



MSI Task Force Assessment Committee Update

Assessment Committee Charge

1. **Assess the capacity and status** of state and town government and NGO support and programming for shellfish including but not limited to current staffing, labs, hatcheries, research, monitoring, education, outreach, town programs and economic impacts of shellfish in Mass;
2. **Assess the status of existing strategic goals** related to Massachusetts shellfish, across state agencies, nonprofit organizations and municipalities;
3. **Compile public input** that has been collected through surveys and agency requests for public comment associated with shellfish in Mass., as well as informal feedback gathered by the committee.

Progress

- 1st AC Meeting Wed February 6, Barnstable
 - Survey development
- 2nd AC Meeting Wed March 13, New Bedford
 - MSOA presentation
 - Survey finalized – Posted 3/28
- Currently
 - Compiling (& still collecting) input from cities & towns through an online municipal survey (part of #1)

To Do

- Survey state and federal agencies, NGO's, Universities
 - (part of #1)
- Assess status of existing strategic goals...
 - (#2)
- Compile public input
 - (#3)

[MSI](#) was formed to listen to stakeholders in order to balance competing demands for nearshore shellfish resources in Massachusetts. The information you provide will be compiled by the [MSI Assessment Committee](#) to develop a summary report for the [MSI Task Force](#) to review the current status and diversity of shellfish resources in the Commonwealth.

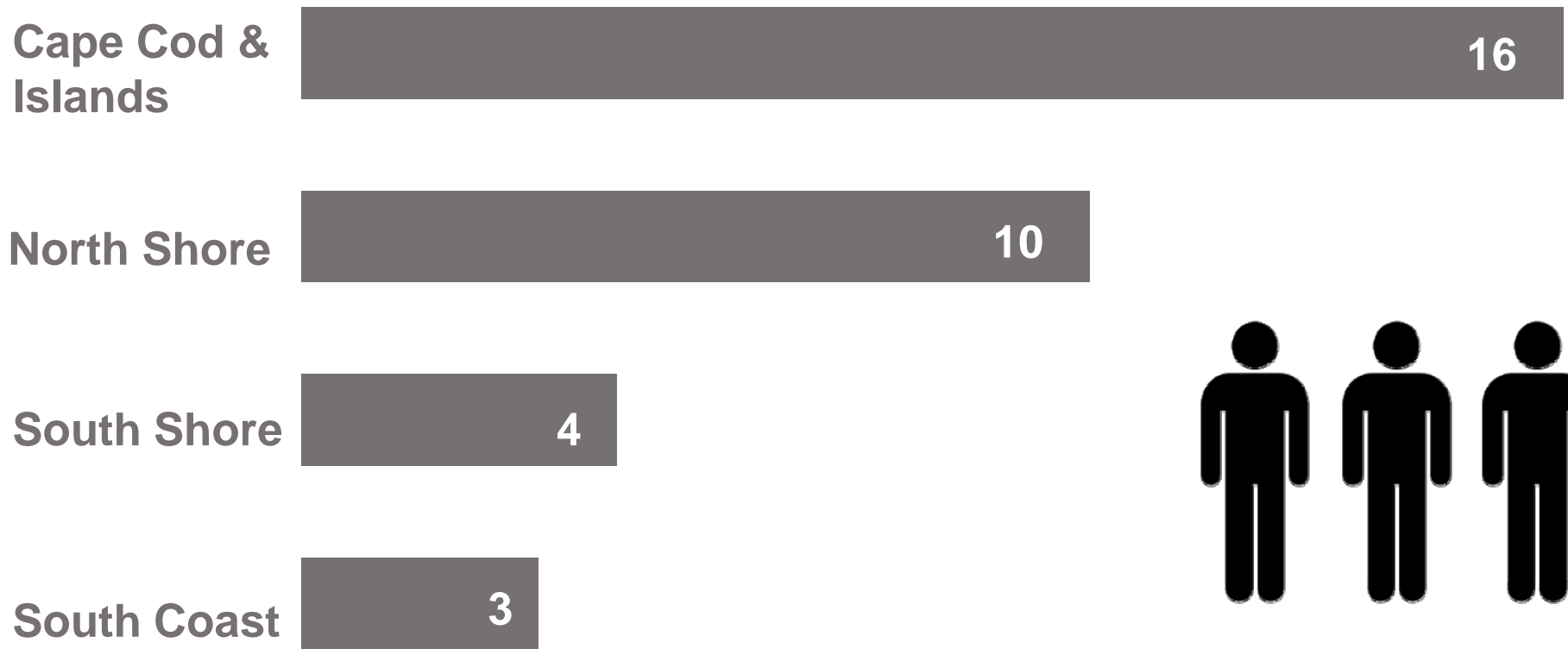
The committee hopes to identify the challenges coastal communities face in their efforts to manage, support, and expand shellfishing opportunities and shellfish resources in state waters. Individual responses will be reviewed within the MSI Assessment Committee and the summary report for the MSI Task Force will be made public. We understand your time is valuable and that answering some of these questions may mean coordinating with other municipal staff or boards. If you are unable to respond to a question you can simply skip it and move on to the next. There will be additional opportunities for municipal input and participation as the MSI process continues.

