

Below are resources the Board of Directors from the United States Aquaculture Society wants to make folks aware of that are available to the U.S. aquaculture industry.

The National Fisheries Institute (NFI) has developed a seafood and coronavirus website with talking points to help people understand that the virus is not related to seafood. At a time like this, it's more important than ever to listen to public health professionals, from the U.S. and around the world. Here's what they have to say about seafood and coronavirus. <https://seafoodsafetycovid19.wordpress.com/>

The US Small Business Administration (SBA) has a program through the states that provides targeted, small business loans to businesses and non-profits that have been severely impacted by COVID-19. You can learn more about this program on the SBA website here: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

National Institute of Health - 5 Things You Should Know About Stress <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/stress/index.shtml>

Additionally, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Crisis Text Line have trained counselors who are ready to listen. If you would like to talk to someone related to COVID-19, call the National Suicide Prevention Line: 1-800-273-8255, or text the word **SHARE** to 741741. Website links can be found here: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

One valuable resource many of you may already be aware of are the aquaculture Extension professionals at Land Grant and/or Sea Grant institutions in your state. You may have heard many universities have closed for students to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, but Extension employees are still working and available to assist you. In unique situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Extension professionals try to keep up to date with any programs in our country and state that could benefit the aquaculture industry. These programs may be local disaster assistance programs similar to the SBA program or could be informational assistance such as the NFI website. Like you, many of us are trying to navigate how to do our jobs 100% remotely, while also ensuring the health and safety of our families. I encourage you to reach out to these professionals in your state if you need assistance of any kind for your aquaculture operation.

Take care,  
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