

# EAST COAST SHELLFISH GROWERS ASSOCIATION



The East Coast Shellfish Growers Association represents over 1,000 shellfish farmers from Maine to Florida. These proud stewards of the marine environment produce sustainable, farmed shellfish while providing thousands of jobs in rural coastal towns.

The ECSGA informs policy makers and regulators to protect a way of life.

1623 Whitesville Rd.  
Toms River, NJ 08755  
[www.ecsga.org](http://www.ecsga.org)

Executive Director  
Bob Rheault  
(401) 783-3360  
[bob@ecsga.org](mailto:bob@ecsga.org)

President  
Daniel J. Grosse

Vice-President  
Tom Kehoe

Secretary  
Ed Rhodes

Treasurer  
Gef Flimlin

Connecticut .... Steve Plant  
Maine ..... Jeff Auger  
Maryland ..... Johnny Shockley  
Massachusetts John Brawley  
New Jersey ..... Bill Avery  
New York ..... Karen Rivara  
North Carolina Jay Styron  
Rhode Island ... Jeff Gardner  
South Carolina Julie Davis  
Virginia ..... Chad Ballard

Equipment Dealers  
Bob Ketcham

Shellfish Dealers  
Alex Hay

Ex-Officio  
Rick Karney, Leslie Sturmer

## The Mouth of the Bay

### Cedar Key Struggles to Recover from Hurricane Hermine



Executive Director  
Bob Rheault

After meandering around in the Gulf of Mexico as a tropical depression that seemed like nothing much to worry about, Hurricane Hermine gathered steam and made a beeline for Cedar Key, Fla. on Sept 2. The first hurricane to hit Florida in 11 years, Hermine did most of her damage with a seven-to-nine-foot tidal surge and waves driven by 60-70 knot winds.

Cedar Key and a couple of other small coastal fishing and tourist communities bore the brunt of the storm. If you have ever visited Cedar Key you know that this unique community reinvented itself as a clam-farming town after the net ban eradicated most commercial fishing. Dozens of growers support ancillary businesses like

hatcheries, nurseries, processors, dealers, boat builders and equipment purveyors. Recently, many in the town had begun experimenting with suspended oyster culture.

Damage to hard-clam crops and oyster gear has been described as catastrophic. Even though the community made significant



progress cleaning up debris with the help of a record turnout of volunteers for their annual Coastal Cleanup, Cedar Key needs more help from outside sources. Seed demand is going to skyrocket as growers try to get back to where they were, and damage to local hatcheries will only compound this challenge. Seed supply was

tight even before the storm. I hope that hatcheries up and down the coast can work with local broodstock to help these growers get back on their feet.

The Cedar Key Aquaculture Association has opened a dedicated Hermine Recovery account to fund efforts to clean up farm gear and marine debris, replace Private Aids to Navigation, help rebuild infrastructure (shellfish hatcheries, processing plants, land-based nurseries, aquaculture-designated docks), and to purchase shellfish seed.

We wish the Cedar Key community the best in the weeks and years ahead as they struggle to rebuild. Those of us who saw Hermine pass and suffered little more than a few downed branches should be thankful for our luck. I hope we can all help out those in Cedar Key who took it on the chin. See the end of this story to find out

— Continued on page 8

## Preventing Shellfish Theft

by Robert Rheault,  
ECSGA Executive Director

The explosive growth enjoyed by the shellfish aquaculture industry over the past few years has come with an unwelcome side effect: increasing incidents of shellfish poaching. Shellfish theft is an age-old problem, whether of animals bottom-planted in sanctuaries intended for restoration, or for privately-owned shellfish grown in containerized gear. Unfortunately, the few miscreants who have managed to actually get caught tend to get off lightly. Furthermore, it's a sure bet that many thefts have gone completely undetected. Adding insult to injury, several heists have involved cases where one grower was stealing from another, taking not only the shellfish, but expensive cages and gear as well. Years ago I was a victim for several months before I managed to apprehend the culprit who was helping me harvest on a regular basis.

It's clear that we cannot really count on the authorities to protect us. Instead we must look for workable solutions to protect the crops we have worked so hard to rear. The best plan of attack is to deter any theft before it happens, as enforcement and prosecution seem to be failing our industry.

I have yet to see any really affordable off-the-shelf surveillance and monitoring gear, but many innovators



UNITEDVISIONSOLUTIONS.COM

The Eagle Vision 3000 series of rugged long-range cameras includes models with detection ranges of 1 km to over 20 km, and that work in every light condition from bright daylight to dark, fog and smoke. But the hefty price tag (starting at \$19K) makes it a viable option only for the largest operations or groups of growers working in the same area.

out there are working on this issue. A few months ago I asked readers of our Listserv to take a survey about theft, and within a few short weeks 74 growers had responded. They were mostly from small operations (66 percent had fewer than three employees) and most were established veterans. While only 12 percent of respondents thought theft was a big problem,

— Continued on page 16

## Milford Oyster Festival: 2016 Wrap-Up

by Robert Rheault,  
ECSGA Executive Director

The 2016 Milford Festival was a huge success once again, shattering all previous sales records. For the eleventh straight year we enjoyed spectacular weather as massive crowds of eager shellfish lovers stopped by our three tents to sample a variety of 42,000 oysters and clams provided by ECSGA members. Every year we bring 20 percent more shellfish and every year we essentially sell out. After this latest success we are thinking about adding a fourth tent for next year.

I am profoundly grateful to all those who stepped up to help out. We are getting pretty good at this, but none of it would be possible without the enthusiastic participation of dozens of volunteers and the capable organizational talents of our festival coordinator, Trisha Kozloski. Our volunteer ranks were filled not only with shellfish lovers, growers and dealers, but also with friends, relatives, retirees, researchers, supporters, most of the Milford Lab staff and even a dedicated regulator.

Last year several carloads of volunteers were turned away by a massive, multi-car, fatal accident that closed Route 95 for hours. Those who did manage to avoid the epic traffic jam were severely overworked and came away hurting. Thankfully this year we had lots of people on the team, all pulling together and making for an enjoyable, if exhausting, weekend.