Participation in this survey is entirely voluntary, *no personal identifiers* will be collected or reported. *You are free to withdraw from the survey at any time, or you may choose not to answer any specific questions.*

Online Municipal Survey

AC Survey Participants by Region

Survey of municipal bodies associated with shellfish resources (N=33)



Focus specific outreach on remaining 26 towns

Primarily in the south shore and south coast regions

Cape Cod & Islands

16

North Shore

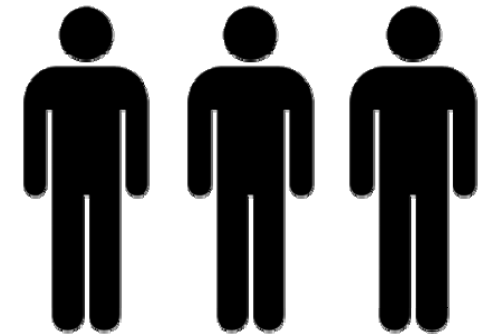
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South Shore

4

South Coast

3



Snapshot of results as of 4/10/19

Overview of shellfish programs

Is there _____ in your community?

A) Recreational Harvest

B) Commercial Wild Harvest

C) Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture

D) Municipal Shellfish Propagation

Is there recreational shellfish harvest in your community?

Yes

No

Is there commercial wild shellfish harvest in your community?

Yes

No

Is there commercial shellfish aquaculture in your community?

Yes

No

A majority of towns surveyed have a **recreational harvest** program

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)

Yes



No



Most towns have stable recreational harvest numbers from year to year

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)



A majority of towns surveyed have a **commercial harvest program**

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)

