NACE/MAS Aquaculture Conference Schedule

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7

8:45 AM - 5:00 PM	**Field Trips & Workshops (meet in the Hotel Lobby)**
12:00 PM	**Registration opens in the Hotel Lobby**
5:00 - 7:00PM	**Maine Dept. of Marine Resources Biotoxin Industry Roundtable (Connecticut Room):** Are you a Maine oyster farmer? Were you impacted by the red tide closures last summer? Come talk directly to the Maine Department of Marine Resources about how to improve the monitoring and management of red tide/Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning specifically in American oysters. We will discuss what we know about red tide blooms in coastal Maine waters, how red tide impacts American oysters and how the growth of the aquaculture industry is changing traditional sampling regimes. This is a workshop style event so Maine farmers should bring their questions and ideas!
7:00 PM	**Opening Reception in the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall (trade show opens)**

THURSDAY JANUARY 8

7:00 AM	**Registration in Hotel Lobby**
7:00 AM	**Breakfast in Casco Bay Exhibit Hall**
8:30 AM	**Plenary Session in the State of Maine Ballroom (Vermont/New Hampshire)** Rapid Fire Industry Updates of Issues Facing Northeastern US States and Canadian Maritimes
10:00 AM	**Break & Trade Show Opens in the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall**

	Vermont Room	New Hampshire Room	Massachusetts Room	Rhode Island Room	Connecticut Room	Cumberland Room (2nd Floor)	Oxford Room (2nd Floor)
	Seaweed Food Safety Guidance Panel *Chair: Jen Perry*	**Shellfish & Birds** *Chairs: Bob Rheault & Bobbi Hudson*	**Scallops I - In The Hatchery** *Chairs: Craig Condon & Kyle Brennan*	**Workforce Development I** *Chair: Maya Pelletier*	**Sea Urchins** *Chair: Coleen Suckling*	**Social Dimensions of Aquaculture** *Chairs: Emily Whitmore & Adriane Michaelis*	**Beyond the Half Shell: Alternative Shellfish Processing Methods** *Chairs: Meggan Dwyer & Qiujie "Angie" Zheng*
10:30 AM	**PANEL SESSION** Advances in seaweed aquaculture, coupled with growing awareness of its health benefits, sustainability, and culinary versatility have led to expanded domestic supply and the development of diverse new food products. Like all foods, seaweed products carry potential food safety risks. However, due to the relative novelty of seaweed as a food commodity in the U.S., there is limited guidance and few seaweed-specific food safety requirements. To support safe growth of this nutritious commodity, clear national guidance is needed to identify and mitigate key food safety hazards. A Seaweed Food Safety Guidance document was developed to help regulators, producers, processors, and retailers assess and manage risks associated with seaweed products in the U.S. As domestic aquaculture expands, this emerging industry offers opportunities for sustainable food production and economic growth. The guidance document can support safe practices, regulatory compliance, and consumer confidence. Building on existing national and international resources, this guide provides a flexible framework tailored to diverse species, environments, and regulations—promoting consistency and safety across regional and national markets. Authors of this guide will present selected content and answer questions.	Bird-Related Pathogen Risk in Shellfish Aquaculture *Bob Rheault*	What We Think We Know: Lessons Learned In Five Years Of Cross Hatchery Collaboration On The Standardization Of Production Of The Atlantic Sea Scallop, *Placopecten Magellanicus* *Tessa Houston & Craig Condon*	~~Cultivating the Next Generation: Building a Multidisciplinary Workforce Pipeline for U.S. Aquaculture and Fisheries~~ WITHDRAWN *Imani Black*	Cultivating Opportunity: Progress in Green Sea Urchin Farming in Coastal Maine Waters *Seth White*	Expanding Aquaculture by Expanding our Undestanding of Social Acceptability: An Assessment of Social Acceptability for Aquaculture in Three Regions of the United States *Adriane Michaelis*	**PANEL SESSION:** This panel brings together researchers and industry leaders to explore innovative approaches to processing that extend beyond the traditional half shell. Panelists will examine methods such as high-pressure processing (HPP), canning, smoking, jarring, and alternative shelf-stable packaging, with attention to how these techniques can improve food safety, extend shelf life, diversify product offerings, and expand consumer access. The discussion will also address consumer willingness to pay for alternative sizes, packaging, and certification schemes, highlighting how market preferences influence product development and adoption. By integrating perspectives from science and industry, the panel will consider both the technical and economic dimensions of value-added processing, and the role these innovations can play in strengthening aquaculture resilience and shaping the future of seafood markets.