We were able to trim the waiting time for those standing in line substantially (from as long as two hours last year, to under 30 minutes this year) by hiring ten more professional shuckers than we had last year. Those 28 professionals came from as far away as Toronto and New Orleans, and everywhere in between. Collectively they shucked just under two per second, working pretty much non-stop for about six hours straight.

For our shucking contest we had a record 19 contestants. The thankless and delicate task of judging the shucking contest was handled by the discriminating and well-trained eyes of Richard Rush, of Oyster Aficionado fame ([www.facebook.com/oysterspeak](http://www.facebook.com/oysterspeak)), and Kristin DeRosia-Banick of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

In the final heat, which included contestants with the best scores in the preliminary heats, only 11 seconds separated the first-place and third-place finishers.

The champion and winner of our \$1,000 top prize was David Burns, representing Rodney's Oyster House in Toronto. Coming in second was James Geoghegan from



JULIE QIU/INAHALFSHELL.COM

For the first time ever the festival featured a tent dedicated to Connecticut shellfish, under the Conn. Dept. of Agriculture's Connecticut Grown branding.

Brooklyn, N.Y. Third place went to Matt Dobby, also from Rodney's.

Because he was the top-placing American shucker, ECSGA and the Milford Festival will sponsor Geoghegan to represent us at the national oyster-shucking championships in St. Mary's, Md., in October. 2015 festival contest winner Charlie Larkin, from Noank, Conn., was recruited to drive to Boston to retrieve an errant pallet of shellfish at midnight on Friday.

Running on just a couple of hours sleep, he nevertheless rallied to work all day Saturday shucking and still managed to compete well. Many of the growers stepped up to help shuck

— Continued on page 11

**Howe Rapid Freeze Ice Flakers. Your Solution to Keeping Shellfish Cool from Harvest to Retail**

- Providing Industry solutions since 1912
- Models from 1,000 - 40,000 pounds per day
- Units designed for freshwater, seawater, land based and shipboard
- Howe ice cools faster, and outlasts ice from commercial ice machines

**Contact Howe today.** 1650 N. Elston Ave  
Chicago, IL 60642  
T. 773.235.0200  
howeinfo@howecorp.com  
www.howecorp.com

**HOWE**  
Proven. Best Choice.

Associate Member  
NATIONAL OYSTER INSTITUTE

f in g+ YouTube



**4Cs Breeding Technologies, Inc.**

Triplod Technology for the Oyster Industry

**BROOKS TRAP MILL & MARINE SUPPLIES**



1- 800- 426- 4526

Portland, ME ~ Thomaston, ME ~ West Bath, ME

**brookstrapmill.com**



## AQUAMESH® The Brand You Can Trust

Riverdale Mills has been the industry leader in welded wire mesh solutions for the aquaculture industry since 1980 and continues to deliver products of unsurpassed quality to clients around the world.



1.800.762.6374 • 1.508.234.8715  
info@riverdale.com • www.riverdale.com

## Aquaculture Research at Federal Labs:

### Where Has All the Money Gone?

This summer I was asked to help conduct a review of NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center's (NEFSC) aquaculture science programs. This was the first time the science of the aquaculture programs had undergone a formal outside review.

I worked with five scientists (mostly federal employees) on the review team and we took four days to tour the facilities and listen to presentations from each of the principle investigators. The rest of the team went to the West Coast to review their aquaculture science programs, but I was unable to join them.

On the East Coast NOAA's aquaculture program is conducted in two facilities. Most of you are probably familiar with the work done at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service lab in Milford, Conn., but I suspect many of you (like me) were largely unaware of work being done at the National Ocean Science (NOS) lab in Beaufort, N.C. The NEFSC has several other facilities (in Narragansett, R.I.; Sandy Hook, N.J.; Woods

Hole, Mass.; Gloucester, Mass.; and Orono, Me.), but the focus of the work in those other locations is fisheries-related.

The tour of the Milford Lab revealed much that I already knew. The lab is aging, but still functional, and has some excellent and unique facilities and equipment. The staff there continues to do good work, despite severe budget cuts; our industry relies heavily on the algal collection and algal culture training provided by Dr. Gary Wikfors. The aquaculture industry continues to reap the benefits of the Milford lab's research on larval and adult feeding biology,

probiotics, ecosystem impacts of mechanical harvest, ecosystem services rendered by aquaculture and nitrogen uptake by shellfish (to name just a few). Any grower worth his salt has attended at least some of the last 36 annual Milford Aquaculture Seminars organized by the lab.

Over the past eight years NMFS has severely curtailed funding for the lab while reassigning aquacul-



MARK DIXON NOAA/NMFS

Above, 20-liter carboys of the high-lipid microalgae *Tetraselmis* strain PLY-429 are grown under sterile conditions at the NOAA Fisheries lab in Milford, Conn. This strain has proven to be a valuable food for cultured shellfish. Scientist from the Milford lab have been working closely with the regional aquaculture industry for decades. Many of the techniques used by shellfish growers today were developed at the Milford lab.

ture researchers to work on fisheries observer data and stock assessments. The lab has suffered brain drain, sustaining steady losses of personnel due to budget cuts and retirements; only one new scientist has been hired to backfill these losses. The net result has been a 30-percent decline in the number of aquaculture scientists, coupled with a 35-percent cut in funding. The morale of the remaining staff is understandably low, and there is a lot of underutilized capacity at the lab.

The last scientist doing fish culture research retired this year; entire buildings and labs sit unused. The Milford Lab boasts hot and cold running seawater, three Coulter counters (used to count and size particles in solution), a research vessel, tanks and culture facilities of every imaginable size, and

a greenhouse for algal culture. Sadly, many of these resources sit idle, since there are so few scientists left to do the work and very little funding support.

Our team was also asked to evaluate the aquaculture work being done at the NOS lab in Beaufort, N.C. That work is being coordinated by Dr. James Morris, and focuses largely on big-picture issues such as the use of large data sets to derive models, and the synthesis of data to guide regulatory policy. The Beaufort team has produced valuable synthesis documents on issues such as the interactions of aquaculture and protected resources, guiding regulators to the best available science so their rules are grounded in fact instead of fear.

