







### Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative Background, Overview, Participation Opportunities

Scott J. Soares, Boston Bay Consulting Sean McNally, UMass Boston



### What MSI is and what MSI isn't...



YES: Near shore State and Municipal regulated shellfish resources and resource areas

• e.g. Oysters, Hard Clam (Quahogs), Softshell Clam (Steamers), Mussels, Bay Scallop, Razor Clam, etc



NO: Off shore Federal and State regulated shellfish resources

• e.g. Sea Scallop, Ocean Clam

### THE MSI:

### Targeting two outcomes:

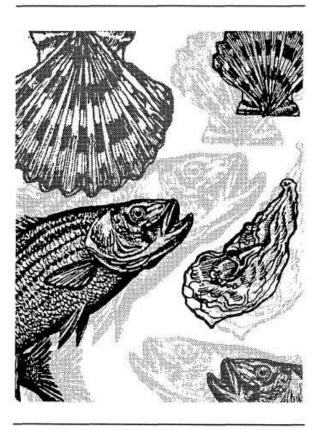


### 1. Build capacity for shellfish

- Increase stakeholder participation in management and community planning
- Improve stakeholder information sharing and collaboration among resource user groups

## 2. Develop a strategic state-wide plan and guidance document for how the state and towns can balance growing demands for shellfish resources, including strategies and tactics that can be implemented in the first 5 years to make progress towards the MSI goal.

### Aquaculture White Paper & Strategic Plan



### NEED FOR A MASSACHUSETTS SHELLFISH INITIATIVE

- Massachusetts lacks an updated common vision or goals for the state's shellfish resources
- Last effort was a multi-year, state agency lead aquaculture-specific plan in 1995
- MSI is a first comprehensive effort focused on near shore shellfish resources.

# NORA PHERICADIMINISTRATION C.O. DEDARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### NATIONAL SHELLFISH INITIATIVE

Voluntary national initiative introduced in 2011 to increase populations of bivalve shellfish in our nation's coastal waters—including oysters, clams, abalone, and mussels—through both sustainable commercial production and restoration activities.

### We're not alone...



### CALIFORNIA SHELLFISH INITIATIVE

### Successes:

- Group convened to address streamlining permitting
- Establishment of Working Group and Steering Committee
- Emphasis on bolstering outreach and marketing

### Take-Aways:

- Sustaining Momentum is Vital
- Consensus Building

**Current Status: Working Groups** 

### CONNECTICUT SHELLFISH INITIATIVE

### Successes:

- Public Scoping Sessions with 150+ participants
- Establishment of Steering Committee and Project Team
- CSI currently open to public comment

### Take-Aways:

- Goal Setting
- CSI Framework

Current Status: Implementation Planning Stage

### WASHINGTON SHELLFISH INITIATIVE



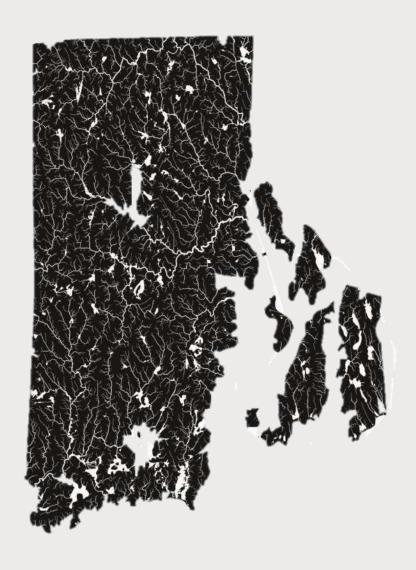
### Successes:

- Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification
- Increase Acreage
- Clean Vessel Program
- Native Shellfish Restoration Hatchery

### Take-Aways:

- Working Groups
- Implementation

**Current Status:** Phase II Implementation



### RHODE ISLAND SHELLFISH INITIATIVE

### Successes:

- Building on previous efforts in RI under Rhode Island Shellfish Management Plan
- Strong Public Engagement

