

Key Players Inform Plan to Grow Connecticut Shellfish Sectors

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Connecticut Shellfish Initiative



- Multi-year planning effort to grow and protect shellfisheries, shellfish populations, shellfish habitats
- Focus areas:
 - Commercial shellfisheries
 - Recreational shellfisheries
 - Natural shellfish populations
- Primary product is a vision plan
- Goals, recommendations to achieve growth

Species and Geographic Focus

Harvested and non-harvested bivalve shellfish

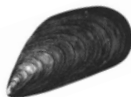
● clams



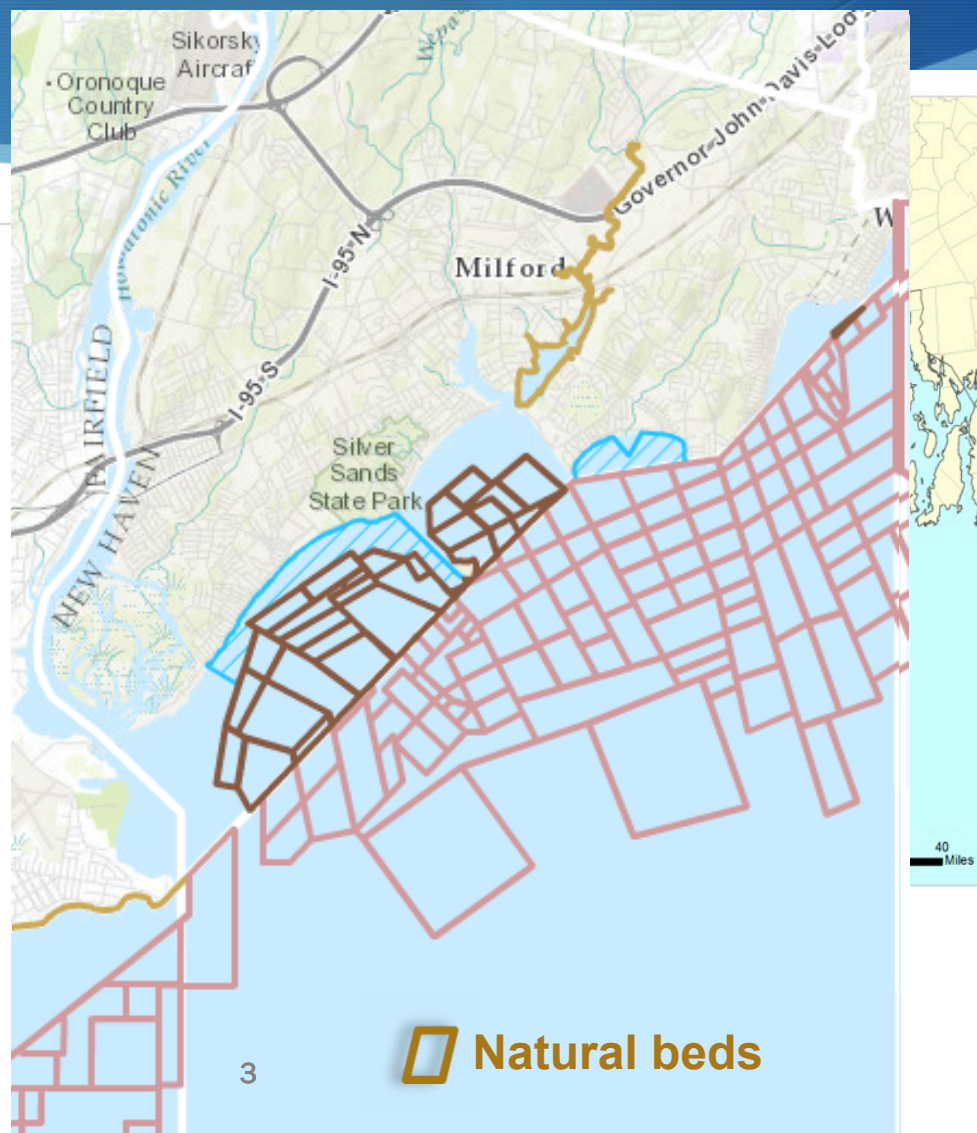
● oysters



● mussels



● scallops



Key Players

Steering Committee (decision-makers) & interested citizens

- ◆ Commercial harvesters, associations
- ◆ Recreational harvesters
- ◆ Local, state, federal agencies
- ◆ Restoration practitioners
- ◆ Environmental organizations
- ◆ Extension, researchers, educators