10:45 AM		Do Temporal Patterns in Bird Distribution and Abundance Facilitate Pathogen Contamination of Shellfish on Floating Aquaculture Farms? *Dylan Bakner*	The Use of Probiotics to Mitigate Atlantic Sea Scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) Mortality Following Challenge with Pathogenic Vibrio Species *Kyle Brennan*	Cultivating Maine's Next Generation of Workforce Professionals *Carissa Maurin*	Optimizing Green Sea Urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*) Co-Culture Systems With Atlantic Sea Scallops (*Placopecten magellanicus*) to Control Bio-Fouling *Brendan Elba*	Who Should I Trust? Assessing Determinants of Public Confidence in Different Sources of Information about Aquaculture and Seafood Safety in Maine *Tom Safford*	
11:00 AM		Evidence Suggests Insignificant Risk Of Contamination From Birds *Bobbi Hudson*	The Beginning Of A Story: Immune System Development Of The Atlantic Sea Scallop *Nichole Blackmer*	WCCC's Aquaculture Pathways: Meeting Today's Needs, Building Tomorrow's Workforce" *Nichole Sawyer*	Integrating grazing Atlantic purple sea urchins with Eastern Oysters to reduce biofouling – recent successful research and next steps. *Coleen Suckling*	Navigating Farms, Fisheries, and Communities: A Social-Ecological Systems Perspedtive From Maine *Sarah Risley*	
11:15 AM		Oyster Farms as Habitat: Seasonal and Gear-Specific Impacts on Coastal Waterbird Communities *Martina Muller*	**Scallops II - Bay Scallop Marosporida** *Chair: Bassem Allam* Distribution of Bay Scallop Marosporida (Bsm) in the Host (*Argopecten irradians*) and Environmental Samples from the Peconic Estuary, NY *Guillaume Cacot*	The Commercial Oyster Aquaculture Sector Training (COAST) Program: Phases I & II *Russell Grice*	Technology Transfer Visit to Hokkaido, Japan in Support of Maine's Growing Farmed Sea Urchin Industry *Hugh Cowperthwaite*	Demographics, Spatial Concentration, and Localness in the US Shellfish Aquaculture Industry *Louisa Pitney*	
11:30 AM		Bird-Related Pathogen Contamination in Shellfish Aquaculture: A Comprehensive Literature Review *Nicole Martin*	Temperature Effects on Bay Scallop Marosporida (Bsm) Dynamics in *Argopecten irradians* *Kristen Savastano*	Beyond The Basics for Businesses and Practitioners *Rob Hudson*	**Discussion**	Addressing Labor Demand and Production Efficiency in Shellfish Aquaculture *Caela Gilsinan*	
11:45 AM		Assessing Depuration Of *Campylobacter* Spp. From Oysters *Nicole Richard*	Evidence For Direct Transmission Of Bay Scallop Marosporida in *Argopecten irradians* *Emmanuelle Pales Espinosa*	AIM for a Growing Workforce *Danny Badger*		Values, Risks, and Trust: Understanding Determinants of Stage Progression Within the Social License to operate Framework *Nathan Smith*	
12:00 PM - 1:30PM	**Lunch in the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall**						

12:30 - 1:30PM					**LUNCH TIME FILM SHOWING** **One Bad Crab** By Sandy Cannon Brown		
	Vermont Room	**New Hampshire Room**	**Massachusetts Room**	**Rhode Island Room**	**Connecticut Room**	**Cumberland Room (2nd Floor)**	**Oxford Room (2nd Floor)**
	Seaweed Farmer Forum *Chair: Jaclyn Robidoux*	**General Shellfish** *Chair: Katyanne Shoemaker*	**Scallops III** *Chair: Phoebe Jekielek*	**Seeding Success: Innovative Workforce Development Programs in Aquaculture** *Chair: Lisa Eddy*	**Worker Safety** *Chair: Christian Brayden*	**Collaborative Management in Aquaculture** *Chair: Kohl Kanwit*	**Models for Future Opportunity and Access in Aquaculture** *Chair: Dana Morse*
1:30 PM	**PANEL SESSION**: Join this farmer-focused panel session to hear directly from seaweed farmers across the Northeast about their experiences on the water and the ways they are navigating and building new opportunities in the developing seaweed sector. Farmers will share perspectives on the most current production strategies and challenges, on-farm innovations, and approaches to getting crops to market. From repurposing gear and managing small-boat family farms and cooperatives, to navigating seasonal workflows and labor, to exploring new product opportunities, panelists will provide a comprehensive look at the realities and opportunities in the Northeast seaweed industry. This session is designed for farmers considering seaweed, aquaculture practitioners, researchers, and policy professionals who want to learn directly from growers navigating a changing seaweed sector. Audience discussion will be encouraged.	~~Advancing Ribbed Mussel (*Geukensia demissa*) Spawning Protocols to Accelerate Commercialization and Meet Growing Demand~~ WITHDRAWN *Sean Towers*	Maine Scallop Fishery and the Connection with Scallop Aquaculture *Carlton Huntsberger*	**PANEL SESSION:** This panel will bring together program leaders from across the region to share their approaches, highlight successes, and candidly discuss the challenges faced in developing and sustaining workforce initiatives. Panelists will present examples of their projects, outlining what worked well and what barriers emerged—from program design and recruitment to partnerships and long-term sustainability. They will also share feedback received from industry partners and participants, offering insights into how programs can better align with employer needs and trainee expectations. The discussion will conclude with practical advice and lessons learned for others considering launching similar efforts. By examining the wide range of projects, this session aims to provide participants with a deeper understanding of effective strategies for workforce development in aquaculture, while fostering conversation about regional collaboration and how we can continue to meet the needs of the industry.	