



LONGLINES

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Fall 2023



Learning Together



What the Tide Brought In

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Dear PCSGA Community,

It is with a heavy heart that I'm writing to let you know that I've resigned from my role as Executive Director at PCSGA. Due to personal circumstances, I will be moving back home to California. That said, this is not a move that is happening soon. I will stay on until PCSGA finds a replacement or I find a new position, whichever comes first. The absolute latest I can stay is through the end of my lease, which is March 2023.

While I will be departing, you are in good hands with our new PCSGA staff. Hopefully, by now you have met our Office Manager, Alicia Burns and Program Coordinator, Emma Felt. They are a great team and will do great things for PCSGA. I'm also working with the Board and Staff on a transition plan to make this process as smooth as possible.

I want to thank you for this amazing opportunity to serve as your Executive Director, even for this short time. I've learned so much from all of you. Your passion and dedication to growing shellfish, protecting the watersheds, and supporting the communities in which they are grown is so inspiring. This position has given me even more insight into the scope and diversity of issues you all navigate on a regular basis just to keep the lights on. The work that you do is so important. I'm humbled by your resilience and willingness to support your fellow shellfish growers. We need people like you to ensure we have access to nutritious food in the future. We need organizations like PCSGA to ensure you have a voice and can sustain the great work you do every day.

Thank you for all you do and for allowing me to join your community. I wish all of you the very best and will continue to promote the great work all of you do in my future endeavors. I hope to continue working with you in different capacities in the future.

All My Best,
Kim

Kim Thompson, Executive Director, PCSGA

Honoring Dave Steele

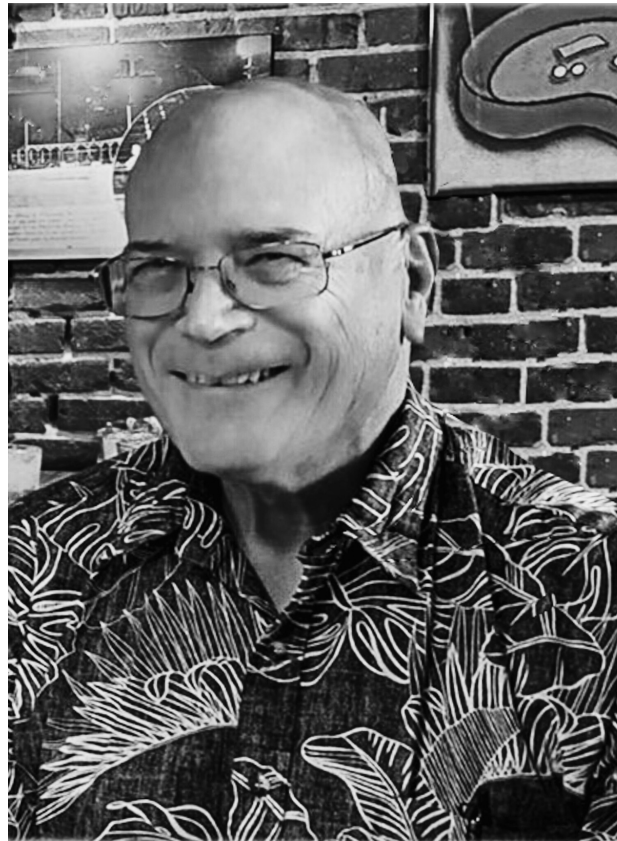
It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of Dave Steele, after a long and courageous battle with brain cancer. Dave, the third-generation owner of the Rock Point Oyster Company, served as the president of PCSGA from 2011 to 2015. In 2017, he received the prestigious Prince of Tides award for his steadfast dedication and outstanding leadership in the shellfish farming community. To commemorate Dave's legacy, we've collected heartfelt tributes from his friends and loved ones.

Words from Margaret Pilaro

For the entire time I was at PCSGA, Dave was on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee so I had the benefit and privilege of working with him quite a bit. Dave was a familiar face at most shellfish-related events.

He took his role as a multi-generational shellfish grower very seriously and was an ardent advocate for the health and success of the industry. His absence is palpable and he is sorely missed. It seemed like there was nothing Dave couldn't do. His education, diverse experiences, and love for learning made him one smart cookie. Dave was well versed in all things related to shellfish – business, farming, laws, science, you name it - and he shared his knowledge freely with others. He applied his wisdom thoughtfully, didn't belittle nor shame and at least in the realm of PCSGA admitted when he was wrong. He always supported decisions the Board made, whether he agreed with them or not.