Facilitators

- ◆ CT Sea Grant/UConn Extension
- ◆ NOAA NMFS Milford Lab



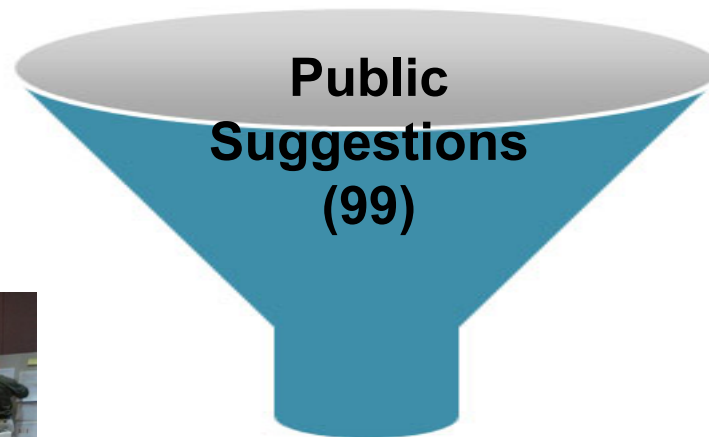
Process



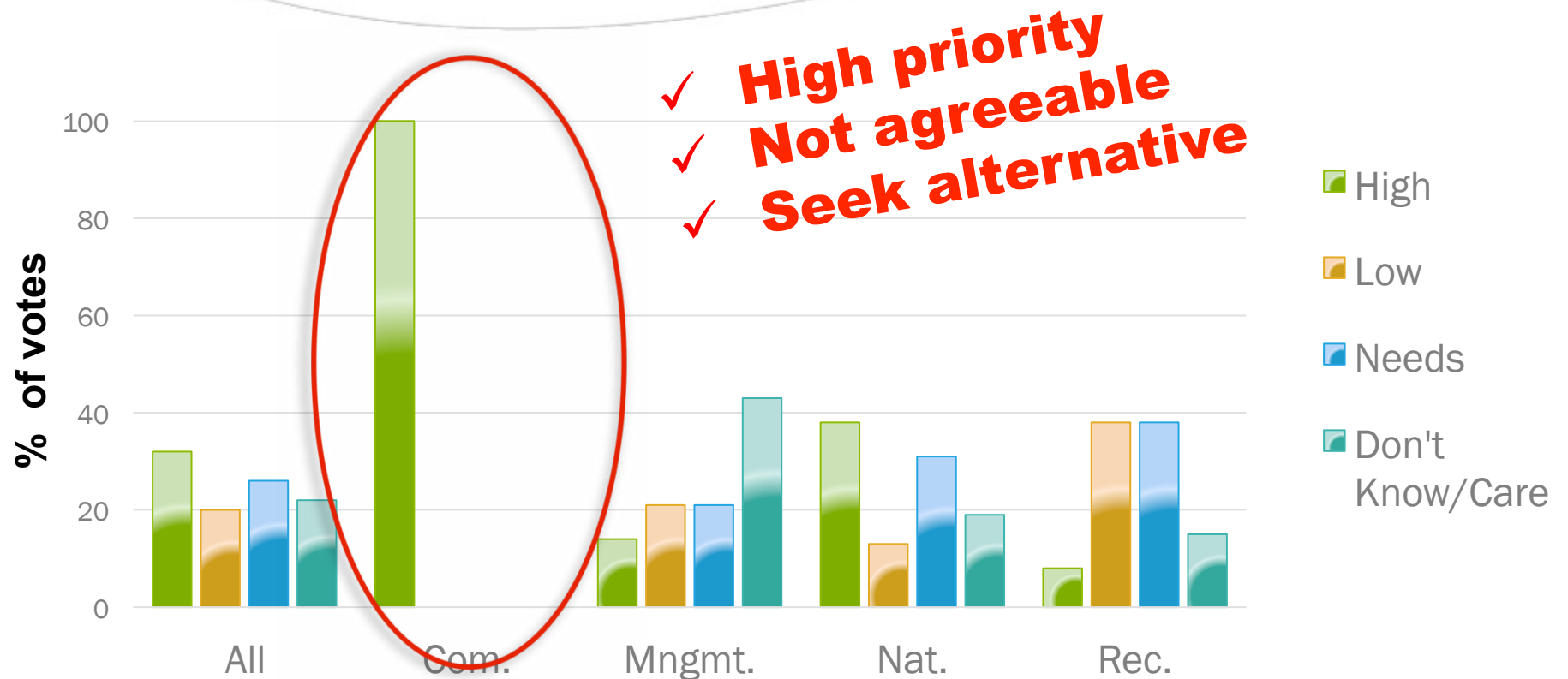
Listening...