Safety in Aquaculture: Atlantic Aqua Farms Perspective *Jacob MacMilan*	**PANEL SESSION:** The growth of aquaculture in northeastern states and in Canada have required increased investment in the regulatory system and the revision of laws and regulations as the industry matures. Efforts to revise laws and regulations are frequently approached through a cooperative system. In Maine, the legislatively created Aquaculture Advisory Council (AQAC) was reformed in 2023 to include more council seats and a broadened scope of work. Since that time, the AQAC has initiated committees to work on specific topics that have resulted in draft legislation. In New Hampshire, regulatory officials worked with industry to revise their floating gear policy to address the risk to public health from birds. In Rhode Island, a revision of the Aquaculture of Marine Species regulation in 2024 also involved industry collaboration. These and more examples of collaborative management in aquaculture will be discussed to inspire and strengthen successful relationships between regulatory bodies, industry members and the public.	Understanding How Participatory Planning Influences Aquaculture Development *Joshua Richards*
1:45 PM		Tisbury Shellfish Department: A look into Municipal Aquaculture *Danielle Ewart*	Status of Scallop Aquaculture *Lisa White & Bryant Lewis*		Aquaculture Safety Culture: Leading, Protecting, and Growing by Example *Josh Bernier*		Massachusetts Examples of Aquaculture Policy as it Relates to Shellfish Aquaculture Site Availability *Joshua Reitsma*
2:00 PM		Simple Molecular Tests for Monitoring Wild Blue Mussel larvae: Leveraging Environmental RNA to Optimize Spat Collection *David A. Ernst*	Patterns of biotoxins in cultured Maine scallops *Tom Kiffney*		Aquaculture Workplace Safety *Antonia Small*		It Took a Village *Pat Burns*
2:15 PM		A Machine-Learning Based, Shellfish Biotoxin Forecasting Method: Successes from Maine, Opportunities for Other Regions *Johnathan Evanilla*	Spat Happens: Linking Wild Scallops and Aquaculture Futures *Phoebe Jekielek & Struan Coleman*		The Costs, Benefits, and Resources of Workplace Safety *Stephen Badger*		
2:30 PM		Spawning Under Stress: Impacts of Bay Scallop Reproduction on Their Vulnerabilities to High Temperatures and Hypoxia *Alison Novara*	Assessing the Potential for Bay Scallop Aquaculture In Maine *Aiden Coleman*		**Discussion**		**Discussion**
2:45 PM		Atlantic Surfclam Subspecies (*Spisula solidissima solidissima* and *S. s. similis*) can Produce Fertile Hybrid Offspring *Michael Acquafredda*	Technology Transfer Visit to Aomori and Hokkaido, Japan in Support Of Maine's Growing Farmed Sea Scallop Industry *Hugh Cowperthwaite*				
3:00 PM	**Break at the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall**						
	Vermont Room	**New Hampshire Room**	**Massachusetts Room**	**Rhode Island Room**	**Connecticut Room**	**Cumberland Room (2nd Floor)**	**Oxford Room (2nd Floor)**
	General Seaweed Aquaculture *Chair: Dan Wieczorek*	**Indigenous Aquaculture in the Northeast US** *Chair: Shannon Hill*	**Scallop Aquaculture Exchange: Learning Together for a Growing Industry** *Chair: Phoebe Jekielek*	**K-12 Education** *Chair: Keri Kaczor*	**Tough Work, Smart Moves: Caring for the Body in Coastal Aquaculture** *Chair: Antonia Small*	**Blue Mussel Hatchery Feasibility Roundtable** *Chairs: Kyle Pepperman & Emily Whitmore*	**Recapturing and Reuse of Plastics in the Aquaculture Industry** *Chair: Dana Morse*
3:30 PM	Development of a Seaweed Calculator for Nitrogen Removal *Carrie Byron*	**PANEL SESSION:** Rooted in centuries of ecological wisdom, indigenous aquaculture fosters a deep connection to land and water, ensuring communities can adapt to environmental changes and maintain access to healthy, culturally relevant food. This panel session is a forum for indigenous aquaculturists to share insights about their aquaculture operations, practices, challenges, and opportunities. It aims to foster collaboration and strengthen relationships between Tribal Nations, promoting mutual learning and support. Panelists will include Indigenous leaders, aquaculture experts, and environmental scientists who will share insights into traditional ecological knowledge and contemporary aquaculture practices.	**WORKSHOP:** If you've been growing scallops on your farm, or if you're thinking about growing them, please join us to learn and troubleshoot together! We will bring together scallop growers, researchers, managers, and those interested in starting to grow sea and/or bay scallops to share their stories and experience. We'll start by hearing from current growers to learn about the species they're growing, the gear they use, the markets they target and how they do it, and what works and what doesn't work for them and their business. We' ll also learn about publicly available tools and resources to help new and existing growers share knowledge on best practices, developed in partnership with researchers at UMaine. These overviews will be followed by a discussion with growers and ample time for audience Q&A and networking. We will have the different gear types (lantern/pearl nets,	Cultivating the Next Generation of Aquaculture Leaders: The Impact of Experiential Learning on Title I Middle School Students in Washington State *Megan Ewald*	**PANEL SESSION:** This session brings together perspectives from Maine AgrAbility's FishAbility Program, the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, and Labor-Movement