Yes



26

No

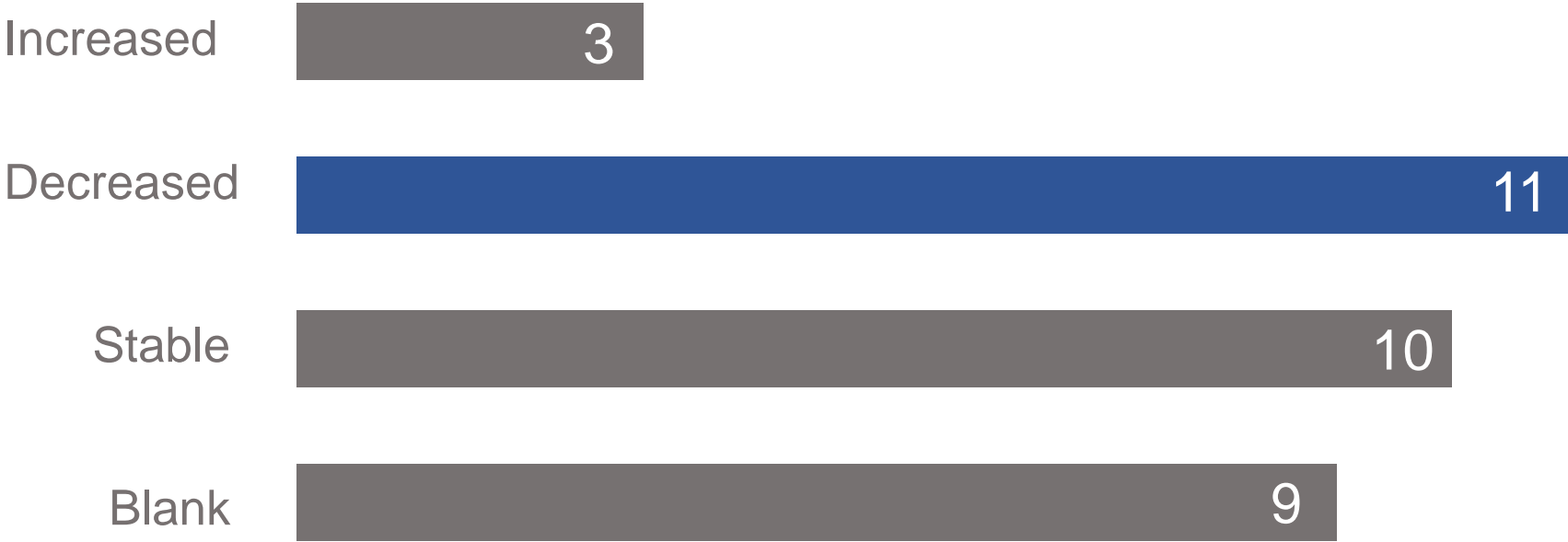


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More towns have seen a decline in **commercial harvest** numbers from year to year

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)



Surprisingly, of the towns surveyed most do not have commercial aquaculture program

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)