Dave was a true gentleman. He approached people with respect, trustworthiness, and a welcoming heart. He listened intently and with intention and was always willing to lend a hand. He played by the rules and gracefully encouraged others to do so as well. He



always seemed to know when someone needed a hug, and he gave GREAT hugs.

On the surface, Dave appeared to be a very serious person. Yet, as you got to know him, you realized he was always considering how to sprinkle his humor into situations and often looked like he was up to something silly or mischievous. I can still hear Dave's joyous and distinct laugh. During long, drawn-out, discouraging meetings, he would attempt to shift the mood by cracking a joke, soliciting help from my Sicilian-mafia family,

Honoring Dave Steele

or authoritatively announcing that it was “Time for Tequila!” as if it was the one and only answer. Dave knew we would all be sad about his passing, and I suspect he would want us to live and enjoy all life has to offer.

We can and should honor Dave, by living like he did. Be a mentor, an advocate, and a leader. Patiently and kindly guide others in need of help, and be sure to celebrate their successes. Show up, play, question, laugh, give, and learn. Most of all, live your life with “Dave Steele amounts” of wisdom, grace, and humor....and please don’t forget the tequila,

-Margaret Pilaro.

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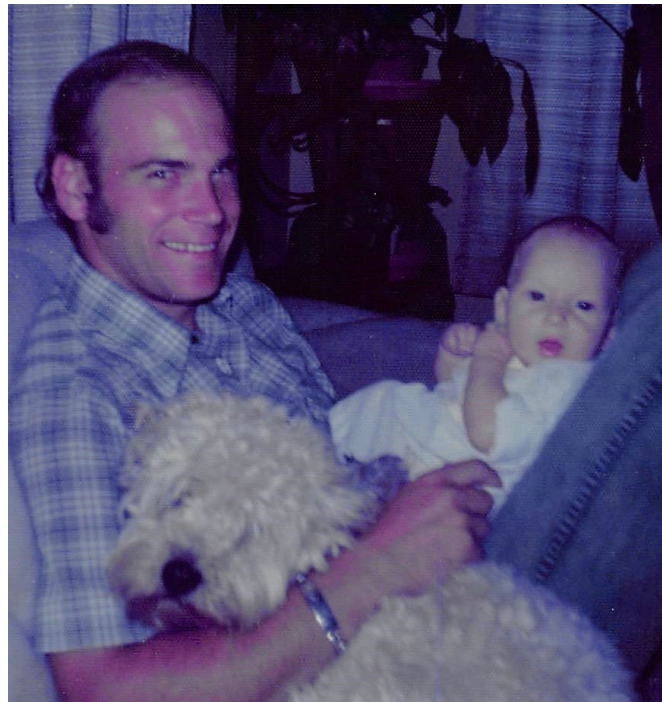
Words from Vicki Wilson

Hi Dave, I’ve been meaning to write for a while – but best-laid plans and all that. Regardless, wherever you are now I hope it involves watching a beautiful Cabo sunset with a large bottle of tequila in hand! I wanted to take a minute to thank you for being a friend and colleague.

From the moment I started on the PCSGA Board, I knew to “listen up” whenever you ventured an opinion--so much experience and commitment for you to share and me to learn. Your dedication to the shellfish industry and to helping new growers enter and thrive in it is unparalleled--whether you were helping small business in general through your work at the Farm Bureau and NFIB, or shellfish growers in particular through the shellfish settlement, PCSGA Board, or your work on federal and state legislative issues.

And, I’ll never forget you and Cairn at SLURP snapping “green screen” pictures of grateful (sometimes stupidly drunk and raucous) attendees. And of course, I always remember your “wry smile” as the Board struggled through issues that you’d seen and dealt with for years. So, a final thank you for your leadership, advice, and role modeling. Good memories, always.

-Your Friend, Vicki Wilson



Words from Duane Fagergren

Dave was first and foremost a dear friend to me. He served our industry well, as State Surveyor (with DNR), which benefited us greatly in the decade’s long Tideland lawsuit. He led the effort, through the Legal Defense Fund, mostly without being compensated. He played a key role on the PCSGA Board’s Executive Committee as Treasurer, even connecting to board meetings while undergoing treatment in the hospital.