Learning...

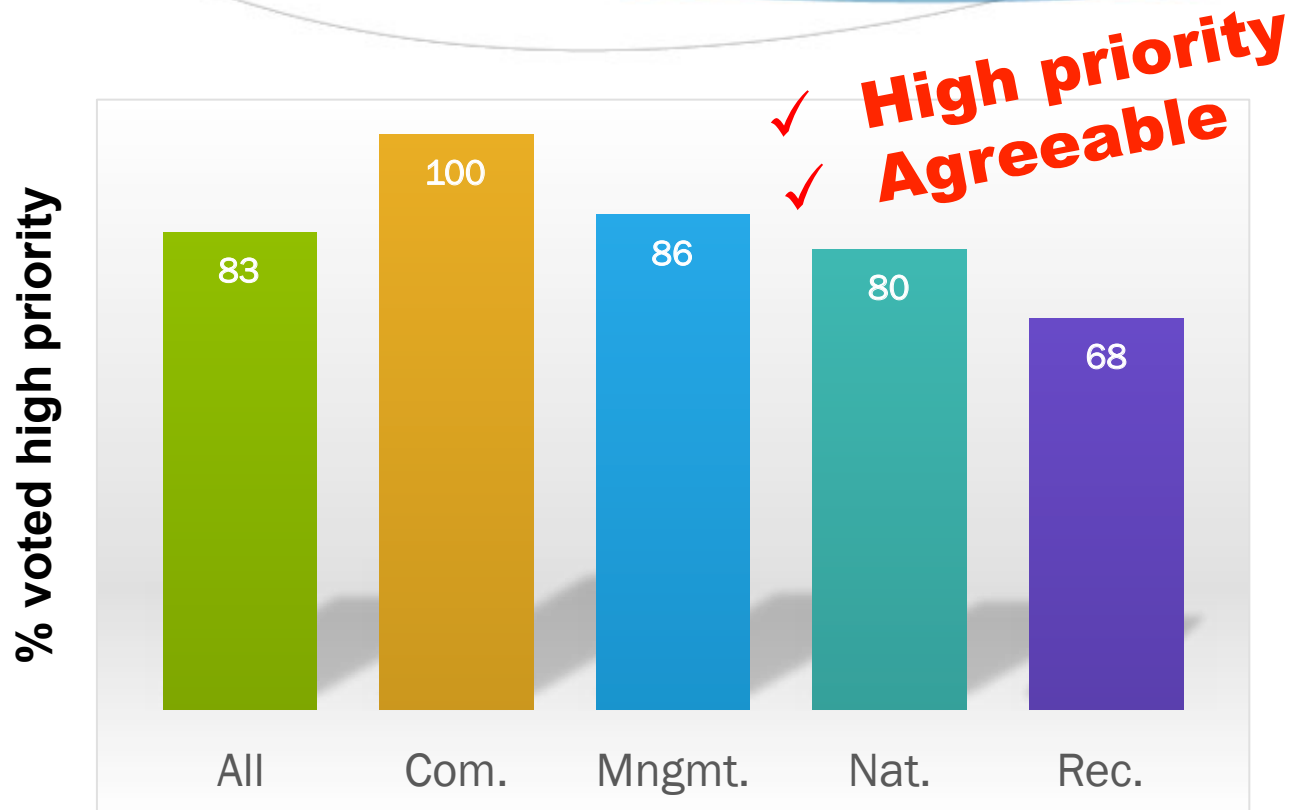
Documenting...



Recommendation 16. Convene a forum to discuss ways to improve the State shellfish grounds leasing process.



Recommendation 19. Ensure the CT Bureau of Aquaculture has the laboratory staff, capacity and equipment necessary to meet existing needs and allow for future growth of shellfish sectors.