Yes



14



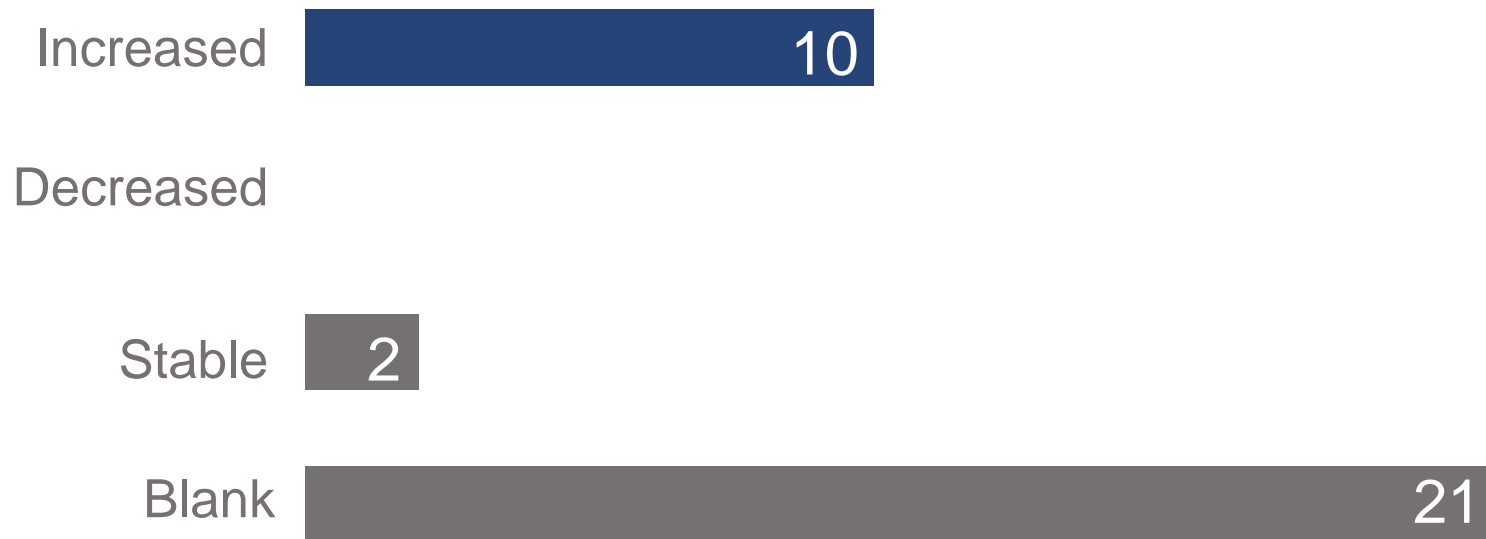
No



19

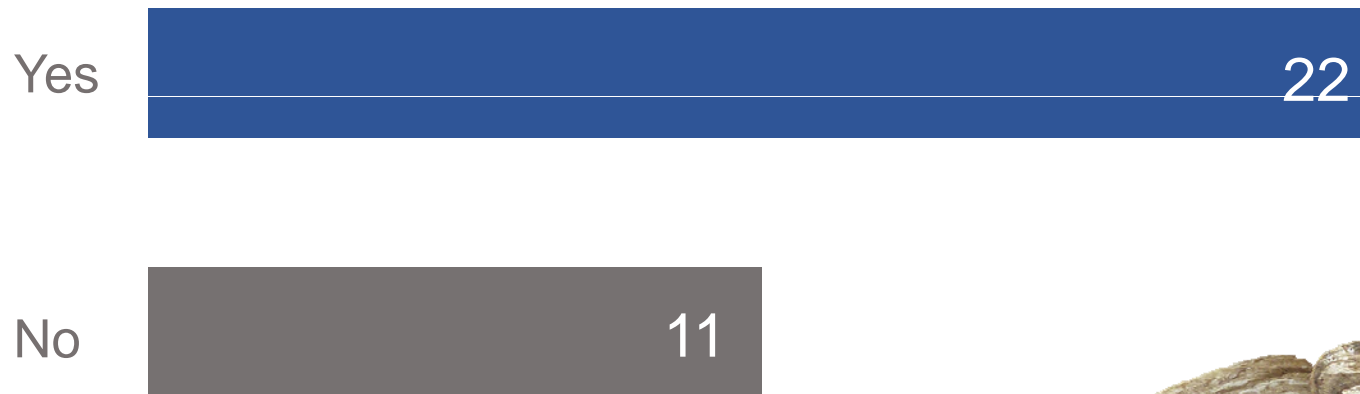
Towns with a **commercial aquaculture program** have seen an increase in aquaculture landings

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)



A majority of towns surveyed employ a **shellfish propagation program**

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)