I had a chance to see some of this

— Continued on page 14



Starting color



Ending color

### Vitsab's Smart Shellstock TTI-Labels

were developed with the help of federal and state regulators. Designed to mirror *Vibrio* growth according to the dynamic relationship between time and temperature, these cost-effective tools can monitor shellstock from harvest to plate. Working on "Stop Light" technology, the round window turns green when activated and remains green for 90% of its life. If time/temperature exposure occurs, the window turns yellow, then red. These labels are about the size of a postage stamp, completely food-safe, and can be attached to your harvesting container, shellfish tag, or other packaging.



Jeff Desrosiers - Director  
+1 (207) 210-1753  
jeff.desrosiers@vitsab.com  
www.vitsab.com



# MOOK SEA FARM

*Our world is your oyster!*

**HIGH QUALITY OYSTER SEED STRAIGHT FROM OUR HATCHERY**

Retention screens: 1.0, 1.4, 1.6 & 2.0 mm  
Triploid or Diploid, Disease Free

Visit our website at [www.mookseafarm.com](http://www.mookseafarm.com)  
Or Call us at 855-563-1456

## Save the Date NACE & Milford Jan. 11-13, 2017

The joint meeting of the biennial Northeast Aquaculture Conference and Expo (NACE) and the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Milford Aquaculture Seminar is set for Jan. 11-13, 2017, at the Omni Providence Hotel in Providence, R.I.

For general conference info contact Chris Davis,  
(207) 832-1075 or [cdavis@midcoast.com](mailto:cdavis@midcoast.com)

For vendor/exhibition info contact Gef Flimlin,  
(732) 349-1152 or [flimlin@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:flimlin@aesop.rutgers.edu)

For more info visit:  
[www.northeastaquaculture.org](http://www.northeastaquaculture.org)

## Help Us Help You: Join the ECSGA

Supporting the ECSGA by being a member is good for your business and good for our industry as a whole. Your membership dues helps pay for an executive director who looks out for your interests every day by working with regulators, educating lawmakers and helping the media get the story straight. Whether it's dealing with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, Food and Drug Administration, NOAA, the Army Corps of Engineers or even local regulators, the ECSGA is constantly striving to ensure that regulations are workable and rational.

Our Listserv has 650 subscribers, we reach more than 1,000 people on FaceBook and

we have 800 Twitter followers. But only a tiny fraction of that audience are dues-paying members.

*Thinking about becoming a member for the first time?*

Join now and your membership will be good through 2017! Remember that we work hard for you, and your support determines how much we can do for you and our industry.

We are stronger together!

Check out the membership info and form on the next page. You can snail-mail your application and check to the office in Toms River, N.J., or pay electronically by clicking on the [Join](#) button at [ECSGA.org](http://ECSGA.org)



CONVEYORS  
SORTERS  
COUNTERS  
WIRE MESH  
SEED



THE OYSTER IS OUR WORLD®

GRADING TABLES  
TOOLS  
UPWELLERS  
HOPPERS  
BAGS



804-338-6530

INFO@BAYOYSTER.COM

BAYOYSTER.COM

## ECSGA Membership Categories and Dues

Growers, dealers and equipment suppliers enjoy full voting rights. (If you are both a grower and a dealer simply ask yourself where most of your revenue comes from.) If you don't fall into one of these industry categories please consider joining as a non-voting associate member.

Member Type	Gross Annual Sales	Dues
Grower	\$0 to 50,000	\$100
Grower	\$50,000 to \$100,000	\$200
Grower	\$100,000 to 300,000	\$500
Grower	\$300,000 to 3 million	\$1,000
Grower	Over \$3 million	\$1,500
Shellfish Dealers and Equipment Suppliers		\$250
Restaurant Ally		\$100
Non-voting Associate		\$35

You can pay online using PayPal or your credit card on our website [www.ECSGA.org](http://www.ECSGA.org).

Or you can mail in this form with your check to: ECSGA, 1623 Whitesville Rd, Toms River, NJ 08755.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member Type and Level\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Rest assured your sales information will be closely guarded and will not be shared!

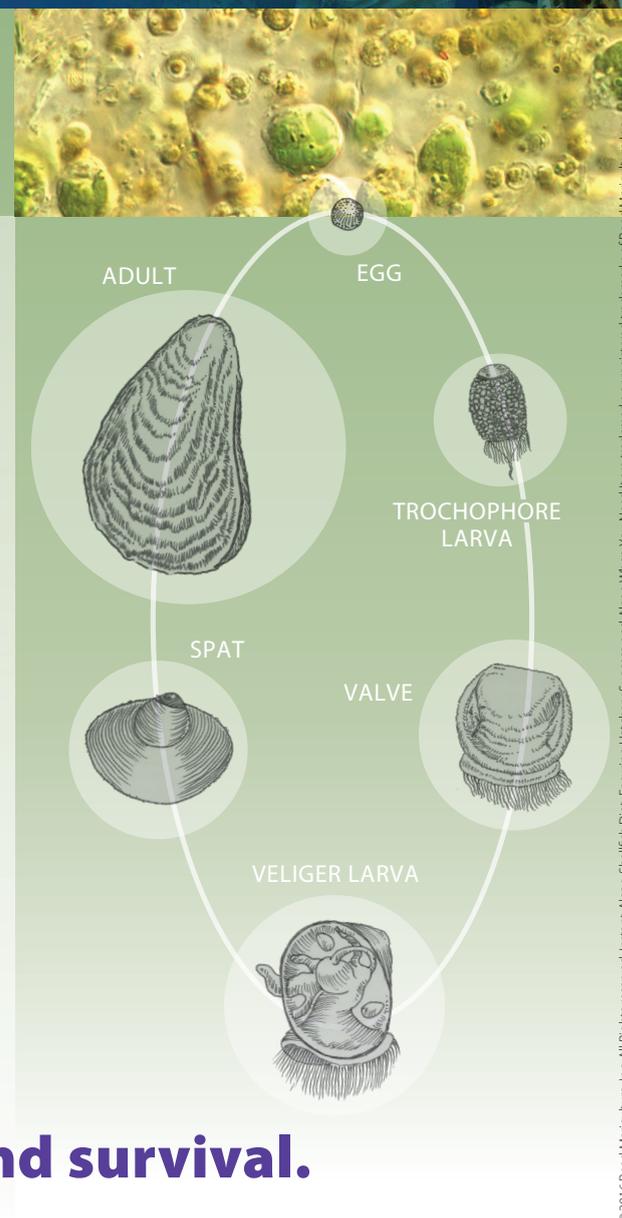
An *Instant Algae*® Product

# Shellfish Diet®

## Algae When You Need It™

Concentrated, liquid feed that is a unique blend of 6 essential microalgae for shellfish: *Isochrysis*, *Pavlova*, *Tetraselmis*, *Chaetoceros*, *Thalassiosira weissflogii* and *Thalassiosira pseudonana*.

