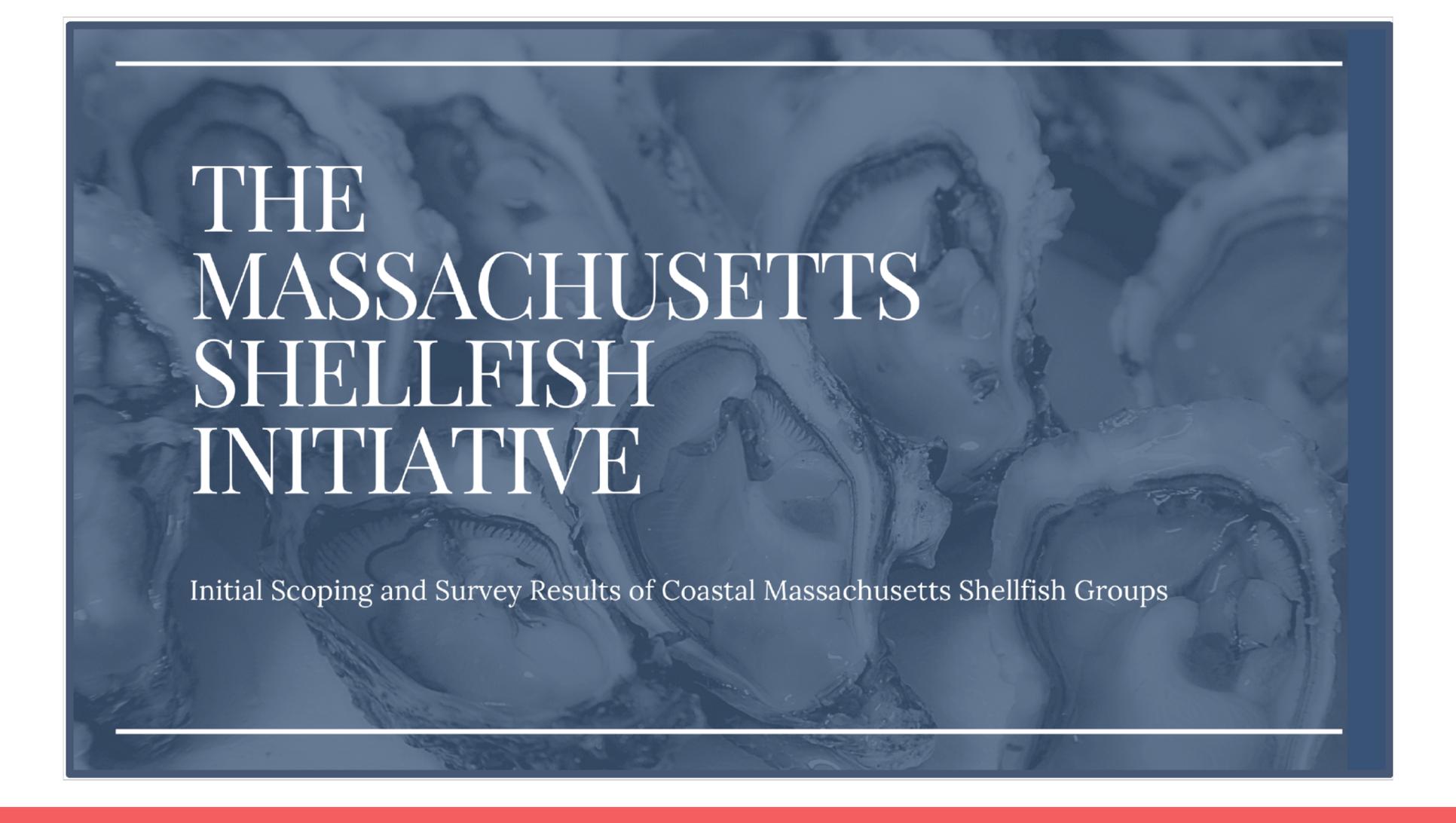


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# THE MASSACHUSETTS SHELLFISH INITIATIVE

Initial Scoping and Survey Results of Coastal Massachusetts Shellfish Groups

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# Survey Goal

- Identify potential avenues for expansion and efficient management around the MSI, intended as a starting point for input from stakeholders
- In short the initial outreach was to create a strong foundation and framework for a comprehensive shellfish initiative for Massachusetts to build upon
- The survey was designed to address key areas of concern that were identified in working with industry groups, local and state managers, and various owners of farms and businesses throughout the state

# Survey Design

The survey was comprised of 9 sections, some of which were developed for specific stakeholder groups to answer.