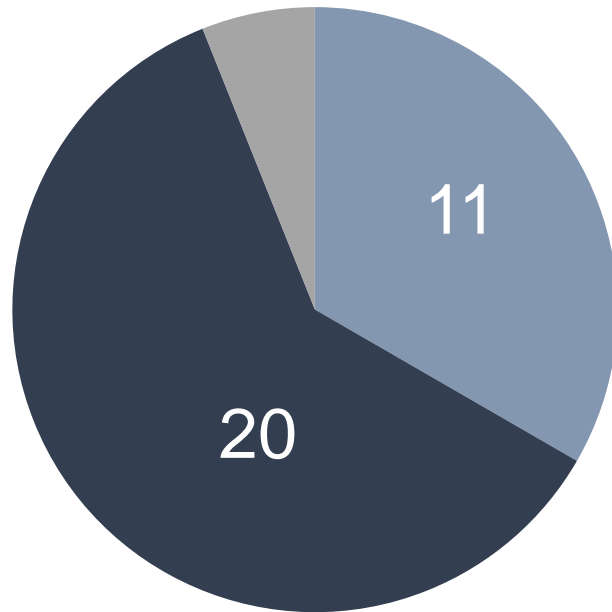
Snapshot of results as of 4/10/19

Overview of shellfish program capacity

All towns surveyed employ a shellfish constable

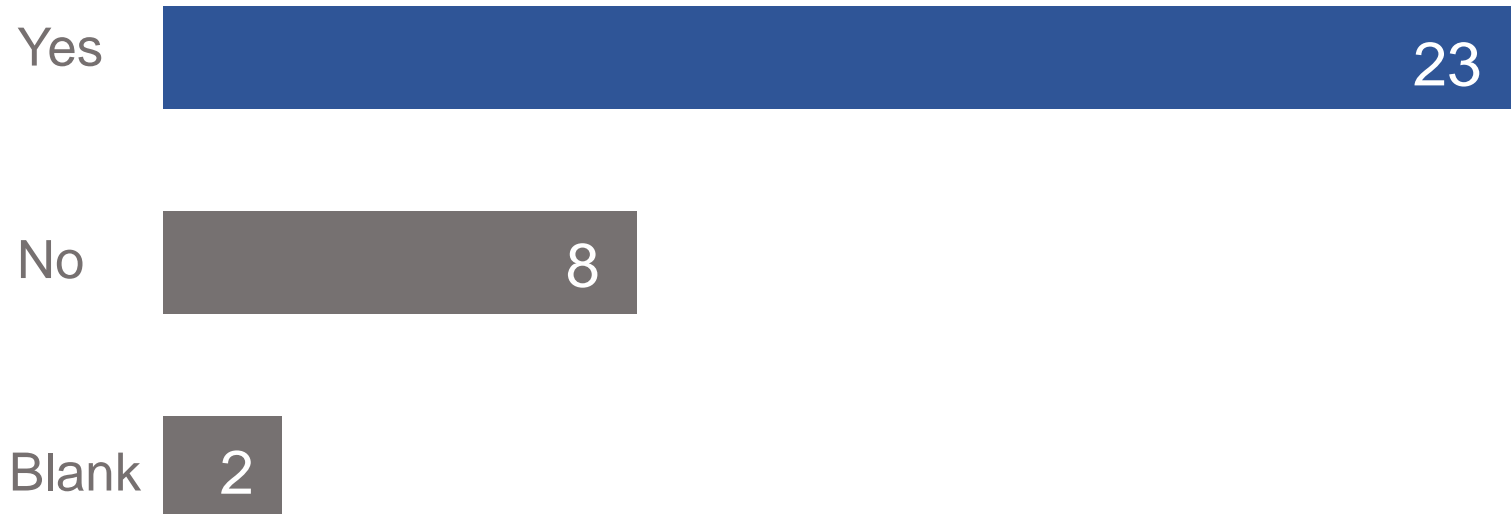
AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)

Most of those constables split their responsibilities/time with a secondary job related to natural resource management in their town



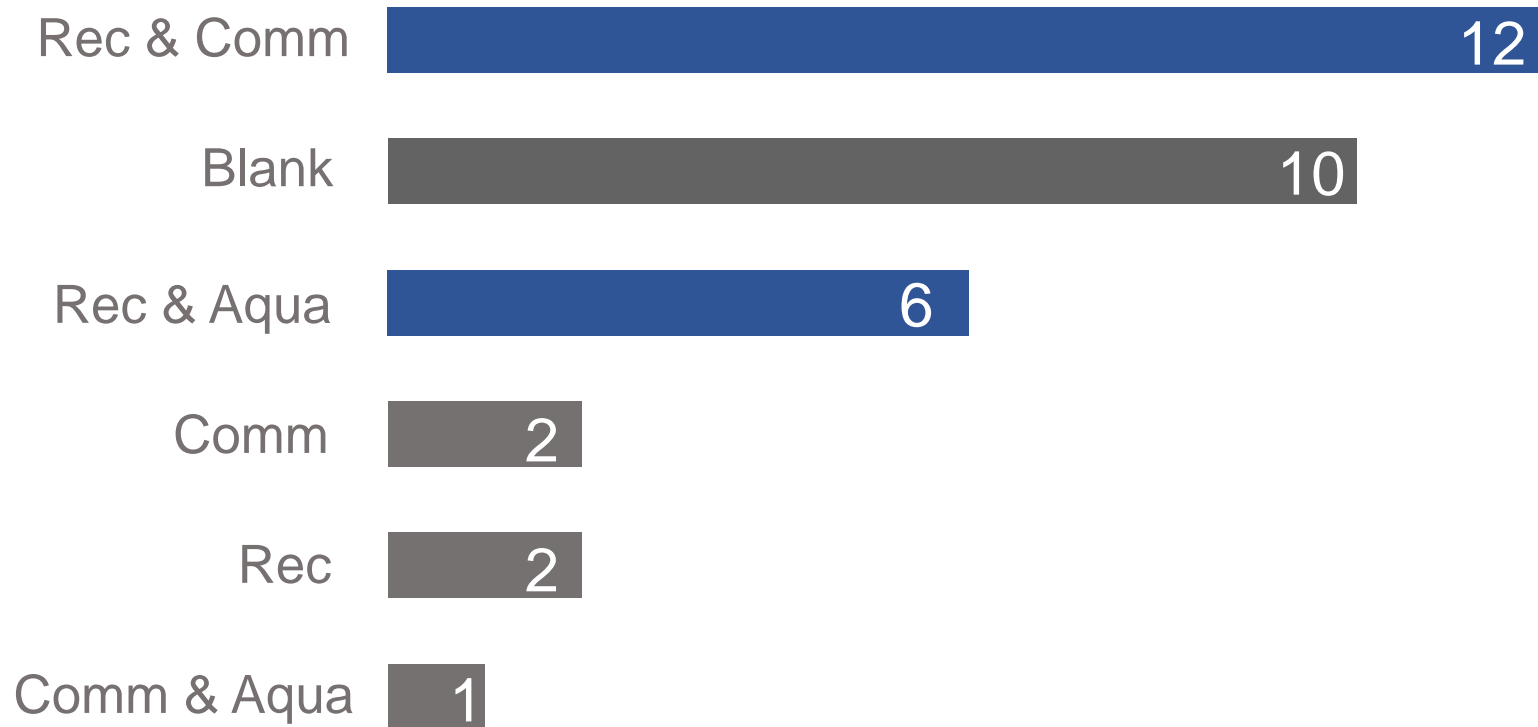
A majority of towns surveyed have an interest in expanding shellfish activity in their town