His dedication to his family, his company, and our industry shows how committed he was to what matters in life. The many awards Dave received in his life epitomized the kind of person he was. Among those he was most proud of was being 'husband' (to Cairn) and 'dad', and 'granddad'. Dave displayed with honor his award as Prince of Tides, a sign of how our industry regarded him for his commitment to our industry. I consider him deserving of even more in the life he led, as Prince among men. You live on in our hearts, Dave.

-Duane Fagergren

Words from Bill Dewey

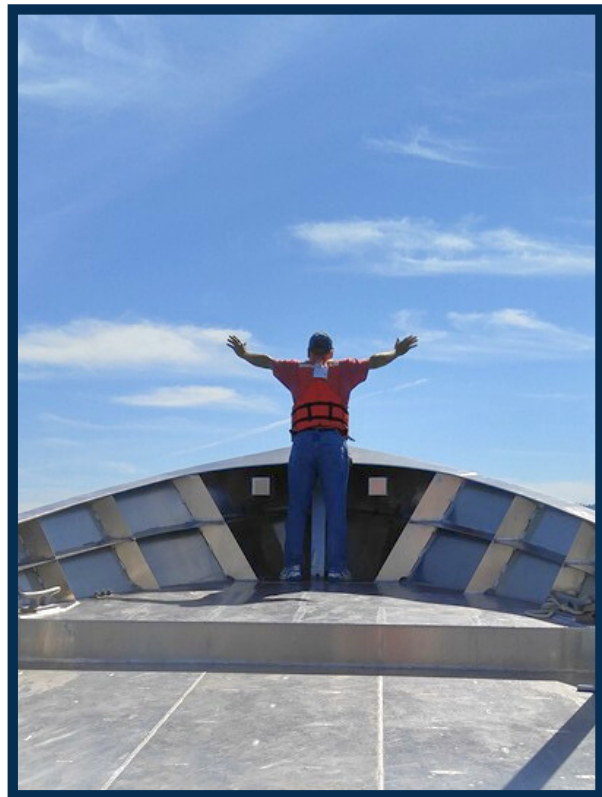
My first 10 years in the industry were working for Dave Steele's father, Dick. Though I never knew Dave's grandpa, Earl Steele, it was clear from his books, *The Immigrant Oyster* and *The Rise and Decline of the Olympia Oyster* that he was a leader in the industry, as was Dick.

Dave clearly inherited the leader gene. After Dick passed, Dave retired from DNR and took over running Rock Point. He gave selflessly to the industry as he significantly grew the business, serving on the Association board for years and for a period as the first, third-generation President. He also served for years as Treasurer for the Puget Sound Shellfish Growers Legal Defense Fund, the group formed to defend growers interests in the treaty right litigation. Again, selflessly giving his time he kept the organization solvent and counseled many growers through the arduous process of getting their farms included in the settlement

whereby the tribes would forgo harvest on them.

I will miss Dave's wit and wisdom. He was one of those who when they spoke, you REALLY listened.

-Bill Dewey



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Contact: Nyle Taylor
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 Shelton, WA 98584
 Tel (360) 426-6178
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nylet@taylorshellfish.com

 Shellfish Growers Climate Coalition



"I hope our stories about how climate change is impacting shellfish farms will move policymakers to act."

— Bill Dewey
 Taylor Shellfish Company

Help us protect the shellfish we love and the waters that sustain them at nature.org/shellfish4climate

Second Place: Raul Membreno Torres

That morning we were walking in the tide and I saw a couple eagles feeding from the baskets in the longline oyster beds. They eat small crabs, mussels and small fishes when tide is going out. It is very common to see eagles almost every day in the summer during low tides on our oyster beds.



Third Place: Derek King

Crescent Gunnel utilizing an empty oyster shell as habitat for laying and guarding eggs.




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Welcome to the PCSGA team, Emma!



Meet Emma, our new Program Coordinator! A proud alum of Washington State University, Emma brings vast experience from the maritime industry, where she's spent five successful years working on vessels and covering over 25,000 nautical miles. Born and raised in the beautiful state of Washington, she deeply appreciates the outdoors and can often be found hiking and camping in their free time. Emma is excited to embark on a new journey with PCSGA, is eager to learn more about the shellfish industry, and is looking forward to working with our esteemed growers.