- Section 1: Demographics
- Sections 2 and 3 addressed business questions pertaining specifically to aquaculture and wild harvesters, respectively.
- Sections 4 through 8 were designed to be taken by all stakeholders, excluding the “general public”. These sections addressed shellfish industry topics dealing with municipal issues, public health, environmental issues and future needs in the industry.
- Section 9 was specifically for the general public



Number of Survey Participants  
*Since April 2017*

389

MAJORITY

*of participation  
from Cape Cod towns  
and the Islands*

7 MSI Outreach  
meetings across the  
State:

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Duxbury  
Harwich  
Manchester  
Martha's Vineyard  
Wellfleet  
Nantucket  
New Bedford

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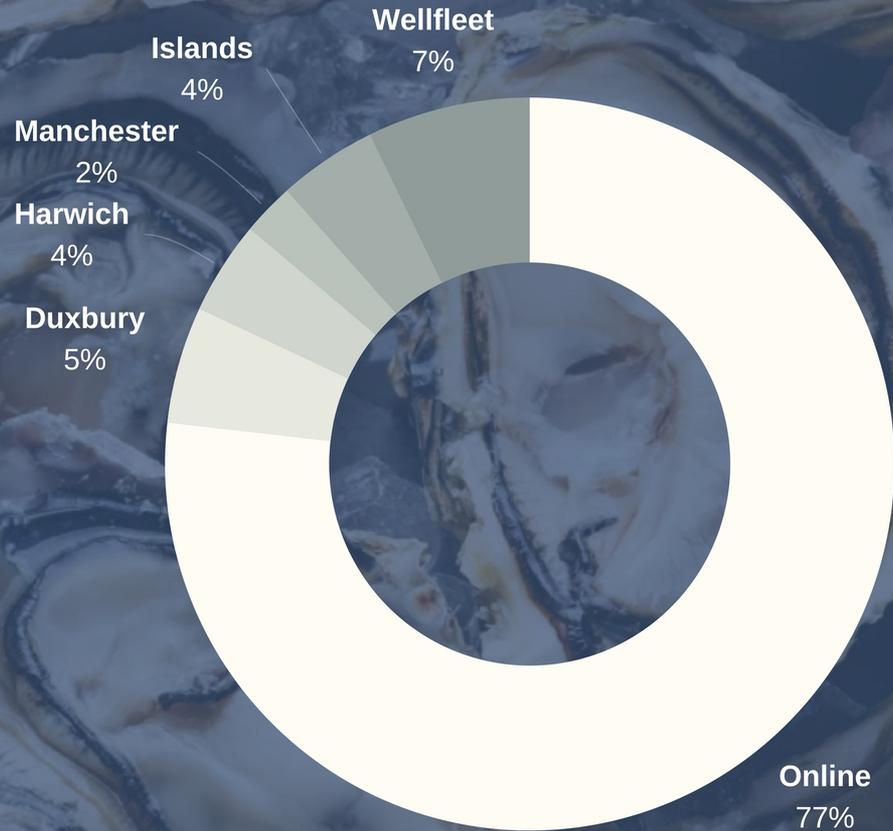
# MEETING ATTENDANCE

**77%** of participants  
took the survey  
online

The remaining

**23%**

took the survey  
at a sponsored  
MSI meeting



# Key Trends from Coastal Listening Sessions

- The need for more public outreach and education with both the shellfishing community and the general public about complex scientific issues
- Water quality
- The lengthy process of government regulation
- Perception between various stakeholder groups about other groups
- The need for enhanced communication between legislative groups
- The need for an increase in academic research, but with greater access to the results
- Greater transparency and open communication between the state, commercial and recreational shellfishermen, and researchers