- For first-feeding larvae through broodstock
- Nutritionally diverse and pathogen free
- Cell size range of 4–12 µm
- Healthy balance of omegas, lipids and proteins
- Whole cell of the microalgae is preserved through a proprietary process, encapsulating all nutrients
- Cleaner tank, less waste, and greater value
- Easy to use



**Order Shellfish Diet and ensure growth and survival.**

TOLL-FREE: 1-877-732-3276

VOICE: +1-408-377-1065

FAX: +1-408-884-2322

[www.ReedMariculture.com](http://www.ReedMariculture.com)

 **Reed Mariculture**  
ENSURING HATCHERY SUCCESS™

From California, USA

Learn more about  
Shellfish Diet at  
[bit.ly/SD1800AD2](http://bit.ly/SD1800AD2)



## Trouble in Paradise

by Mike Oesterling

Executive Director, Shellfish Growers of Virginia

While Virginia is undeniably the largest producer of cultured shellfish on the East Coast, with a supportive regulatory climate and extensive private leases, some of the state's growers continue to face pockets of resistance and the growing pains more typical of some less aquaculture-friendly states. Virginia's Lynnhaven River System, a tidal estuary that flows into the Chesapeake Bay, is one of those pockets. Leased oyster grounds within the Lynnhaven date back to the early 1900s, but over the years oyster production in the area declined. However, thanks to the development of disease-resistant brood stocks and improved grow-out technology, the Lynnhaven is enjoying a resurgence in oyster production.

Unfortunately, over the years when oyster culture was in decline, the upland character of the area changed from predominantly rural to highly-developed, expensive residential properties, setting the stage for classic user conflicts. These conflicts reached a crisis point in the summer of 2015 when elected officials began receiving complaints over the appearance of oyster grow-out cages in front of high-end waterfront homes.

Owners complained of inadequate notifications and a lack of input over the cage placements. When it appeared that legislative action might be imminent (including threats of a \$5,000/acre lease fee), the Virginia Marine Resources



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES - TOWNE REALTY

This 3.1-acre property with views of the Lynnhaven River and Chesapeake Bay lists for \$1.3 million. In recent years, the area has changed from mostly rural to more highly-developed, with waterfront homeowners clashing with oyster leaseholders.

Commission (VMRC) stepped in to take preemptive action.

Oyster resources within Virginia are managed both by the VMRC and by the General Assembly. The VMRC is charged with managing the natural resources of the Commonwealth (including both public bars and private leases), and tends to be supportive of commercial fisheries. In order to forestall legislative action, the VMRC enacted a six-month moratorium on

new leases in the Lynnhaven, and created the Lynnhaven River Oyster Work Group to work on resolving the conflicts.

The Work Group was composed of waterfront property owners, industry representatives, local residents, a marina owner, a representative from the local environmental group and a representative of the Virginia Beach Police Department. From the outset, it seemed clear that the shellfish growers were outnumbered and would likely bear the brunt of any proposed "solutions." The Work Group was not empowered to make any regulatory or legislative changes, only suggestions. It was tasked with focusing solely on the Lynnhaven, and was not to address broader statewide issues.

Industry went into the meetings with an open, compromising attitude, trying to rely on facts and not emotions. But right from the beginning, every option that was presented attacked the legal rights of commercial growers and furthered the "riparian rights" of property owners. It seemed clear that the property owners had no intention of compromising, but rather sought the total removal of oyster aquaculture from the waters in front of their homes.

Over the course of the summer, the Work Group met on numerous occasions to discuss various topics, including safety, notification and the preservation of areas for recreational users. The Work Group ended with a shopping list of ideas that may help alleviate the conflict, but reached consensus on only two items. First, the need to revise the notification process

— Continued on page 7

## Let Allen-Bailey Tag & Label help with all of your Shellfish Tag needs

We will make it easy for you to comply with regulations while maintaining an efficient operation by providing you with your tag, label and fastener needs.

- 4 1/2 x 3 Tyvek® Lobster Crate Tags
- Gangs of Tyvek® Tags
- Laser Imprintable, Pinfed, Single, and Thermal Transfer Tags
- Pressure Sensitive Labels
- Diamond Deadlocks
- Recommendations for Compliance with the Food Safety Act



**AB**  
Allen-Bailey  
TAG & LABEL

Ron Marley p: (877) 853-0598 f: (877) 369-4442 rmarley@abtl.com www.abtl.com

## Swap Meet

Looking for a job?  
Want to buy or sell seed?

**ECSGA-SWAPMEET** is the LIST for you!

In an effort to keep the main Listserv relevant for folks interested in issues, growing tips and news you can use, please refrain from cluttering it up with job inquiries and "looking for seed" requests.

Use the new ECSGA-SWAPMEET list instead.

To subscribe visit

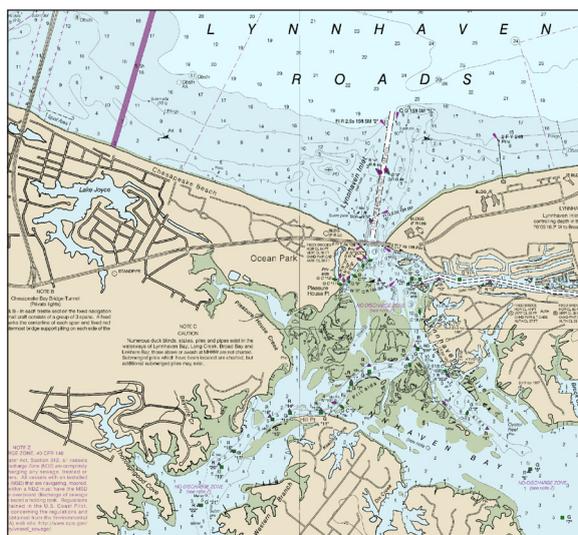
<http://listserv.uri.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=ECSGA-SWAPMEET&A=1>

— Continued from page 6  
**Trouble in Paradise**

for lease applications so it includes notifying adjacent leaseholders and upland landowners within a certain distance. Second, the need to include training about lease markings and aquaculture signage in mandatory boater safety classes.