to share practical strategies that address both physical and mental well-being in working waterfront communities. Participants will learn approaches to reduce wear and tear, build strength for longevity, and support bodies in adapting to the changing demands of gear, seasons, and shifting oceans. Attention will also be given to the broader systems of support fishermen need, from assistive technology, access to movement health resources to advocacy for mental health care and community-based solutions. By framing fishermen, aquaculture growers, and other industrial workers as "industrial athletes," this session underscores the importance of movement, recovery, and long-term sustainability in physically demanding	**ROUNDTABLE:** Over the last few decades, researchers and industry members have noted a significant decline in wild blue mussel abundance and reduced recruitment of wild spat in the Gulf of Maine. Given that both wild and farmed mussel landings in Maine are currently heavily dependent on the recruitment and survival of wild mussel spat, population decline poses a major threat to both sectors. In response to this, there has been growing interest and demand for hatchery reared mussed seed. Currently, the demand is higher than what is currently produced, prompting a collaborative effort between Downeast Institute and the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, with support from Builders Initiative, to explore the feasibility of expanding hatchery reared mussel production in the Northeast. This workshop will include a short	University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center *Andy Gifford*
3:45 PM	Achieving Success in Launching CPG Seaweed Products *Trey Angera*			Engaging Youth In Aquaculture Education Through Virtual Field Trips *Carla Scocchi*			Foamed Lobster Shell Composites for Thermal Insulation and Packaging Applications *Olivia Lee*
4:00 PM	How Low Can You Go (realistically)? Minimizing the Cost of Producing Kelp Offshore *Zachary Moscicki*			Building a Robust Pipeline to Aquaculture Careers in Maine through Workforce Development & Education Initiatives *Maya Pelletier*			Reducing Marine Debris in the Gulf of Maine: Educating and Empowering Boaters to Be Part of The Solution *Keri Kaczor*
4:15 PM	Testing Offshore Deep-water Cultivation of Sugar Kelp (*Saccharina latissima*) in the Gulf of Maine *Adam St. Gelais*			The Sound School Shellfish Hatchery: Utilizing a Shellfish Hatchery in a High School setting to develop Workforce Skills and Support Local Farms in Connecticut *Leila Strebel*			Reimagining Plastic-Based Aquaculture: Investigating Viable Alternatives *Abby Barrows*

4:30 PM	Increasing Access to Seaweed Processing for Farners in New England with Atlantic Sea Farms Co-Processing Services *Liz MacDonald*	The panel will highlight successful case studies of Indigenous-led aquaculture projects, illustrating how these initiatives not only support local economies but also foster community health, wealth and resilience, cultural identity, and Indigenous sovereignty and self-governance.	spat bags, Sea Scale cages, etc.) available to explore and information on where to get them, how much they cost, and which might be the best for your farm. The goal of this session is to bring people together to highlight the growth potential of scallop farming in Maine, shed light on challenges that growers are still facing in the state, and to discuss how we move this industry forward together.	Expanding Awareness of Aquaculture as a Viable STEM Career for Maine's *Carissa Maurin*	careers. Attendees will gain tools they can adapt to their own outreach, training, or healthcare practices, as well as insight into the resilience and innovation already present within fishing communities. Together, we explore how movement, wellness, and community partnerships can help ensure that those who feed our coastal regions can continue to work safely, productively, and with dignity.	presentation on the results from an industry round table that included growers and hatchery experts and will then move into a facilitated group discussion to gather broader industry perspectives. This discussion will inform the creation of a roadmap that outlines concrete steps towards a commercial mussel hatchery.	**Discussion**
4:45 PM	MacroBreed: Modernizing Kelp Aquaculture Through Selective Breeding *Gary Molano*			Shell-ebrate! Bivalve Education for K-12 Classrooms *Kristel Anuszewski & Colleen Maker*			
5:00 PM	**Poster Session & Happy Hour in the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall**						
6:30 PM	**ECSGA Annual Meeting at "The Shop" (123 Washington Ave)**						
6:30 PM	**Dinner on your own out on the town**						
	FRIDAY JANUARY 9						
7:00AM	**Registration in the Hotel Lobby**						
7:00AM	**Continental breakfast in the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall**						
	Vermont Room	**New Hampshire Room**	**Massachusetts Room**	**Rhode Island Room**	**Connecticut Room**	**Cumberland Room (2nd Floor)**	
	Seaweed Nursery *Chair: Scott Lindell*	**Shellfish Hatcheries I** *Chair: Meredith White*	**Making Sense of Sensors: Monitoring Environmental Data on Aquaculture Farms** *Chair: Tom Kiffney & Emily Whitmore*	**Aquaculture Restoration & Conservation** *Chair: Annie Fagan & Sarah Risley*	**General Aquaculture I** *Chair: Gillian Phillips*	**Oysters I** *Chair: Dale Leavitt*	
