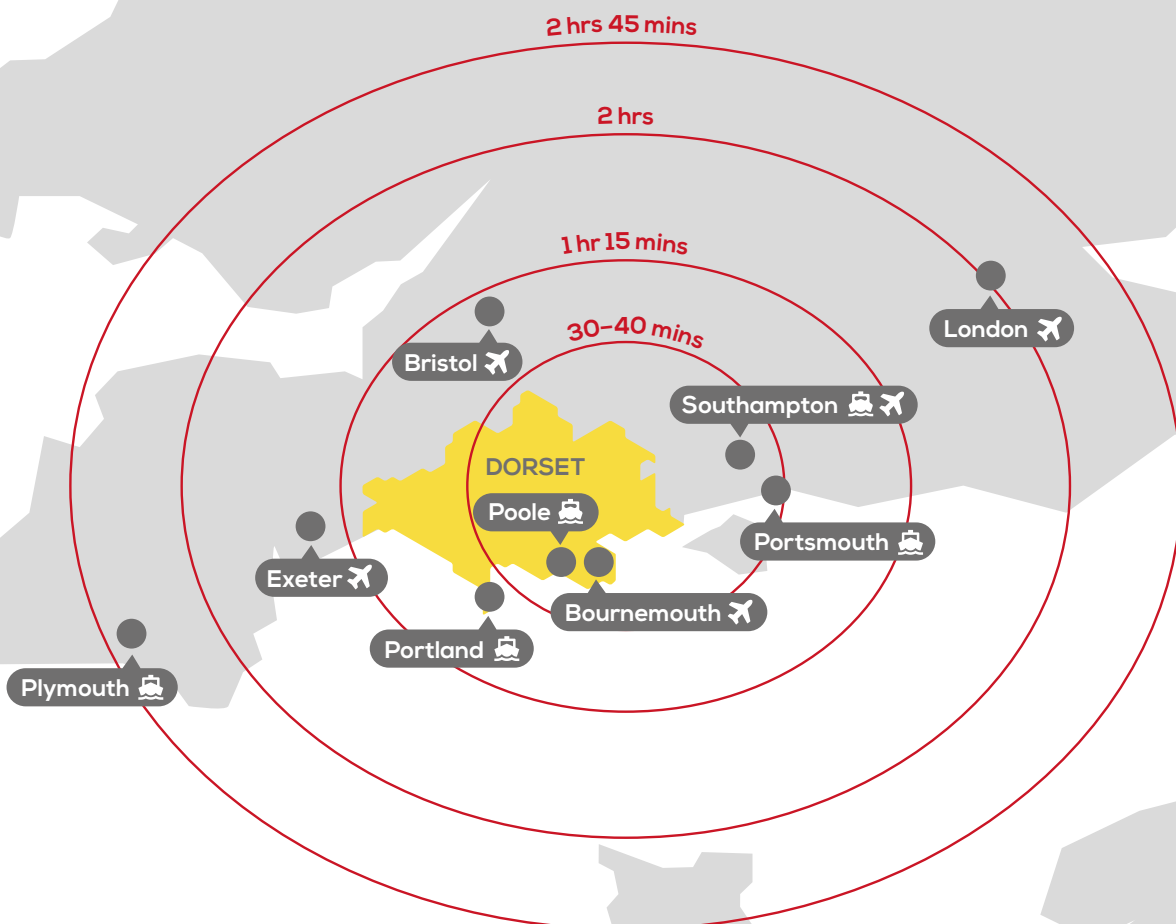
John Sutcliffe, Dorset LEP Board Member



Connectivity

Dorset is situated centrally on the UK's South Coast and is exceptionally well-connected locally, regionally and globally.

- Bournemouth Airport offers domestic and international flights to major cities within the UK, Europe and worldwide
- Direct train services to London Waterloo
- 90 minutes' drive to the M25 and London's Heathrow Airport
- Good access to the West via the A31 and to the East via the M27 and M3 south coast motorway network
- Ports at Poole and Portland



For further information:

DorsetLEP@bournemouth.ac.uk | +44 1202 965868 | dorsetlep.co.uk | [@Dorsetlep](#)