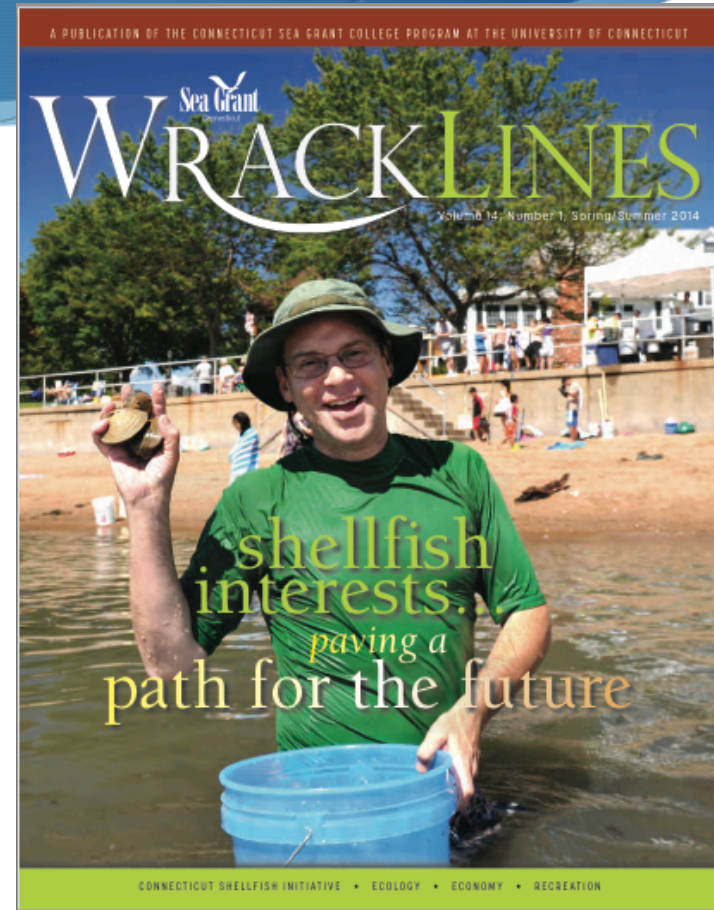
High Priority Themes

- 💧 Aquaculture & Fisheries Development
- 💧 Public Awareness
- 💧 Regulatory Environment
- 💧 Climate Change
- 💧 Water Quality and Shellfish Habitats
- 💧 Consumer Health & Safety

Public Awareness & Engagement

“All Things Shellfish” Theme

- 💧 Website
<http://shellfish.uconn.edu>
- 💧 Conference
- 💧 Magazine Features
- 💧 Clam Dig Events



Public Awareness

Pilot Survey 2015

- 💧 Conducted at local shellfish festivals
- 💧 4 questions
- 💧 Zip code identifier to sort responses
- 💧 age>18yrs



Q1. Which of the following are shellfish:

- a.) oysters
- b.) mussels
- c.) clams
- d.) scallops
- e.) all of above**
- f.) none of above

Q2. Shellfish provide which of the following benefits?

- a.) cleaner water
- b.) shoreline erosion control
- c.) homes for marine orgs
- d.) all of the above**
- e.) none of the above

Q3. In how many Connecticut towns is recreational shellfishing allowed?

- a.) 0
- b.) 5
- c.) 14**
- d.) 24

Q4. What is the value of commercial shellfish harvest in Connecticut?

- a.) \$3,000
- b.) \$300,000
- c.) \$3,000,000
- d.) >\$30,000,00**

Average Scores on Connecticut Shellfish Quiz

Group	Percent Correct					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Score (%)	Grade
All (n=295)	85.5	85.1	41.9	40.5	64.5	D

Q1. About shellfish ID

Q2. About ecological benefits

Q3. About recreational harvest

Q4. About commercial harvest



Q1. About shellfish ID

Group	Percent Correct					
	Q1					
All (n=295)	85.5					
CT residents only	86.9					
Towns (commercial)	95.3					
Towns (recreational)	90.5					
Towns (coastal)	90					
Towns (inland)	80.9					

Q2. About ecological benefits

Group	Percent Correct					
	Q1	Q2				
All (n=295)	85.5	85.1				
CT residents only	86.9	85.2				
Towns (commercial)	95.3	96.8				
Towns (recreational)	90.5	86.5				
Towns (coastal)	90	86.3				
Towns (inland)	80.9	81.4				