# STAKEHOLDER SELF IDENTIFICATION

29%

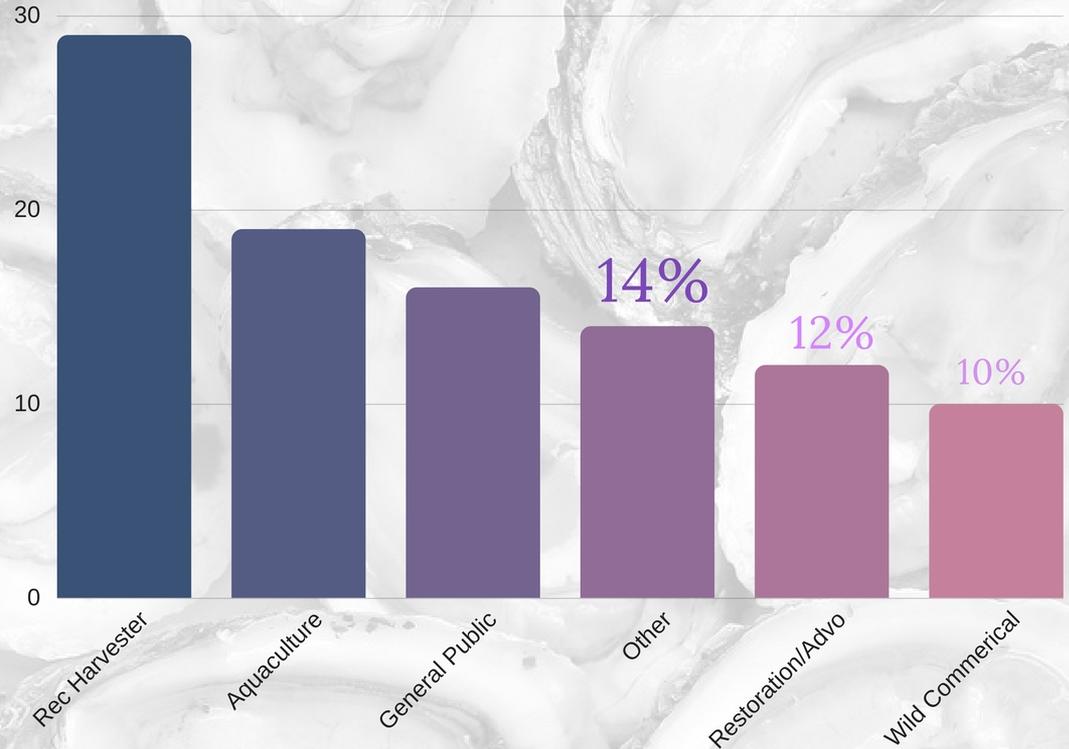
*of participants identified as*  
**Recreational Harvesters**

19%

*of participants identified*  
**as Aquaculturists**

16%

*of participants identified*  
**as General Public**



# Summary of Survey Results

- The results of the MSI survey offered insight to several areas of need that were common amongst all or a large majority of respondents across stakeholder groups. Common agreement among the different stakeholder groups
- While common support exists for many overarching issues within the Massachusetts' shellfish community, how to go about addressing those issues frequently differed by stakeholder group

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# MAJORITY

of the  
**Aquaculturists**  
surveyed  
farm primarily  
**Oysters** through  
**bottom plant or**  
**bottom gear** grow  
out methods

**50%**

*belong to a fishing  
coalition or Association in  
the State*

**Oysters**  
59%



**Mixed**  
41%

**Mixed Category includes Oysters as the  
primary species grown alongside a  
combination of:  
Quahogs, Mussels, Steamers, Scallops, and  
Surf and Razor Clams**

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# PRIMARY SHELLFISH OF INTEREST COMMERCIAL HARVESTERS

**68%** *Mixed Shellfish Interests  
i.e. Oysters, Quahogs, Surf Clams  
and Scallops*



**38%**

*belong to a fishing  
coalition or  
Association in the  
State*

---

71%

of participants want to see an increase in DMF's budget in order to expand water quality monitoring



73%

*of participants are in favor of additional resources to expand shellfish hatcheries in the State*

---

# A QUARTER

of  
the **participants** surveyed  
support additional field  
monitoring for shellfish  
disease, harmful algal  
blooms, and human health  
risk with

**30%**

wanting that support to  
come from the State

**53%**

*of respondents believe  
that there should be  
more training required  
for operating in the  
shellfish industry*