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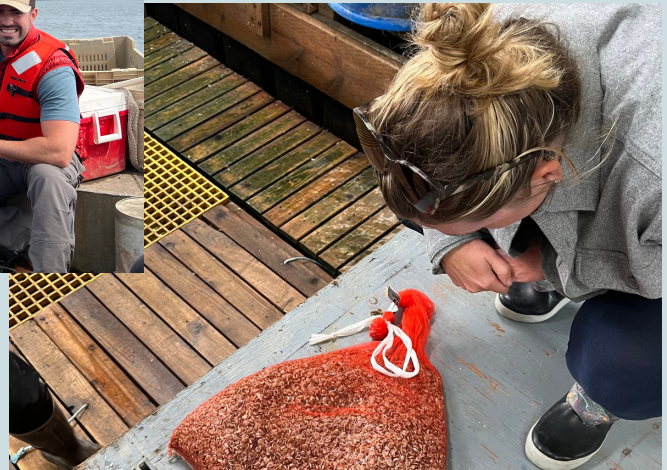
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Farmer's Corner

On August 23rd shellfish grower members gathered at the Shelton Marina to visit several shellfish companies' FLUPSYs of different scales. We also visited the Taylor Shellfish floating farm on Oakland Bay. The floating farm uses floating gear adapted from Taylor's farms in B.C. to grow out oyster seed. This was a great opportunity for our members to ask each other questions and see different methods of growing out oyster seed.



Thank you to our member companies who attended. Thank you to Taylor Shellfish Farms, Hama Hama Oyster Company and Chelsea Farms for hosting and sharing your knowledge.



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Why Report Shellfish Mortalities?

By Kalloway Page & Bobbi Hudson, Pacific Shellfish Institute

Voluntary reporting of shellfish mortality is an important source of information to track direct impacts of events. Potential hot spots can be linked with potential stressors, and temporal trends within specific areas can be explored. This contributes to understanding causes, areas of particular concern, and potential actions to mitigate losses.

Unfortunately, reports of shellfish mortality often result in collections of diagnostic material too late, making diagnosis difficult or impossible. To address this, Pacific Shellfish Institute (PSI) offers collection, preparation, and processing for diagnostic evaluation of stressed or dead oysters and clams in Washington State.



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These services and diagnostic evaluations are free for shellfish producers. Diagnostic evaluation is conducted by AquaTechnics. Prior diagnostic evaluations for Washington shellfish have ruled out OsHV-1 on all species, Perkinsus on clams, and “MSX” disease on oysters. No known primary infectious diseases have been detected, but in some cases opportunistic pathogens infect shellfish already in poor condition.

Learn more and access the Shellfish Mortality Reporting Form on PSI’s website at: www.pacshell.org/triploid-oyster-health.asp. The reporting form takes <5 min to complete. No proprietary questions are asked, and responses will be used for research purposes only.



Kalloway Page counting oyster mortalities for a triploid summer mortality study.
Photo by Sam Klein.

Use this QR code to access the
Shellfish Mortality Reporting Form:



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Discover Plankton Lendable Library Kits

By Aimee Christy, Pacific Shellfish Institute

Over the past year, Pacific Shellfish Institute has created 5 “Discover Plankton!” lendable kits – 4 for Timberland Regional Library’s “Library of Things” collections and 1 to remain in-house. Each kit includes \$400 worth of supplies including a microscope, plankton net, secchi disk, hydrometer, thermometer, Rite-in-the-Rain notebook, plankton identification sheets (freshwater & saltwater phytoplankton, zooplankton & harmful algal bloom species) and more. Kits are available to check out for a 3-week period through the Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater library branches, or directly through PSI. Since becoming available, the kits have been checked out continuously by community members within the Deschutes watershed. PSI recently hosted 3 library workshops to promote and demo the kits – each attracting an enthusiastic room full of participants of all ages.

PSI delivers classroom and field trip presentations to thousands of students annually, often bringing our fleet of 16 microscopes with us. Students frequently ask, “Where can I get a microscope?” and “How much do they cost?”

PSI is thrilled that anyone with a library card can now discover the world of plankton and connect with their watersheds in a fun and meaningful way. Funding for these kits was generously provided by the Keta Legacy Foundation (also known as Mountaineers Foundation) and Thurston County Stream Team.