The main “solution” to the conflicts would force any grower using bottom cages to re-apply and notify upland property owners within 500 feet of the project. It would require growers using cages to obtain special permission and potentially to pay extra fees, and mandate precisely how cages would be identified and laid out in each lease. The downside of this proposal is that even existing leaseholders must apply for approval to use cages, and no application is assured of approval. If this “solution” is adopted it is possible or likely that some existing growers may have to remove their gear.

Additional “solutions” addressed potential



WWW.CHARTS.NOAA.GOV

The Lynnhaven River System has historically been a productive oyster tributary. According to the VMRC, “there were 986 acres of Public (Baylor) Grounds within the Lynnhaven River until 1936, when all such grounds were removed by the General Assembly. Since that time active leasing within the Lynnhaven River has been the norm.”

“buffer zones,” variations on the regulatory language, reserving areas strictly for recreational use, and mechanical harvest restrictions. In August the VMRC heard a detailed presentation on the proposals and scheduled a public hearing for September 27 to discuss all the proposed solutions. The commissioners will be able to choose which measures (if any) to enact after hearing the public testimony, but they will likely have a difficult decision to make. Inaction by the VMRC may trigger legislative action that could be worse.

While the current conflicts are centered in the Lynnhaven River system, fears run high that the dispute may spill over to other parts of Virginia where oyster aquaculture is expanding into waters ringed with expensive waterfront property. Stay tuned.

The VRMC prepared a presentation for the April 2016 Working Group meeting and posted it at: [www.mrc.virginia.gov/Notices/2016/2016-04-15-Lynnhaven-work-group-presentation.pdf](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/Notices/2016/2016-04-15-Lynnhaven-work-group-presentation.pdf)



## Serving the Seafood Industry for Over 50 Years

*Specializing in heavy waxed boxes and insulated shippers for live Oysters and Clams.*



**PACKAGING PRODUCTS CORPORATION**

**FISH AND SHELLFISH PACKAGING SPECIALISTS**

198 Herman Melville Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02740 USA

Ph 1-508-997-5150 • Fax: 1-508-993-9807

USA & Canada Toll Free 1-800-225-0484

Email: [sales@pkgprod.com](mailto:sales@pkgprod.com) • Website: [www.pkgprod.com](http://www.pkgprod.com)

— Continued from page 1  
Hurricane Hermine

how you can help in the recovery.

Two overriding concerns come to mind. The first is that those structures that were built on ground level and suffered significant structural damage will probably need to be rebuilt on stilts. Locals are concerned that only rich tourists will be able to afford to rebuild, and that the character of this small, clam-farming town may be swamped by an influx of people who don't appreciate the history and charm of this unique community of 800 residents.

My second concern is that as our industry grows, we will invariably see more storms wreaking havoc on marine farms. We need to work with federal agencies to develop a turn-key disaster recovery plan responsive to local needs. Farm Service Agency crop insurance coverage is hardly enough to buy new seed, much less recover the gear and infrastructure that we depend on. We shouldn't have to reinvent this process with each new storm; it seems like something the aquaculture associations should be working on.

For more info, contact Leslie Sturmer, [LNST@ufl.edu](mailto:LNST@ufl.edu), or (352) 543-5057; or Rose Cantwell, Cedar Key



PAT BONISH/BONISH STUDIO

Mayor Heath Davis inspects 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Cedar Key, Fla., on September 1. Along with his father, Davis owns and runs the family business, [Cedar Key Seafarms](http://CedarKeySeafarms.com), which grows and wholesales clams and oysters.

Aquaculture Association, [cantwellr@bellsouth.net](mailto:cantwellr@bellsouth.net) or (352) 543-6346.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, P.O. Box 315, Cedar Key FL 32625; please include "Hermine Recovery" in the memo line.



## Shellfish Grower Insurance

Every state on the East Coast, and more.

- General Liability
- Workers' Comp
- Marine/Boat
- Business Auto/Truck
- Jones Act
- All Others

**McCALEB-METZLER**  
A BANKERS INSURANCE COMPANY



(800) 442-6187 ● [www.easternshoreinsurance.com](http://www.easternshoreinsurance.com)

### Hurricane Hermine Recovery Plan for the Cedar Key Shellfish Aquaculture Industry

**Crop Losses** – Currently, clam growers are eligible for financial assistance through the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. Cultured oysters were not eligible for NAP coverage in 2016, but will be for the 2017 crop year.

**Needs:** Presidential declaration of disaster for Levy County; more trained loss adjustors.

**Lease Markers** – The industry was in the process of replacing lease markers with new signage required by the U.S. Coast Guard. Many signs and PVC pipe pilings were lost.

**Needs:** State assistance to replace signage and markers in lease areas.

**Cleanup of Farm Gear and Marine Debris** – In the 2004-2005 hurricane years the state allocated funding for cleanup of marine debris in the Indian River lagoon. New funding is needed to conduct a large-scale cleanup of the entire coastline, and to establish a community- and industry-based adopt-a-shoreline program for long-term maintenance.

**Needs:** State funding for initial cleanup efforts and rental of shore-based waste containers.

**Rebuilding Infrastructure**  
The most compelling need is to rebuild the shore-based infrastructure that supports the farming industry: hatcheries, land-based nurseries, aquaculture docks and processing plants were all impacted by storm surge and hurricane-force winds. Seed is needed immediately so that growers can begin replanting. Many may not have the resources to rebuild, since they'll likely have to comply with current building codes and FEMA regulations. Shellfish farming must remain a viable industry in Cedar Key, thus ensuring it stays a working-waterfront community and not just another Florida condominium haven.