8:00 AM	How Can Land-based Systems Facilitate Selective Breeding Advancements for Open Ocean Seaweed Aquaculture? *Danial J. Gossard*	Testing Larval Oyster Biocompatibility with Buffered Seawater from Novel CO_2 Removal Technology *Esther Martin*	**WORKSHOP:** The 2024 Maine Aquaculture Research, Development and Education Survey highlighted an emerging need for aquaculture farmers–hyper local environmental data. Farmers were interested in monitoring a variety of parameters on their farm, and were willing to share the data with others. At the same time, researchers have expressed a need for improved nearshore environmental data to improve modeling and forecasting, which can help aquaculture farmers plan for the future. In response, the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, in collaboration with the University of Maine and supported by the Nature Conservancy, have launched a pilot project testing out monitoring systems on farms in midcoast and downeast Maine. This workshop will include a short overview of the project, a presentation of the data collected on midcoast and downeast aquaculture farms over the past 4 months, followed by a farmer panel and facilitated discussion. The farmer panel will include farmers who piloted different systems during the fall of 2025. Discussion topics will include: -Identification of key parameters that are most useful for aquaculture farmers -How data is or can be used in decision-making on farms -Available systems, ease of use, costs, and capabilities -Data accessibility and options for data dashboards Discussion from this workshop will inform next steps for expanded environmental monitoring on aquaculture farms across the state and how this initiative can most effectively meet industry needs.	Conservation Aquaculture of Lake Sturgeon in Manitoba, Canada *Gwangseok R. Yoon*	New York Aquaculture: A Summary of the Industry and Ongoing Extension Efforts to Support It *Barry Udelson*	Field Performance Evaluation of Selectively Bred Eastern Oyster Lines in New Jersery and Rhode Island *Seraphina Satkowski*	
8:15 AM	Building a Sustainable Kelp Industry: The Role of Gametophyte Based Nurseries and Optimized Infrastructure *David Bailey*	Multi-strain Probiotic Cocktail Improves Bivalve Resilience Against Hatchery Pathogens *Jaypee Samson*		Assessment of Natural Oyster Population Health and Dynamics to Inform Restoration and Aquaculture Planning in Long Island Sound: Part 1, Connecticut *Mariah Kachmar*	~~Connecting Sea Grant, The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Sciences, and Coastal Ocean Communities to Improve Sustainable Aquaculture Development and Siting Processes~~ WITHDRAWN *Annie Schatz*	Predicting Long Term Outcomes for the Eastern Oyster Crassostrea virginica using Genetic Composition and Environmental History *Camille Rumberger*	
8:30 AM	Microbiota Management Strategies for Gametophyte Nursery Maintenance Plans *Morgan Anthony*	Victories & Challenges for Growing Alternative Species in a Commerical Oyster Hatchery & Nursery *Hannah Pearson*		Assessment of Natural Oyster Population Health and Dynamics to Inform Restoration and Aquaculture Planning in Long Island Sound: Part 2, New York *Isaiah Mayo*	Determining Nutritional Content of Gulf of Maine Seaweed and Selection for Best Analytical Practices *Brittney Honisch*	Pilot Testing the Timing and Effectiveness of Two Dip Treatments for Control of Shell Pests in Cultured Oysters *Joshua Reltsma*	
8:45 AM	A Systematic Approach to Gametophyte Biobanking in the Gulf of Maine as a Tool for Nursery Resiliency and Conservation of Biodiversity *Sara Lacourciere*	Rapid and Sensitive eDNA Tools to Identify Pathogens of Juvenile Oysters, Larvae, and Seed. *Peter Countway*		**PANEL:** Beyond serving as a means of food production and an engine for economic growth, aquaculture is also advancing ecosystem restoration goals here in the Northeast and across the world. However, what "restoration" means and how best to approach it can vary widely depending on who you ask! What makes these projects successful - or not? What can they accomplish? And what's on the horizon? In this panel discussion, we will dive into the opportunities and challenges of aquaculture-based restoration and explore topics like project siting, permitting, social license, industry and community involvement, biosecurity, educational initiatives, monitoring, and long-term sustainability of restoration projects. This panel will feature a range of perspectives from researcher and regulator to nonprofit conservation leadership and extension. With panelist participation from multiple states in the region, we will hear about the diversity of approaches and learnings across the Northeast. Join us, listen	Aquaculture & Protected Species: A Collaborative Approach to Risk Reduction *Ellen Keane*	Perspective on the Disease Status of Seed Oysters from Nursery-Phase Culture *Ryan Carnegie*	
9:00 AM	Optimizing Vegetative Scaling of Multi-Annual Delayed *Saccharina latissima* Gametophytes in a Replicated Photobioreactor System *Adam St. Gelais*	Experiences in the optimization of microalgal feeding systems in a shellfish hatchery *Isaac S.K Reeves VII*			Charting the Course: NOAA Science, Innovation, and Partnerships *Daniel Wieczorek*	U.S. Oyster Production: Recent Trends and Market Potential *Bob Rheault*	
9:15 AM	Why Selection Matters in Seaweed Aquaculture *Thew Suskiewicz*	Will a "Heat-Killed" Formulation of Probiotic Strain OY15 Exert Beneficial Probiotic Effects on Larvae of the Eastern Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) Similar to That of the Live OY15 Formulation? *Diane Kaparelko*			Consumer Valuation of Innovation-Driven Attribute Improvements in Aquaculture: The Case of Maine Oysters *Qiuije Zheng*	Major Industry Advancements in Oyster Mariculture *Christopher Webb*	
