



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE ROUNDTABLE

Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Annapolis, MD

Welcome and thank you for attending our Shellfish Aquaculture Roundtable. Our priority this evening is to identify research topics that can benefit your business and the Maryland aquaculture industry. Our goal is to form a team to make Maryland aquaculture become the strongest in the nation.

You know the most about problems you encounter that could be solved by research. Farmer input is critical to building bridges between research and industry. It has led to our nation becoming a world leader in agriculture and we can do the same for aquaculture by addressing problems that can lead to more profitable production.

Federal and state aquaculture research grants will be available in 2018. Maryland Sea Grant has supported aquaculture for decades and wants our industry to thrive and grow. Many of you have worked with our extension and research programs and we want to make that partnership stronger. This Roundtable will generate information to communicate to researchers, allowing them to compete for funding directed at projects generating results to respond to your needs.

After this, we will hold a meeting on January 10th for researchers who can work on your issues. We will invite members from diverse disciplines including biology, chemistry, engineering, business, and law who can address your problems. We will educate them about your priorities and work with them to turn those priorities into grant proposals. If interested, you can attend the research meeting to talk directly with researchers and afterwards, work with our extension specialists to interact with the researchers to develop strong proposals and work together to address industry needs.

If you have questions about the process or would like to attend the research meeting or become part of a proposal team, we would be pleased to work with you. Please contact any us and we will look forward to generating results that can build our industry and make it more profitable each year.

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TABLE DISCUSSION

Each table will come up with solutions or develop key questions that research can help solve for each priority. We would like the tables to:

Step 1. Identify the Problem. You are familiar with some priorities (e.g. theft, permitting) since they have been concerns for some time. During discussions at your table, the facilitator will help your group identify some specific problems associated with each of the draft priorities that you think might be solved through research. For example, if 'theft' is a concern, what part(s) of the problem are critical to solve? Is the solution based on government response alone? Are multiple parts of the legal system problematic? Are there potential technological solutions that you know of or can envision that can be developed to assist? For another example, if your priority is to 'increase production,' does that mean better surviving or faster growing animals? Would more efficient methods of planting, managing and harvesting be required? Are there problems with identifying or getting products to markets?

Step 2. Suggest a Solution to the Problem. Once problems have been identified, what would you suggest as ways to address them? Develop specific questions that need answers while the facilitator records your suggested fixes and research questions.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Facilitators will summarize what your table identifies as problems within priority areas and potential fixes and questions needing answers to solve them and provide the information to the full Roundtable. You will be able to agree or clarify the summaries as they are given.

END OF MEETING PRIORITY VOTING

Facilitators will place the priority information on flip charts during dinner. At the completion of dinner, please complete the post-meeting surveys and using the stickers provided in your packet identify on the flip charts the solution/question in each priority most important to you. This information will be used to inform scientists at the meeting on January 10th, 2018 about your problems and priorities. If you would like to attend the meeting, please fill out the Continued Engagement Interest Survey.

DRAFT PRIORITIES

This information was provided by industry invited to this meeting. Please note that these are not in any priority order and are recognized as not being a comprehensive list. We encourage you to add topics during our discussions.

- **Theft**
 - Increasing security of investments
 - Prevention of poaching
 - Lease security
 - Increased fines and policies regarding oyster poaching
- **Permitting**
 - Prolonged lease application process
 - Rule changes to support production
- **Shell, larvae, and seed availability/production**
 - Access/availability of quality larvae and seed stock
 - Shell availability
- **Increased production**
 - Increased market size survival
 - Increased harvest/profitability
 - Planting more oysters than can be harvested
 - Reducing agricultural risk
- **Business, marketing, and sales**
 - Creating campaigns for smaller farms to compete with large scale farms
 - Marketing and sales training
 - Assistance with business model creation
 - Legal assistance
 - Shipping/Direct retail logistics
 - Cash funding for farmers
 - Cost/benefit analysis of total oyster operation
 - Safety
 - Recordkeeping protocol and training
- **Mechanization**
 - Labor saving mechanization to keep cost down
- **Post-harvest processing**
 - Fouling of cages
 - Wash down/salt conditioning
- **Other**
 - Increased visibility into research
 - Increased public understanding of benefits (user conflicts?)