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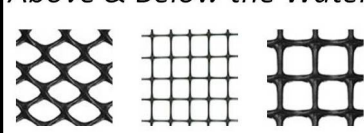
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Aquaculture Crew Training Program

Topics covered:

- Shellfish aquaculture in Washington
- Shellfish culture and harvesting techniques
- Shellfish biology
- Water quality and invasive species
- Basic safety skills: CPR, First Aid
- Maritime and marine safety (e.g., how to get a boater card)
- Seafood safety and processing
- Workplace environment, etiquette and communication (e.g., on-farm conditions)

Washington Sea Grant is launching **two free aquaculture industry training programs**: a crew training program designed to provide the skills for being a successful farmhand, and a manager training to equip employers with the tools for recruiting and retaining the next-generation aquaculture workforce.



Aquaculture Manager Training Program

Topics covered:

- Employee housing and transportation
- Employee physical and mental health
- Communicating with diverse employees (e.g., immigrants, Gen Z, etc.)
- Employee recruitment and retention
- Employee mentoring and advancement
- Youth engagement and career-connected learning

The new training programs are tentatively planned for 2024. Each program will be 8 weeks long. The crew training program will meet two evenings a week for two hours and the manager training will meet once per week for two hours.

For more information or to inquire about the upcoming trainings please contact:

Crew Training Program

Ashleigh Epps, Aquaculture Specialist
aepps6@uw.edu
206.543.3674

Manager Training Program

Nicole Naar, Social Science and Education Specialist
nanaar@uw.edu
206.543.7933

At the end of the two trainings, Washington Sea Grant will host an Aquaculture Job Fair, where you will get the chance to meet employers, learn about pay/benefits, and find a job!

Sign up!




Sea Grant
WASHINGTON



Nuevo Programa de Capacitación Para la Próxima Generación de la Fuerza Laboral de la Acuicultura

¿Quiere trabajar en una industria dinámica que sirva a su comunidad? ¿O es usted un gerente de la industria de la acuicultura que ha estado luchando por encontrar y retener empleados?

Programa de Capacitación de Tripulación de Acuicultura

Tópicos cubiertos:

- Acuicultura de mariscos en Washington
- Técnicas de cultivo y recolección de mariscos
- Biología de los mariscos
- Calidad del agua y especies invasoras
- Habilidades básicas de seguridad: RCP, primeros auxilios
- Seguridad marítima y marina (por ejemplo, cómo obtener una tarjeta de navegante)
- Seguridad y procesamiento de producto
- Ambiente de trabajo, etiqueta y comunicación (por ejemplo, condiciones en la granja)

Washington Sea Grant está **lanzando dos programas de capacitación gratuitos** para la industria de la acuicultura: un programa de capacitación de tripulaciones diseñado para brindar las habilidades necesarias para ser un empleado exitoso y un programa de capacitación de gerentes para equipar a los empleadores con las herramientas para reclutar y retener a la fuerza laboral acuícola de la próxima generación.



Programa de Capacitación de Gerentes de Acuicultura

Tópicos cubiertos:

- Alojamiento y transporte para empleados
- Salud física y mental de los empleados
- Comunicación con empleados diversos (por ejemplo, inmigrantes, Generación Z, etc.)
- Reclutamiento y retención de empleados
- Tutoría y avance de los empleados
- Participación de los jóvenes y aprendizaje relacionado con la carrera

Los nuevos programas de capacitación tendrán lugar en 2024. Cada programa durará 8 semanas. El programa de capacitación de tripulantes se llevará a cabo dos tardes a la semana durante dos horas y el programa de capacitación de gerentes se reunirá una vez por semana durante dos horas. Regístrese para recibir actualizaciones aquí.

Para obtener más información o consultar sobre las próximas capacitaciones, comuníquese con:

Programa de capacitación de tripulación

Ashleigh Epps, Especialista en Acuicultura
Aepps6@uw.edu
206.543.3674

Programa de capacitación de gerentes

Nicole Naar, Especialista en Ciencias Sociales y Educación
nanaar@uw.edu
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Al final del programa, Washington Sea Grant organizará una feria de empleo en acuicultura, donde los participantes tendrán la oportunidad de conocerse, aprender sobre salarios y beneficios y encontrar un trabajo o empleados.