9:30 AM	Optimizing gametogenesis and sporophyte production with multi-annual delayed sugar kelp (*Saccharina latissima*) gametophytes for improving kelp nursery productivity *Hadley Kerr*	Improving Resilience of Hatchery-Reared Blue Mussels (*Mytillus edulis*) to Ocean Acidification with Diet and Seawater Buffering *Robert Holmberg*			Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration (SOAR) 2.0 Overview *Kelsey Meyer*	High Precision Research on Environmental Stressors, Genetics, and the Microbiome to Improve Oyster Aquaculture Yields *Kristina Colacicco*	

9:45 AM	Selectively Breeding Improved Strains of Sugar Kelp, *Saccharina latissima*; A Seven-Year Summary *Scott Lindell*	Lessons Learned in Efficiency: Insights from a Non-Profit Shellfish Hatchery *Breanna Salter*	industry needs.	learnings across the Northeast. Join us, listen in, and bring your own questions, as we learn from one another in this engaging conversation.	Getting Started with Aquaculture Genetics: Choosing the Right Breeding Program *Samuel May*	The Effects of Tidal Exposure on Growth, Viability, and Shell Pests in Cultured Wellfleet Oysters *Abigail Archer*
10:00 AM	**Break at the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall**					
	Vermont Room	**New Hampshire Room**	**Massachusetts Room**	**Rhode Island Room**	**Connecticut Room**	**Cumberland Room (2nd Floor)**
	Maine Seaweed Council Collaboration, Innovation, & Research *Chairs: Jaclyn Robidoux & Steve Eddy*	**Shellfish Hatcheries II** *Chair: Meredith White*	**Advances in Quahog Aquaculture in Maine** *Chair: Marissa McMahan*	**Ecosystem Services** *Chair: Shannon Meseck*	**Sea Lice** *Chair: Mike Pietrak & Matt Hawkyard*	**Oysters II** *Chair: Isaiah Mayo*
10:30 AM	Bridging Tradition and Innovation: Resources and Initiatives From the Maine Seaweed Council for Farmers *Jaclyn Robidoux*	Recent Innovations at Roger Williams University's Luther H. Blount Shellfish Hatchery and Ferrycliffe Oyster Farm *Robert Holmberg*	(*Mercenaria mercenaria*) are an important fishery along the East Coast of the U.S., but are relatively new in Maine. Populations of wild quahogs are increasing in Maine as waters warm, and quahogs are emerging as a new aquaculture product in the state, providing an important economic opportunity for both wild and aquaculture sectors. Wild quahog stock enhancement is a key tool employed by municipal shellfish programs in the state to support the growth of the wild fishery, but is limited by the availability of quahog seed in the sizes and amounts needed. This session explores recent advances in quahog aquaculture in Maine, including production strategies that benefit wild harvesters and farmers, current and future product demand, and economic viability of different growing techniques. <u>Lightning Talks/Panel Members:</u> **Dan Devereaux**, Coastal Resource Manager, Town of Brunswick **Jordan Kramer**, Winnegance Oyster **Adam Campbell**, North Haven Oyster Co. **Kanae Tokunaga**, Senior Scientist, Gulf of Maine Research Institute **Ben Cotton**, Research Associate, Gulf of Maine Research Institute **Caitlin Cleaver**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Colby College **Diego Trevino**, Student, Colby College **Rachel Hutchinson**, Marine Resource	Behavioral Obsesrvations, Relative Condition, and Estimated Production of Black Sea Bass Using Oyster Aquaculture Cages and Boulders as Habitat *Gillian Phillips*	Mate Recognition Cues of Salmon Lice (*Lepeophtheirus salmonis*) and Their Potential in Pest Mitigation *Robert Morefield*	Comparative analysis of mitochondrial activty in triploid and diploid oysters *Brandon Feole*
10:45 AM	The Maine Seaweed Council: its history of wild harvest advocacy and relevance to the whole seaweed sector *Shep Erhart*	Evaluating Bio-Secure Transfer Methods of Larvae and Seed from the Atlantic to the Gulf Coast: A Commercial Hatchery Perspective *Samantha Glover*		Simple Tools to Quantify Ecosystem Services Provided by Aquaculture: *The Aquaculture Nutrient Removal Calculator Version 2.0* *Ryan Morse*	Optimizing Feeding Strategies to Improve Growth, Welfare, and Stress Resilience in Juvenile Lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*) *Matt Hawkyard*	Genetic strategies of parasite mitigation in the eastern oyster *Madeline Eppley*
11:00 AM	**PANEL:** This session will introduce attendees to the MSC, highlighting ongoing efforts that support seaweed farmers while strengthening the entire sector—fostering genuine partnership between emerging seaweed aquaculture and Maine's long-established wild harvest fishery. It will also showcase the Council's depth of longstanding expertise in areas such as product development, certification and standards, food safety, and collaborative reseach—areas that have long supported wild harvest in the Northeast and that are increasingly vital to seaweed aquaculture as the sector grows. As an internationally recognized collaborative network, the MSC contributes to national and global projects, extending the impact of Maine's seaweed expertise far beyond the state.	High Speed Imaging Microscopy in Shellfish Hatchery Research *Savannah Stresser*		Widespread Demographic Supplementation of Connecticut Wild Oysters by Aquaculture Farms *Yuqing Chen*	Investigations into natural compounds for managing sea lice, *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* *Junald Rehman*	Shellfish & Microplastics, What's All the Hype About? *Bobbi Hudson*
