



Abalone Farming in China

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As highly valued seafood in Chinese culture, abalone farming has been fast growing extensively in recent years. The total production increased from 19956 metric tons in 2006 to 42373 metric tons in 2009, with 28.6% increase annually.

Abalone farming mainly distributes in two areas in China: the north coast, including Liaoning, Hebei and Shandong provinces, and the south coast, Fujian and Guangdong provinces. The main culture species are *Haliotis discus hannai* and *Haliotis diversicolor*. The obvious change of abalone farming in China in the recent years is that the main abalone farming area shifts from the north coast to the south coast. Particularly, Fujian province produced 29113 metric tons of cultured abalone in 2009, accounting for 68.7% of national output. However, it s produced only 2028 metric tons in 1999. Another change is that the farming scale of *Haliotis diversicolor* has become smaller and smaller due to disease problems. And *Haliotis discus hannai* has been gradually introduced to Fujian province from the north and has become the major species cultured in south China. The hybrid species between the two populations of *Haliotis discus hannai*, male from Iwate Japan and female from Dalian, China, has been widely cultured in China. Another hybrid between *Haliotis discus hannai* Ino (♀) × *Haliotis discus discus* Ino (♂) has been also successfully farmed in south China. Hybrid species demonstrate their heterosis with significantly better growth rate, disease resistance, and increase of optimum temperature limit 3-4 °C.