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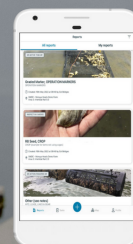
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Public Perceptions of Shellfish Farming in Washington:

A Survey of Six Shellfish-Producing Counties

By Tyler Edgar, Ocean Strategies

In spring 2023, Ocean Strategies – a marine resources consulting firm – conducted a survey to gauge public perceptions of shellfish farming in Washington state. With financial support from the Builder’s Initiative, this survey engaged 500 respondents across six of the largest shellfish-producing counties in Washington – specifically Pacific and Grays Harbor counties on the Washington coast and Pierce, Thurston, Mason, and Kitsap counties around South Puget Sound.

The survey was designed to focus on public perceptions of the benefits of shellfish farming as well as the core messages that resonated most strongly with survey respondents. Responses were gathered both via phone and text to web, and the survey took approximately fifteen minutes to complete.

Survey Results

Overall, the survey provided critical insights as well as positive results for shellfish farmers in these counties. Specifically, initial questions indicated that 81 percent of participants support shellfish farming in Washington. This question was asked early in the survey, before other data points were provided. This high rating for the industry indicates that it is positioned well with significant support in these counties. Following the initial questions about shellfish support, participants were asked to assess the importance of various shellfish benefits on a scale from very important to not important at all. Of the eleven benefits presented in this part of the survey, 90 percent of respondents rated five benefits as either very or somewhat important.

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These benefits were: creation of jobs, contributions to the economy, creation of habitat for marine life, water quality improvements; and supply of locally produced seafood.

In addition to the benefits of shellfish farming, the survey asked participants to rank statements and messages on a scale of “very convincing” to “not at all convincing.” Of the seven messages tested, more than 80 percent of respondents ranked four of the messages as very or somewhat convincing. These messages focused on: job creation and economic contributions of shellfish farmers in Washington, water quality benefits of shellfish farming, Washington’s historic and current role as the largest producer of farmed shellfish in the United States; and Washington shellfish farmers commitment to supporting and improving the marine environment.



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Drawing Comparisons

Following the completion of the survey, Ocean Strategies reviewed these survey results with the results and insights gathered from other previously conducted surveys with a specific focus on Washington data.

Economic contributions of shellfish farming to Washington’s economy consistently ranked as the most important benefit and strongest message — regardless of the year a survey was conducted or how the question was asked. This reflects both job creation benefits and revenue contributions to the overall economy.



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However, while the economic benefits and messages scored well in all the surveys, the respondents ranked the environmental benefits of shellfish aquaculture higher in Ocean Strategies' survey when compared to previous surveys conducted in Washington. Specifically, the environmental benefits of shellfish farming – improved water quality and better marine habitat – scored in the top three of the Ocean Strategies survey, while in previous surveys, environmental benefits ranked fifth. This shift highlights increasing interest in and awareness of environmental benefits to Washington's marine environment that can result from shellfish farming

Next Steps

With the completion of the survey, Ocean Strategies will work to share these results with shellfish farmers, community stakeholders and local leaders to highlight these important findings. In addition, Ocean Strategies is crafting a toolkit for shellfish farmers and other stakeholders to support the inclusion of these important messages in communications with customers, community leaders, and the public at large. It is clear from this survey that Washingtonians living in shellfish producing counties support shellfish farming and recognize the many benefits of this thriving industry from coastal Washington to Puget Sound.



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Calendar of Events

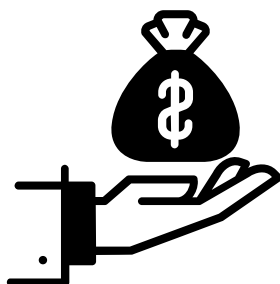
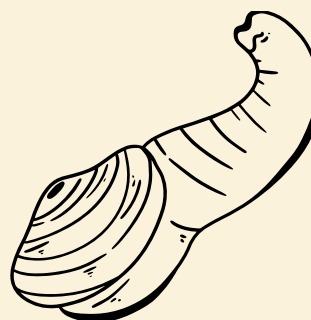
November

11: Elliot's Oyster House Oyster New Year
21: PCSGA Board meeting - via Zoom

December

19: PCSGA Board meeting - via Zoom

Stay tuned for upcoming dates in the Winter edition.



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