Q3. About recreational harvest

Group	Percent Correct					
	Q1	Q2	Q3			
All (n=295)	85.5	85.1	41.9			
CT residents only	86.9	85.2	42.6			
Towns (commercial)	95.3	96.8	47.6			
Towns (recreational)	90.5	86.5	45.2			
Towns (coastal)	90	86.3	43.8			
Towns (inland)	80.9	81.4	39.5			

Q4. About commercial harvest

Group	Percent Correct					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Score (%)	Grade
All (n=295)	85.5	85.1	41.9	40.5	64.5	D
CT residents only	86.9	85.2	42.6	40.5	64.3	D
Towns (commercial)	95.3	96.8	47.6	100	85.7	B
Towns (recreational)	90.5	86.5	45.2	43.6	66.9	D+
Towns (coastal)	90	86.3	43.8	40.6	65.5	D
Towns (inland)	80.9	81.4	39.5	39.5	62.5	F

Public Awareness Matters!

R.I. support for oyster farming pays off in growth

By Alex Kuffner
Journal Staff Writer

Posted Apr. 5, 2015 at 12:15 AM

In 1996, Rhode Island's aquaculture industry ranked last in the nation in acreage and production. Since then, the growth of the sector — primarily oyster farming — has been nothing short of extraordinary.

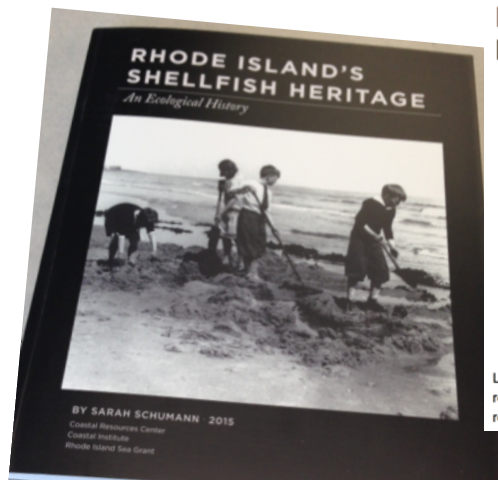
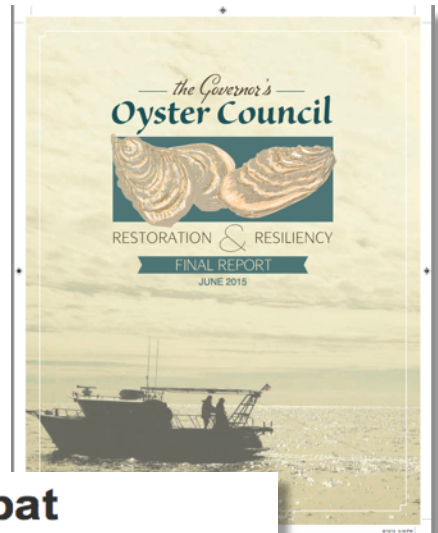
Ideas offered to help South
Mississippi oyster industry



LONG BEACH — A council formed to help the oyster industry recover from a 'triple whammy' of disasters has offered recommendations to restore it.



PCSGA.org



Governor O'Malley Announces Record 1.25 Billion Oyster Spat Production, Significant Progress under Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan

October 11, 2013

Gov. Gregoire announces new initiative to create jobs, restore Puget Sound

Washington Shellfish Initiative promotes clean water and creation of jobs in state's aquaculture industry

OLYMPIA — Gov. Chris Gregoire today unveiled the Washington Shellfish Initiative, an agreement among federal and state government, tribes, and the shellfish industry to restore and expand Washington's shellfish resources to promote clean-water commerce and create family wage jobs.

Summary

- ◆ Identifying ways to grow and protect shellfisheries, populations, habitats
- ◆ Having many, diverse perspectives is important for generating ideas
- ◆ Improving understanding about shellfish and shellfisheries topics
- ◆ Assessing knowledge and perceptions to target audiences, topics for public outreach and engagement programs



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CT Dept. of Public Health
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CT Northeast Organic Farming Association
Connecticut Seafood Council
Connecticut Shellfish Commissions
Long Island Sound Study
EPA Office of Ecosystem Protection
Harbor Watch
Industry liaisons
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Sustainable Food Systems LLC
USDA FSA and NRCS
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Fish and Wildlife Service

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