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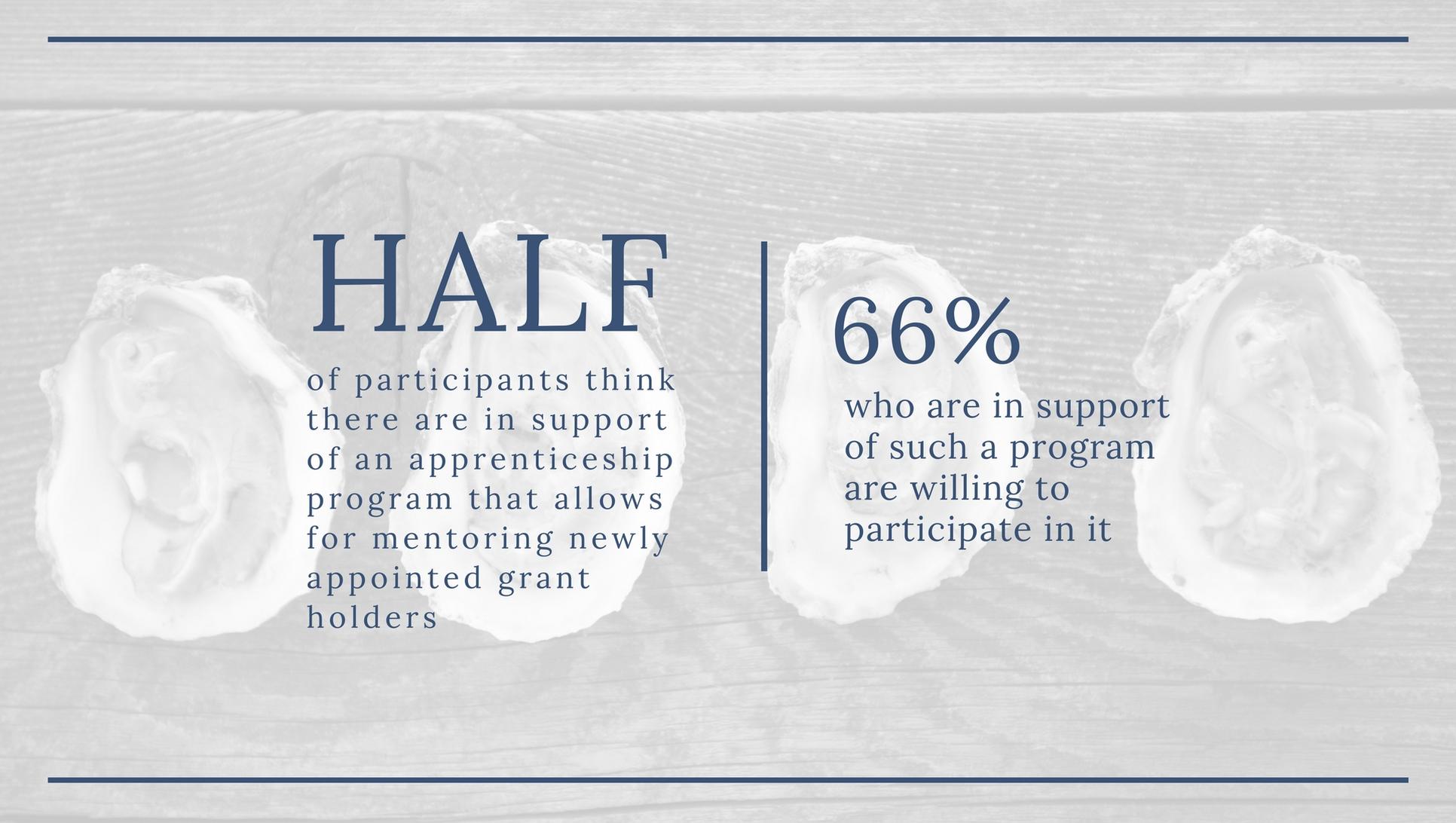
# THE CASE FOR PROPAGATION

**77%** of respondents say water quality is a concern to the future of their shellfish activity

**62%** believe that shellfish propagation is important to optimizing their harvest and more resources should be devoted to expansion of propagation activities

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# HALF

of participants think there are in support of an apprenticeship program that allows for mentoring newly appointed grant holders

# 66%

who are in support of such a program are willing to participate in it

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# MORE THAN HALF OF RESPONDENTS AGREE

The MSI has the potential to improve communications  
among stakeholder groups

# AND

provide a framework for increasing shellfish  
production in the State

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# GREATER THAN 70% OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS SURVEY SUPPORT

- Expanding shellfish resources for both harvest and restoration
- The use of shellfish to improve water quality
- More resources dedicated to opening more closed areas to shellfishing



# Other Shellfish Initiatives

California  
Connecticut  
Washington

# California

Created in 2013

Three Suggested Actions:

- 1) Policy - Improved Inter-Agency Review Process
- 2) Support Local Community Planning
- 3) Statewide Aquaculture Options Mapping & Planning

**Current Status: Working Group**



# California

Key Take Away in development of Vision plan by working group (similar to assessment committee):

Issues Assessment - identify the themes and issues of greatest concern to the Working Group members and to ensure that the proposed topics for discussion address the issues of highest priority to deliver to the task force.