11:15 AM		Hidden Threats: Screening Assays Suggest Involvement of Toxins, Pollutants, or Viruses in Some Bivalve Hatchery Larval Crashes on the East Coast. *Shannon Murphy*		Documenting Habitat Provisioning by Oyster and Clam Farms Using Underwater Video in Barnegat Bay, NJ *Alexandria Ambrose*	Investigating the use of spawn aids to synchronize spawning and improve the efficiency of a breeding program for Lumpfish. *Mike Pietrak*	Optimization of Methods for Microplastic Extraction and Quantification from Farmed Oysters *Mikayla Straube*
11:30 AM		Another Pocket Hatchery: Does Small Make Sense? *Michael Congrove*		Simple Tools to Quantify Ecosystem Services Provided by Aquaculture- The Aquaculture Habitat Calculator *Ryan Morse*	Industry perspectives on sea lice control in salmon aquaculture *Andrew Swanson*	Microplastics as a Vector for Bacterial Entry into Oysters *Abigail Vigue*
11:45 AM		Identifying Microbial Taxa Implicated in Oxylipin-Related Larval Oyster Dieoff in Maine with Environmental DNA *Sydney Greenlee*		**Discussion**	**Discussion**	Progress in Eastern Oyster Breeding and Prospects of Genomic Selection *Ximing Guo*
12:00 PM - 1:30PM	**Lunch in the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall**					
12:30 - 1:30PM					**LUNCH TIME FILM & PANEL: Climate of Change: Aquaculture for People and Planet** by Island Institute & CEI	
	Vermont Room	**New Hampshire Room**	**Massachusetts Room**	**Rhode Island Room**	**Connecticut Room**	**Cumberland Room (2nd Floor)**
	Advances in Gear Technology I *Chair: Chris Davis*	**Priorities for the Genetic Improvement of Oysters** *Chair: Thomas Delomas*	**Clams** *Chair: Matthew Poach*	**Business of Aquaculture** *Chair: Kevin Madley*	**Finfish** *Chair: Matt Hawkyard*	**Aquaculture in a Changing Environment** *Chair: Dan Wieczorek*
1:30 PM	AI-Aided Autonomous Design for Aquaculture Engineering Structures with Physics-Driven Models *Longhuan Zhu*	**WORKSHOP**: The USDA Agricultural Research Service has started a breeding program to develop genetically improved strains of eastern oysters for aquaculture in collaboration with NOAA, the University of Maine, and the University of Rhode Island. The session will begin with a brief description of the structure and goal of the breeding program. The majority of the	Growout of Atlantic Surfclam Seed at Intertidal Sites Around Cape Cod, MA *Matthew Poach*	The Economic Impact of Aquaculture in Maine *Christian Brayden*	Lipid and Fatty Acid Dynamics Throughout Early Development of North American Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) *Halli Bair*	Lasting DNA Methylation from Early Life Hypoxia in *Crassostrea virginica* *Julia McDonough*
1:45 PM	Mooring Tension Measurements & Assessment of an Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture System in the Gulf of Maine *David W. Fredriksson*		Growth and Survival of Two Populations of Surfclams from Hatchery to Harvest *Katyanne Shoemaker*	Best Management Practices (BMPS) & Occupational Standards; Advancing the Sector as per Maine's Sea Farmers *Christian Brayden*	Regional Implementation of Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) *Bill Keleher*	What Happens to Bay Scallops Exposed to Ocean Acidification for Three Generations? *Shannon L. Meseck*
2:00 PM	Engineering Design of Scallop Aquaculture Farming Systems *Nate Baker*		Experimental Offshore Aquaculture of the Atlantic Surfclam (Spisula solidissima) *Daphne Munroe*	Mapping Aquaculture Cost of Production with Integrated Model-Based Engineering, Biogeochemical Satellite Data, Biological Modeling, and Techno-Economic Analysis for Seaweed. Shellfish. and Finfish *Tobias Dewhurst*	Advancing RAS Larval Rearing with Protein-Coated Microparticulate Diets (PCMDs) *Spencer Kubo*	From Narratives to Data: Using Oral Histories to Understand Climate Adaptation in Aquaculture *Hillary Smith*

2:15 PM	Navigate Risk with Confidence: Understanding and Mitigating Uncertainty in Open Ocean Mariculture *Micheal MacNicoll*	the breeding program. The majority of the workshop will be spent discussing with attendees the improvements they want to see in a cultured oyster strain. Topics will include prioritizing the traits (e.g., growth rate, resistance to specific diseases, heat tolerance, shape, etc.) that are most important to the industry and the range of growing conditions (environmental conditions, disease pressure, gear types) throughout the northeast.	A New Molecular Diagnostic Method for Detecting the Presence & Severtiy of Hemocytic Neoplasia in Hard Shelled Clams (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) *Michael Torselli*	Selling Seafood through Storytelling *Alicia Galero*	Preliminary Trials on Lipid Oxidation in Menhaden Oil and its Implications for Aquafeed Stability *Christopher Baker*	Carryover Effects of Hypoxia and Warming on the Growth of the Eastern Oyster *Crassostrea virginica* *Sophia Montague*
2:30 PM	Design and Manufacturing of a USV for Oyster Aquaculture *Andre Greene*		Updates From The East Coast Hard Clam Selective Breeding Collaborative: Can Genomic Tools Imporve Clam Breeding in The US? *Bassem Allam*	Aquaculture Tourism as a Diversified Business Model *Alicia Galero*	Evaluation of Insect Meals as Alternative Protein Sources in Atlantic Salmon Diets Using Growth, Biochemical, and Molecular Approaches *Michael Habte-Tsion*	The Effect of Warming and Ocean Acidification on the Growth, Development, and Swimming Behavior of Sea Scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*) and Surfclam (*Spisula solidissima*) Veliger Larvae *Emily A. Roberts*
