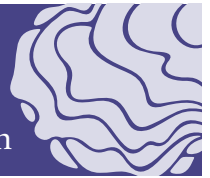


Services for Shellfish Growers

Technical Assistance from Maryland Sea Grant and University of Maryland Extension



Maryland Sea Grant works with partners to expand and strengthen shellfish aquaculture in Maryland. Our Extension team offers a variety of technical services regarding aquaculture methods, technology, business financing, seafood safety, and more. We also produce educational publications and programs for audiences ranging from young students to experienced growers.

Aquaculture Extension Services

Maryland Sea Grant's Extension program is a partnership between Maryland Sea Grant and University of Maryland Extension. Extension specialists provide information and consultation on the following topics.

Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Production Methods



Contact: Donald Webster
dwebster@umd.edu | 301-226-7845
Offers farm visits and advice for lease siting, preparation, production methods, and educational programs for lease production.

Aquaculture Business and Financing



Contact: Matt Parker
mparker11@umd.edu | 301-226-7436
Offers aquaculture production advice and consultation for shellfish aquaculture business planning.

Seafood Safety and Processing Technology



Contact: Cathy Liu
cathylu@umd.edu | 410-651-6636
Offers seafood safety and process technology education and training programs (i.e., Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), Sanitation Control Procedures (SCP), wet-storage, and high pressure processing).

Shellfish Growth, Gear, and Species Diversification



Contact: Yumeng Pang
ypang@umces.edu | 443-515-0828
Offers farm visits, individual consultation for seed and gear selection, biofouling management advice, and hands-on experience with culture equipment.

Robotic Technology for Bottom Culture



Contact: Allen Patillo
dapatt@umd.edu | 404-274-8052
Offers individual consultation and farm tests. Learn more at s3amoysters.com.

Check out the University of Maryland Extension Aquaculture webpage for more information.



MDSGo.org/UMDEExtensionAquaculture



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EXTENSION



Aquaculture Education

Maryland Sea Grant supports applied research and outreach about shellfish aquaculture. We have a variety of educational resources available.

For Growers

UMCES' Horn Point Laboratory Demonstration Farm

The oyster demonstration farm at Horn Point Laboratory is located on the Choptank River in the Chesapeake Bay. The farm has recently expanded to 16 acres dedicated to conducting applied research on industry-identified problems and exploring multi-species aquaculture (oysters, clams, crabs). Applied research will provide commercial oyster growers with information on seeds and gear selection for managing a successful farm. Leaseholders can learn about water column oyster culture and gain hands-on experience with our equipment. Reach out to Yumeng Pang (ypang@umces.edu; 443-515-0828) for more information or to visit.

Biofouling Guide

Organisms growing on equipment and shellfish can affect shellfish growth and add weight to gear. Check out our free Biofouling Control Strategies handbook for help in identifying and treating biofouling. Contact Yumeng Pang for a print copy of the guide.

MDSGo.org/BiofoulingControl



Business Planning Tool

Many factors can influence the success of your aquaculture business. None may be as important as a sound and thorough business plan. Use this online tool to test “what if” scenarios when planning your business.

The tool can also help track an active business and make projections. MDSGo.org/AquacultureBusinessPlan



For Public Awareness

Educational Events

Introduce youth to shellfish aquaculture! Our outreach and education staff are available to present at your event. Contact Chris Flight, cflight@umd.edu, for more information.

Lessons for K-12 Classrooms

Teach students about the mighty oyster with Oysters in the Classroom, interactive lessons from Maryland Sea Grant. Lessons include topics in ecology, biology, and anatomy.

MDSGo.org/OysterEdLessonPlans



Aquaculture Industry Dashboard

Check out the Maryland Oyster Aquaculture Dashboard for a comprehensive look at our state's commercial shellfish farming industry. This tool shows economic impact, harvest activity, lease mapping, and environmental data from the aquaculture sector.

MDSGo.org/AquacultureDashboard



Aquaculture Conferences

Maryland and regional Sea Grant staff organize an annual seminar program at the East Coast Commercial Fishermen's and Aquaculture Trade Expo every year. See information below about this year's seminar. Other conference support includes periodic industry gatherings with information on production practices, challenges, and solutions.



East Coast Commercial Fishermen's and Aquaculture Trade Expo Seminar Program

This long-running, annual seminar provides information to aid commercial fisheries and aquaculture producers in building profitable industries. Visit the Expo on Friday and Saturday, January 15-16, 2027. The seminar is on Saturday during show hours.