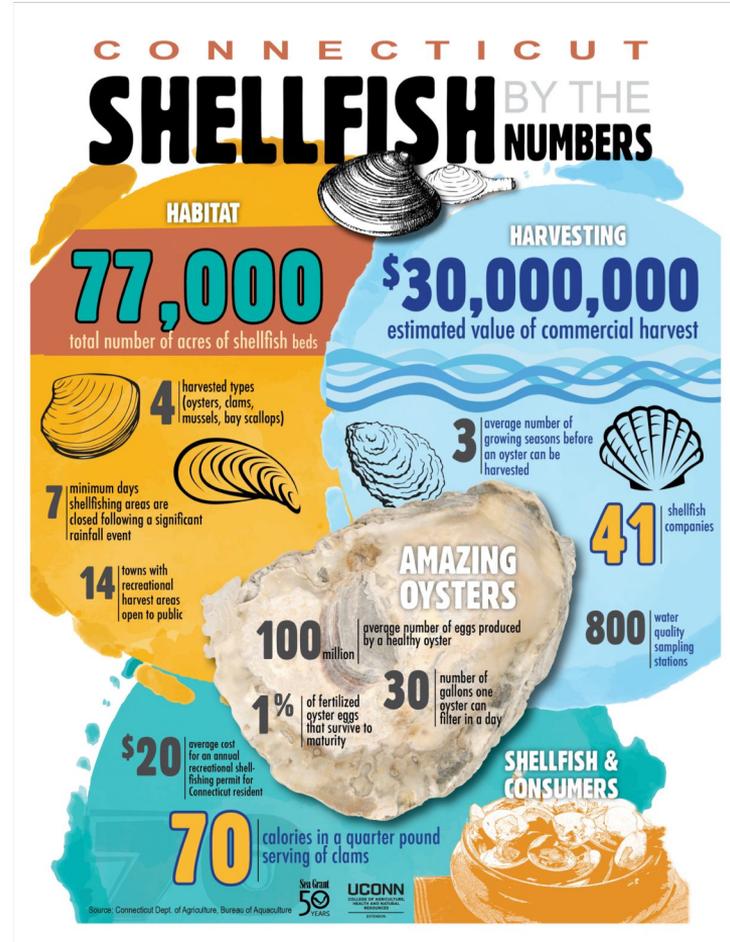
# Connecticut

## Three Part Vision Plan:

- 1) Overview and Recommendation
- 2) Context
- 3) Implementation Plan

## Take away:

CT Vision Plan (deliverable final document),  
scoping sessions (public survey and listening  
sessions), and establishing a committee to craft the  
vision plan



# Connecticut

## Outreach and public engagement activities:

- 1) Public awareness survey
- 2) Website
- 3) Magazine
- 4) Shellfish info graphic
- 5) Workshops
- 6) Community shellfishing events
- 7) Shellfisheries and aquaculture bus tour
- 8) Shellfish heritage project
- 9) Economic assessment

# Connecticut

## Scoping sessions 2013-2015:

Recommendations from scoping sessions:

- 1) Increasing Public Awareness
- 2) Promoting Aquaculture and Shellfisheries Development
- 3) Shellfish in a Changing Environment and Climate
- 4) Streamlining Regulations and Management
- 5) Vision Plan Process Related

**Current Status: Implementation Planning Stage**

# Washington

Created in 2011

Key Successes:

- 1) Reopened Shellfish beds
- 2) Native Shellfish Restoration Hatchery
- 3) Streamlined permit process
- 4) Community Engagement
- 5) Pollution Reduction
- 6) Tackling Ocean Acidification

Current Status: Phase II



# Washington: Phase II

## Goals:

- 1) Ensuring Clean Water
- 2) Embrace strategies to address ocean acidification
- 3) Advance shellfish research
- 4) Improve permitting processes
- 5) Restore native shellfish
- 6) Enhance recreational shellfish harvest
- 7) Educate the next generation



# Other State Shellfish Initiatives

- Alaska Mariculture Initiative
- Gulf of Mexico Shellfish Initiative
- North Carolina Shellfish Initiative
- Oregon Shellfish Initiative
- Rhode Island Shellfish Initiative