2:45 PM	The "*Snap and Strap*": A Bird-Deterring, Easy-Flip Float for Aquaculture Gear *Mryon Horzesky*		Single Cell Analysis Reveals Molecular Mechanisms of Transmissible Cancer in Quahogs (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) *Jaypee Samson*	What Do I Do with the Farm When I'm Done? Succession, Transition, and Estate Planning in Maine Aquaculture *Christian Brayden*	~~Yellowtail Kingfish Immune Development~~ WITHDRAWN *Lingzi Ding*	Overwintering Oysters in an Increasingly Unpredictable Winter Climate: Testing Storing Techniques for Resilient Aquaculture *Kaila Frazer*
3:00 PM	**Break in the Foyer**					
	Vermont Room	**New Hampshire Room**	**Massachusetts Room**	**Rhode Island Room**	**Connecticut Room**	**Cumberland Room (2nd Floor)**
	Advances in Gear Technology II *Chair: Chris Davis*	**Bivalve Hatchery Health Consortium** *Chair: Marta Gomez-Chiarri*	**TikTok – Times Are Changing: Communicating Aquaculture for the Next Generation** *Chairs: Corinne Noufi & Meggan Dwyer*	**Tools for Planning & Funding Your Growing Business** *Chair: Nick Branchina*	**General Aquaculture II** *Chair: Deborah Bouchard*	**A Decade of Advancements in Ocean Acidification Monitoring** *Chair: Austin Pugh*
3:30 PM	Integrating Solar Power into Aquaculture Operations *Alicia Gaiero*	**PANEL** The Bivalve Hatchery Health Consortium (BHHC) was established in 2023 to identify causes leading to reduced larval performance and develop management tools. As of September 2025, 37 hatcheries from the Atlantic Coast of the USA have enrolled in the BHHC, providing samples and data for more than 60 production runs in 2024 and 2025. In 2024, 55% of the 33 production runs were crashes or showed low larval performance. The objectives of this interactive workshop are to: 1) share lessons learned from the BHHC enrollment and sampling process; 2) report findings from the 2024 sampling season, 3) engage participants in interpreting the data collected so far, and 4) discuss further steps. Members of the BHHC coordinating team, including pathologists, ecologists, hatchery managers, and extension specialists, will answer questions and gather feedback from those interested in the program on how to address this critical issue of larval crashes.	**PANEL**: This panel examines innovative approaches to communicating aquaculture science and practice with the next generation. Panelists will explore the interplay of new media used in traditional ways and traditional media reimagined through new technologies, highlighting how these methods influence public perception, understanding, and engagement. The conversation will span social media, podcasting, visual arts, documentary film, and virtual reality, offering insights into both the opportunities and challenges of leveraging creative and digital platforms to broaden accessibility, amplify diverse voices, and foster intergenerational dialogue in aquaculture. To enhance accessibility and extend the exchange beyond the event, the session will be recorded live as part of the Salty Talks series, ensuring the discussion contributes to ongoing conversations on aquaculture communication and education.	**PANEL**: This panel discussion will focus on some of the resources available to aquaculturists looking to find financing to grow their farms. Experts will include Business Planning professionals and Lending experts who can share their experiences on what it takes to prepare for taking on funding. This will be a panel discussion with plenty of time available to ask questions specific to your situation. Because financing and technical assistance questions can be personal in nature, presenters will be available to stay after the presentation to speak with individuals in a one-on-one setting or for follow up consultation.	~~Culture of *Isochrysis* for Producing a Valuable Natural Wax By-product~~ WITHDRAWN *Morgan Anthony*	**PANEL**: Ocean Acidification is of growing concern to many in the shellfish growing community and beyond. The Northeast Coastal Acidification Network (NECAN) is the leading group in the region for the synthesis and dissemination of ocean and coastal acidification information. In this workshop NECAN will bring together a panel of regional experts on observing ocean acidification as well as aquaculturists currently monitoring ocean acidification, to discuss the developments in the methods/monitoring technologies of observing ocean acidification. Additionally, the current state of OA knowledge in the Northeast including the recent monitoring plan released by NECAN will be presented by the panelists. We will also reserve significant time to hear from the aquaculture community members in attendance directly, as to their data needs. A synthesis document of major takeaways will be produced and disseminated after this workshop to the NECAN network and workshop participants.
3:45 PM	3D-COAST (3 Dimensional Cultivation of Oysters Automated with Solar Tumbling) *Luke Saindon*				Coming Out of the Closet: Advances in Lobster Aquaculture Development in Maine *Brian Beal*	
4:00 PM	Purpose Built Aquaculture Hulls designed for Electric Propulsion *Phoebe Walsh*				SeaMade at UNE *Carrie Byron*	
4:15 PM	Development of Carbon Negative Shellfish Farming Technologies *Nick Planson*				Applying Forensic DNA Finger-Printing Techniques for Tracking the Fate of Farmed Sugar Kelp Fragments in Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture. *Peter Craig*	
4:30 PM	Trails of Novel Biodegradable Lantern Net Covers for Biofouling Mitigation *Madison Maier*				**Discussion**	
4:45 PM	Adapting Fishing Technology, Workflow, and Policy to the Development of Emerging Aquaculture Species *Charles Walsh*					
5:00 PM	**Closing Remarks & Sendoff Toasts**					