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)



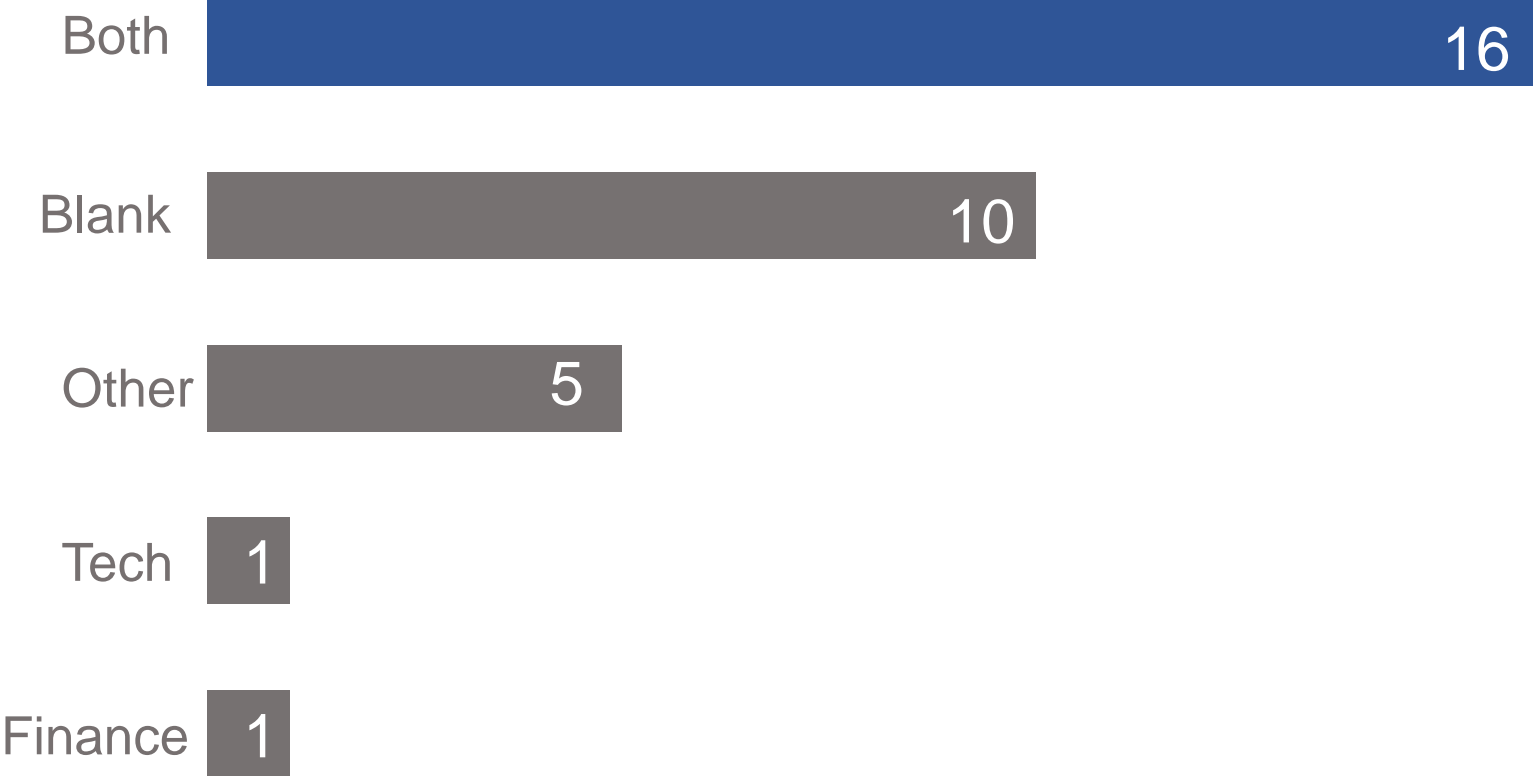
Most towns surveyed would like to see a combination of expansion