**Needs:** Federal assistance to fund rebuilding efforts.



# Ketcham Supply



**111 Myrtle St New Bedford, Mass 02740**  
**(508) 997-4787 www.Lobstering.com Fax (508) 992-5220**

**intermas**  
aquaculture 

**The Finest Oyster Bags**  
Square or Diamond  
Sealed or Open end  
Thousands in Stock

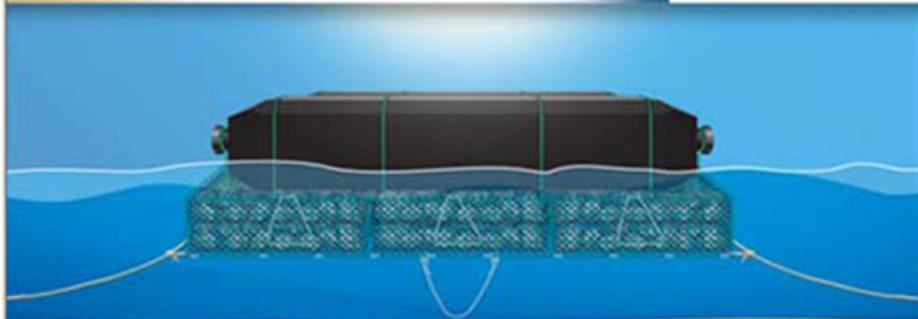


Quantity Discounts

**Closing options**  
PVC Slide Sealers  
Stainless Hog Rings  
Shock Cord  
Stainless Hooks  
SS Diaper Pins



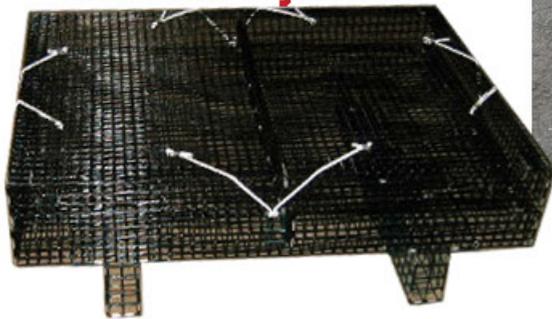
Optimum Growth  **OysterGro**



Maintains level, steady submerged position at the ideal feeding depth.  
Minimizes shifting to maintain ideal distribution for feeding.

## Stacking Trays

1/2" 3/4" or 1" Mesh  
Interlocking Design  
Deployment Ready  
Best Water flow  
Promotes Deep  
Cupped Superior  
Market Oysters



**Grow Cages**  
Custom Built Any Style  
Finished or Kits



Six bay bottom growing cage with shock cord retainers and reinforcing end caps on the feet. Cage 4 1/2" 8 gauge Aqua-Marine mesh, Feet 1 1/2" HD Lobster trap wire

## Tools to Build and Maintain Your Gear



**Clip Gun**  
**Nile Cutters**  
**Sunburst Hog Ring Tools** in 1/2" 16 gauge and 3/4" 15 gauge  
**Brand New Industrial Grade**

**Rope, Buoys, Boots, Anchors, Clothing, Gloves, Hardware and More for the Pro Grower**

## What's Happening in D.C.?

by Robert Rheault,  
ECSGA Executive Director

With all the noise about the looming presidential election most people are probably sick of hearing about politics, but despite partisan gridlock, some things still get done. I recently traveled to D.C. for a couple of events right after Congress returned from their seven-week summer recess.

At the request of Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy, I shucked a pile of Copsps Island Oysters with Deborah Pratt for Discover Connecticut Day. These events are opportunities for senators to show off some of their state's



MARGARET A. PILARO BARRETTE/PCSGA

The PCSGA and the Brewer's Caucus joined ECSGA when they met with the Congressional Shellfish Caucus. Left to right are Greg Dale, Pacific Seafood; Calif. Rep. Mike Thompson, caucus co-chair; Bill Dewey, Taylor Shellfish; Conn. Rep. John Larson, caucus co-chair; Bob Rheault, ECSGA.



COURTESY OF THE SENATE PHOTO STUDIO

Left to right, Bob Rheault, Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Deborah Pratt get ready to for the reception at Discover Connecticut Day in the U.S. Senate.

signature products. Sen. Murphy sits on the Appropriations Committee and has been supportive of efforts to save the Milford Lab and to fund water quality improvement efforts in Long Island Sound.

At the event I had a good chat with Maryland Senator Ben Cardin (read about his YouTube video on p. 14), thanking him for his efforts to straighten out Army Corps permitting issues in his state. It is always good to touch base with these folks (and especially their staff) to get back on their radar. They deal with dozens of issues every day and if you don't keep pushing, yours will likely sink to the bottom of the pile.



The next day we joined the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA), who had arranged for a hearing with the Army Corps Directorate to address why they had not gotten a permit through the Seattle District in nine years. Rep. Mike Thompson and the Congressional Shellfish Caucus requested the meeting, and eight members of Congress attended. Rep. Denny Heck from Washington state and Rep. Don Young from Alaska led the attack with others chiming in from the Gulf and California. We don't really have issues with Corps permitting in most districts, but Seattle and Baltimore have been problematic for years.

Corps Major General Ed Jackson took the heat for over an hour and then said he wanted to take responsibility and be held accountable. He suggested that he would look into the matter and come back to Congress in two or three months with concrete solutions. I like the sound of this and look forward to seeing some progress in a few months.

Wednesday evening we held a Caucus Reception with the PCSGA and the Brewers' Caucus.

I was able to pigeonhole several Congressmen and their aides, asking folks to refocus on our issues. Special thanks to Tal Petty and Johnny Shockley for bringing oysters and shucking, to John and Cindy West for donating oysters that I carried down, and to Mike Oesterling for coming in to help.

One of the issues we have been carrying to D.C. for years is the six-year old embargo on trade with the EU. We had received assurances that the FDA was going to announce a settlement in the Federal Register "this summer." Recently I talked to the man in charge and he said the timetable had been pushed back to "this fall." I asked Congressman Larson to write another letter to the FDA to keep the pressure on. Meanwhile Senator Murphy's staff has written a letter to the U.S. Trade Representative asking for help in resolving the issue. With all of the anti-trade and anti-globalization talk in the election news it is unlikely that significant trade pacts are going to resolve this for us, but it can't hurt to keep the pressure on.

