Foster communication and build improved guidance for communication

• Develop and strengthen communication between managers, stakeholders, and communities. An example includes an engagement process to develop a framework for the Shellfish Advisory Panel (SAP) which is inclusive of all stakeholders.

• Provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange information and ideas, and to develop a shared vision for the future of shellfish resources.

Support and promote cultural and historical opportunities

• Encourage economic opportunities around shellfish, including education, tourism, and recreation. An example includes increasing public awareness and interest in shellfish, while balancing shellfish management and economic opportunities.

• Provide opportunities for local, state, and federal governments to work together to develop a comprehensive approach to shellfish management.

Objectives of the Plan

Increase research, evaluation, and public information

• Increase resources and expertise to develop and implement research programs focused on shellfish and ocean health.

• Increase resources and expertise to develop and implement effective strategies to protect shellfish resources and the public from shellfish-related health hazards.

• Develop management, research, and outreach programs that promote ecological sustainability.

• Increase resources and expertise to develop and implement programs that promote ecological sustainability.

The Problem

The MSI Task Force developed a plan to balance the growing and competing demands for shellfish resources, to address current and emerging challenges, and to benefit all shellfish stakeholders.

Their recommendations are categorized under the following objectives:

Vision

For a future with economically and environmentally healthy coastal ecosystems and communities that rely on them, we must:

• Increase resources, evaluation, and public information.

• Ensure ecologically sound management and enhancement of shellfish resources and coastal ecosystems.

• Increase shellfish-related business opportunities.

• Build public and stakeholder capacity to support shellfish resources.

• Restore shellfish populations in coastal waters.

• Foster communication and build improved guidance for communication.

• Support and promote cultural and historical opportunities.

• Develop public and stakeholder capacity to support shellfish resources.

• Increase healthy, safe, and sustainable shellfish production.

• Support and promote cultural and historical uses of shellfish.

• Educate the public about the importance of MA shellfish.

For a Future with Economically and Environmentally Healthy Coastal Ecosystems and Communities That Rely on Them, We Must: