Today, over 70 percent of world fish stocks are fully exploited or are already overfished.

Aquaculture can provide a living for thousands of farmers and fishermen.

Aquaculture could help provide the protein needs of Third World populations through locally produced products

Fish farms could be located wherever water could be supplied.

In 2006 aquaculture produced about 115 billion pounds of seafood

Inland fish farms produce waste products, including feces, uneaten food, and dead fish and veterinary drugs which contaminate the water supply.

In many areas, notably China, waters are already heavily polluted from sewage, industry, and agricultural runoff. There are serious questions about the advisability of eating fish raised in such environments.

It takes 26 pounds of feed to produce 1 pound of Bluefin tuna; A staggering 37% of all global seafood is now ground into feed

Coastal areas worldwide have seen habitat and ecosystem alterations in order to accommodate fish farms. Mangrove forests–complex ecosystems that lined great stretches of the coasts of Thailand, Vietnam, and China, as well as those of other countries—have been destroyed to create shrimp and fish farms

The loss of coastal wetlands along the Mississippi Delta contributed to the immense devastation from Hurricanes

Pests such as sea lice (tiny crustaceans that prey on fish) proliferate in fish farms and spread out to afflict wild fish.

Viral, fungal, and bacterial diseases that arise in fish farms have spread to native fish populations

Agricultural production has increased the productivity per unit of land over the past 50 years and may continue to do so.

Commercial farming practices require considerable energy inputs in the form of machinery, fuels and fertilizers.

Nutrients that are removed by harvesting must be replaced by adding artificial fertilizers such as ammonium sulphate. Ammonium sulphate can easily leach through the soil before plant roots absorb them. This may lead to eutrophication in nearby water bodies.

Energy will be lost in respiration at each stage of the food chain so vegetarian diets are more efficient that meat diets.

Hybridization and GMOs allow for more productive food systems.

Monoculture increases the risk of pest epidemics, leading to increased use of pesticides.

Intensive livestock production involves the use of hormones designed to increase growth.

Antibiotics are used to treat salmonella. This is causes strains of salmonella to become increasingly resistant to antibiotics posing health problems to humans.

Pesticides and herbicides kill valuable species important to sustaining the eco-system.

Mono-culture decreases the biodiversity of the ecosystem, affecting the food chain and habitats for other species

Salinization builds up due to inappropriate irrigation practices

Increasing meat diets are causing cereal crops to be used for cattle feed rather than human consumption

Groundwater reserves are being depleted.

Many developing countries grow export crops like coffee and sugar rather than food crops.

Aquatic food systems are less efficient at trapping light because of reflection by water.

Harvesting terrestrial is efficient because it doesn’t require long distances travelled by fishing vessels.

Terrestrial food sources are generally located near to the populations that require it so less transportation is required

Inland aquatic farms require considerable amounts of water, more so than terrestrial irrigation

Energy conversion along the food chains is more efficient in aquatic food chains.

Terrestrial food systems require considerable inputs of water/irrigation which may deplete local resources

Terrestrial systems may require energy subsidies to maintain productivity

Arable land is becoming limited due to increasing urbanization

Intensive farming can degrade soils

Aquatic animals have higher reproductive rates than terrestrial animals.