G W Y N N S I S L A N D V I R G I N I A

# OYSTER SEED

H O L D I N G S I N C

Facilitating creation of premier oyster larvae and seed

[oshoyster.com](http://oshoyster.com)    [info@oysterseedholdings.com](mailto:info@oysterseedholdings.com)    804-725-3046



©2016 PETER HVIZDAK /THE NEW HAVEN REGISTER

— Continued from page 2  
**Milford Wrap-Up**

when the crowds peaked or when the pros needed to take a breather.

Julie Qiu (of *In A Half Shell* fame) was Instagramming the event for all who couldn't be there. She posted an awesome time-lapse shot of a dozen shuckers trying to keep up with the crowds at the *Connecticut Grown* tent. (Visit [www.instagram.com/p/BJV0mzpBhsw/?taken-by=inahalfshellblog](http://www.instagram.com/p/BJV0mzpBhsw/?taken-by=inahalfshellblog))

I'd like to extend a huge thank-you to all our members who stepped up and made donations of product, including (roughly from north to south): Tonie Simmons of Muscongus Bay Aquaculture, Bill Mook of Mook Seafarm, Al Surprenant of Cape Cod Shellfish, Alex Hay of Wellfleet Shellfish, Ben Lloyd of Pangea Shellfish Co., John and Cindy West of Cedar Island Oyster Co., Dave Roebuck of Salt Pond Oyster Co., Perry Raso of Matunuck Oyster Bar, Rob Krause of Ninigret Oyster Farm, Nick Papa and Jim Arnoux of East Beach Oyster Co., Matt Behan of Behan Family Farm, Jeff Gardner of Watch Hill Oysters, Jim Markow and Steve Plant of the Noank Aquaculture Cooperative, Chuck Viens of Charles Island Oyster, Norm and Jimmy Bloom of Norm Bloom and Son, Tom Kehoe of K&B Shellfish, Brian Harmon (Cape May Salts), Dale Parsons of Parsons Seafood, Bill and Lori Mayer of Clamdaddys, Pete McCarthy of Pete McCarthy Wholesale Clams, Johnny Shockley of Hoopers Island Aquaculture, Tal Petty of Hollywood Oyster Co. and the Croxtons of Rappahannock River Oyster Co.

Special thanks to Nancy Folini and Joe Gilbert of Briapatch Enterprises who shared product, reefer space, and a reefer truck; to Norm and Jimmy Bloom, who shared a mountain of Copps Island Oysters; to Connecticut Shellfish Co. manger Mike Dowie, who helped us coordinate product deliveries and lent us a reefer truck for the event; and to Robert Granfield for the use of his walk-in refrigerated trailer.



RICHARD RUSH

Left: Shucking contest champion David Burns (r), representing Rodney's Oyster House in Toronto is congratulated by ECSGA Secretary Ed Rhodes (l). Burns walked away with the top prize of \$1,000. James Geoghegan from Brooklyn took second place; third place went to Matt Dobby, also from Rodney's.

Right: The shucking contest is always a horse race. We had 28 professional shuckers come from as far away as Toronto and New Orleans and everywhere in between, and 19 of them competed. Only 11 seconds separated first place from third place. Shuckers are judged on speed and presentation. Points are deducted for not placing the oyster on the shell properly; presenting an oyster on a broken shell, or with grit, blood or another foreign substance on the flesh; a cut oyster; an oyster not completely severed from its shell.



©2016 PETER HVIZDAK /THE NEW HAVEN REGISTER

# HOT AQUACULTURE NEWS!!



*Fish Farming News* is the aquaculture industry's national newspaper, devoted exclusively to coverage and the betterment of domestic aquaculture.

Content is geared toward active commercial fish and shellfish farmers, covering all major commercially cultured species, in freshwater and saltwater, warmwater and coolwater, and both open and closed production systems.

*Fish Farming News* is published bi-monthly. Subscriptions are just \$14.95 per year in the US.

Subscribe to  
**Aquaculture's National Newspaper**



GO DIGITAL - sign up at:  
[www.fish-news.com/ffn](http://www.fish-news.com/ffn)

© Fish Farming News  
 Compass Publications Inc. - Fisheries Division



**Hoopers Island**  
*Oyster Aquaculture Co.*

**2500 Old House Point Road  
Fishing Creek, MD 21634**

**You Tube 410-397-3664**  

**www.cgoysters.com**

**johnny@cgoysters.com cell 443-521-1635**

# **OYSTER FARMING EQUIPMENT**

Warming trends are upon us and the algae in the Chesapeake Bay have started to multiply. Growing season is here and orders are coming in steady. Don't hesitate to place your order with us. We build it all... from your oyster nursery to custom boats



**PREMIUM SELECTED MATERIALS FOR ALL OF OUR COMPONENTS  
MATERIALS IN STOCK FOR QUICK ASSEMBLY AND SHIPPING**



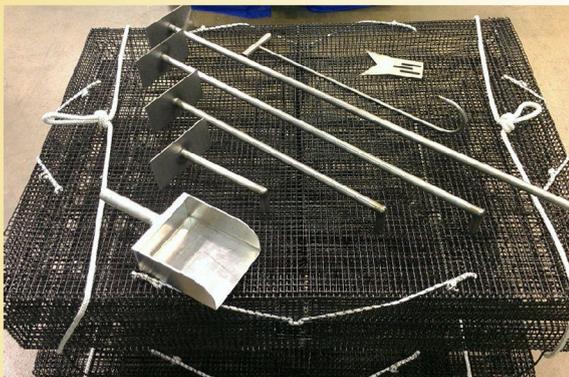
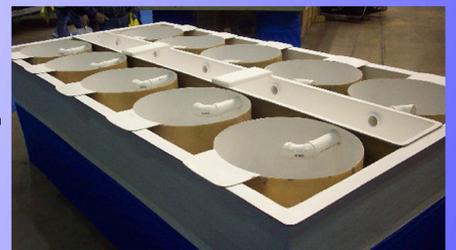
**EQUIPMENT UTILIZES THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND AS A RESULT  
INCREASES YIELDS AND QUALITY OF YOUR OYSTER**

**COMBINING EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH, ALL OF OUR EQUIPMENT  
HAS BEEN TESTED IN THE FIELD AND ENDURES VIGOROUS DAILY  
USE WITH GREAT RESULTS**