### Take-Aways:

- Online Webinars
- Public Events & Tours
- Food, Jobs, Management

**Current Status:** Implementation



### ALASKA MARICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

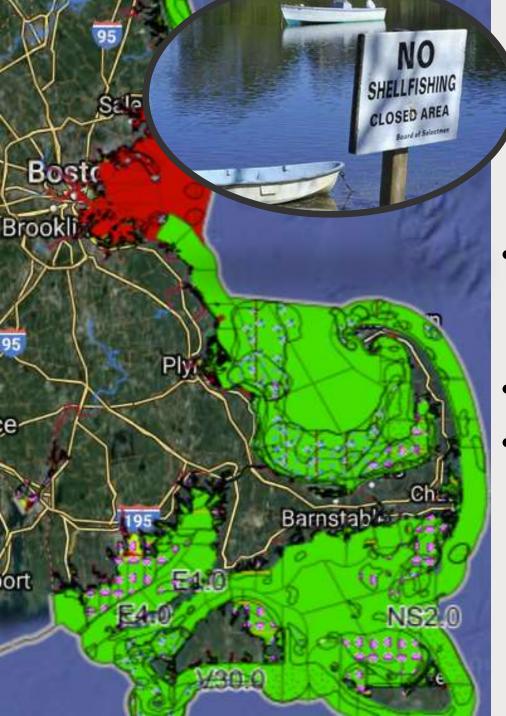
### Successes:

- \$100 million industry by 2038
- Task Force extended through 2021
- Mariculture revolving Loan Fund

### Take-Aways:

- "If we're all working together, success takes care of itself" ~ Henry Ford
- Broad marine shellfish aquaculture AK specific

**Current Status:** Implementation



### WHY NOW for MA?

Increased frequency in closures

- Norovirus
- Vibrio
- Harmful algal blooms
- Recent size limit changes creating a perception of wild harvesters vs. aquaculturists
- Special Review Process (SRP)
- Opportunity for legislative initiatives (e.g. AQUAA Act, Act relative to shellfish reefs and water quality)

### WHY NOW?

• <u>DEMAND</u> - Many towns have a wait list for residents interested in receiving a lease to start an aquaculture business.

 WATER QUALITY - Towns are recognizing shellfish Nitrogen mitigation opportunities (e..g. Cape Cod Commission developed and drafted the 208 Plan Update)





### WHY NOW?

- 3,000 commercial harvest permits annually
- Increased recreational and commecial harvest permit
- Advocates actively pursuing oyster reef restoration
- Significant growth in shellfish resources

2006: \$6 million

2017: \$28 million





### INITIAL SCOPING AND SURVEY

Initial project partners: The Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, Massachusetts Aquaculture Association, and The Nature Conservancy surveyed shellfish stakeholders in 2017 to identify issues, concerns, interests, and commonalities, and to confirm broad support for the concept.

7 Statewide Outreach
889eTiots Participants

# More than half of participants surveyed believe that a grassroots approach to creating a state-wide plan has the potential to:

- Increase shellfish resources in the Commonwealth.
- Raise visibility and 'status' of shellfish for the broad benefits they contribute
- Increase credibility, cooperation, communication and coordination among stakeholders
- Leverage support from other sectors
- Update and provide for comprehensive management for shellfish resources

### MSI TASK FORCE

- 18 members representing resource stakeholders, local and state government authorities and agencies:
  - Co-Chaired by Matt Beaton, Secretary MA Energy and Environmental Affairs and Matt Charette, Director Woods Hole Sea Grant, Senior Scientist Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
  - Oversee the initiatives public communication plan
  - Refine and finalize strategic plan and recommendations
  - Approve and Advocate Plans and Recommendations
  - Identify, Appoint and Oversee Sub-Committees
  - Kick-Off Meeting January 2, 2019

### MSI Task Force Subcommittees

- Iterative and collaborative process
- Task Force members and/or their appointees can serve on multiple subcommittees
- Management and coordination via Steering Committee / Consulting Coordinator



### Establishment of Three MSI Subcommittees

### Citizens Advisory Subcommittee

- Collect public input
- Develop formal policy/management recommendations.

### **Resources Subcommittee**

Develop formal resource needs and use recommendations

### Strategic Plan Subcommittee

Draft MA Shellfish Strategic Plan

### Creation of MSI Plan and Recommendations

- 12 Month Process
- Share draft plan and recommendations with officials (including boards of selectmen, legislature, regulating agencies) and the Governor's office, to ensure alignment and future political and financial support for implementation.
- Host additional public outreach meetings to share the draft MSI Plan and collect feedback.
- Finalize and impliment the MSI Plan
- Dependance on stakeholder participation and input

### We Want You!



Share Your Input & Opinion...

massshellfishinitiative.org/participate.html

Send questions or interest in participating in a Subcommittee...

massshellfishinitiative@gmail.com