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)



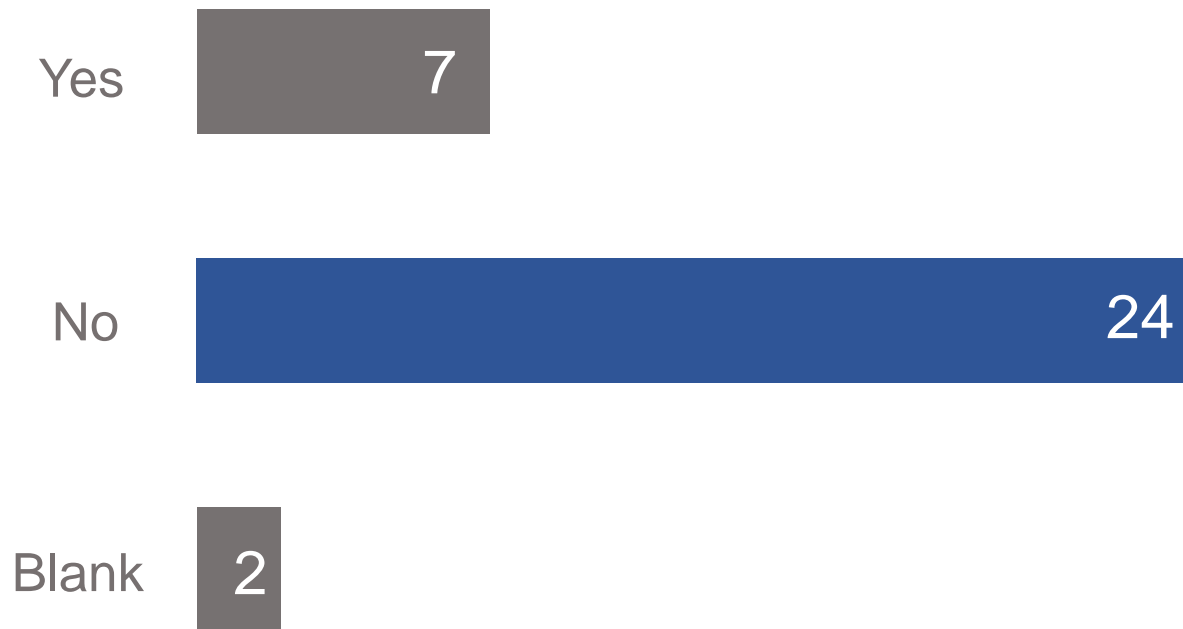
How to reach that goal? Financial? Technical?

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)



Of the towns surveyed a majority do not receive state funds to support shellfish management activities

AC survey of Municipalities (N=33)



Snapshot of results as of 4/10/19
Questions? Comments? Concerns?