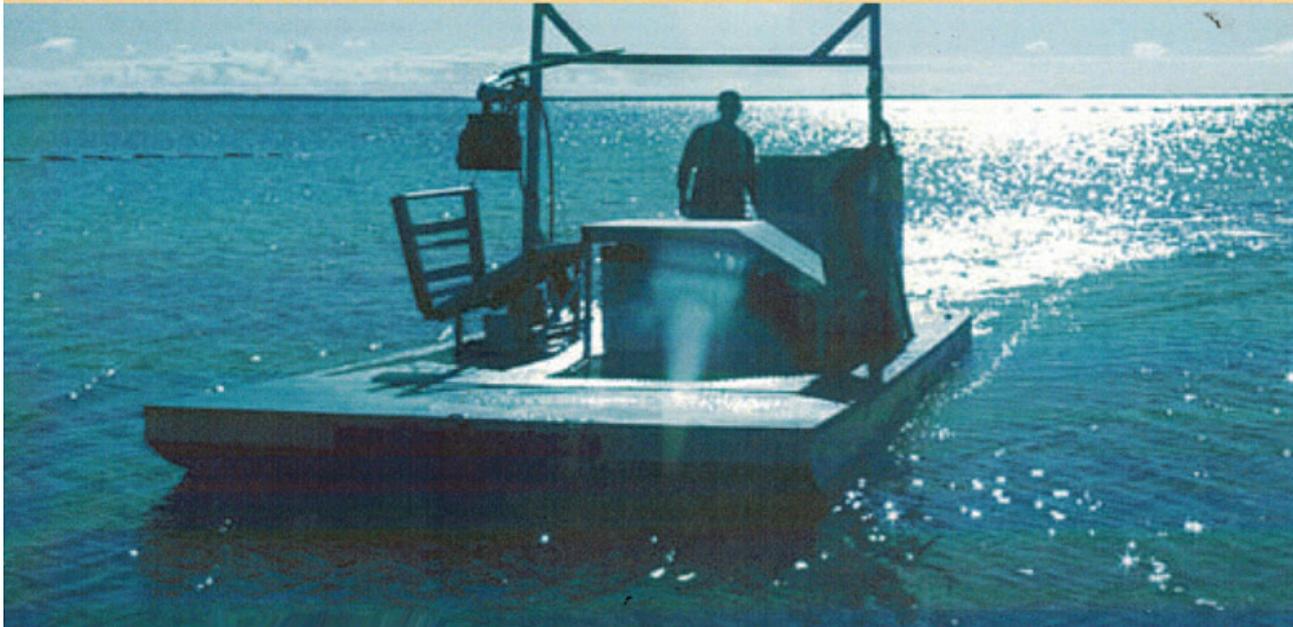
**ALL EQUIPMENT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP**

**BY UTILIZING OUR SEED AND OUR EQUIPMENT YOUR COMPANY  
WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO HARVEST A DEEP SHELLLED OYSTER.**

**OUR EQUIPMENT CREATES AND PROMOTES AN OYSTER PRIME  
FOR THE HALF SHELL MARKET**



## **PROFESSIONAL GRADE EQUIPMENT**

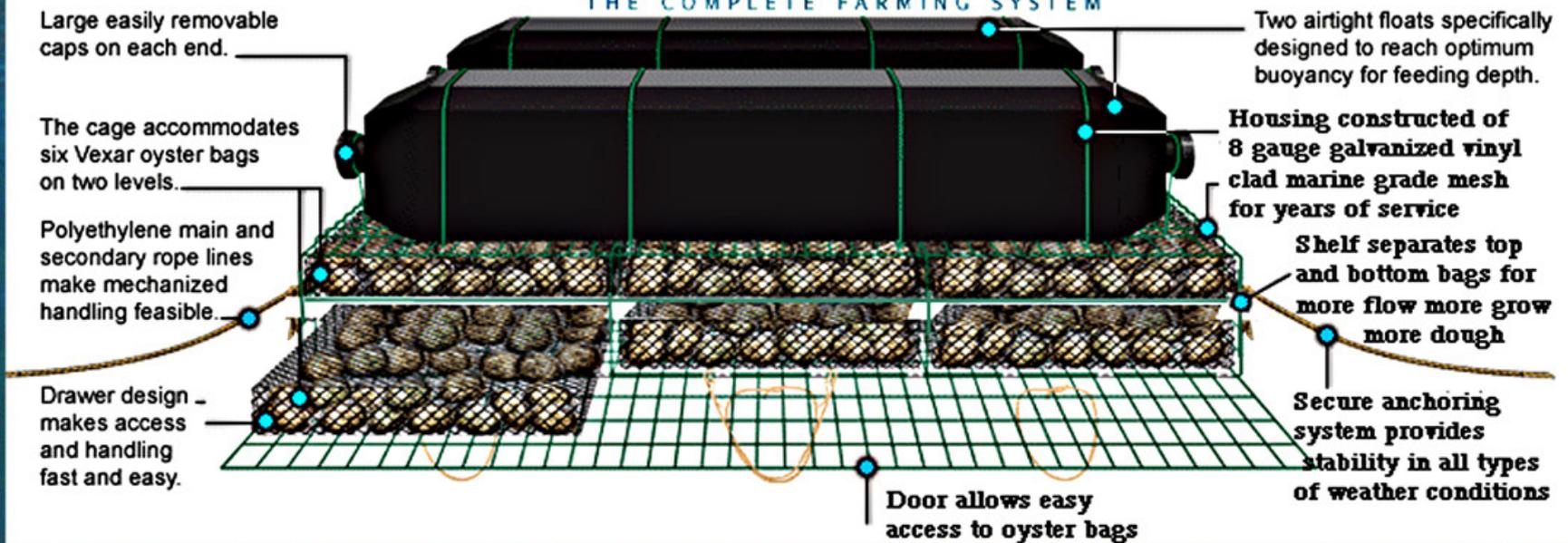


**WHAT**



OysterGro® consists of a compact housing with floats that provide the versatility, efficiency, and effectiveness on which business success depends. Every component is designed for strength, durability, and convenience.

THE COMPLETE FARMING SYSTEM



**WHY**

**A Proven Business Model**

- Proven by oystermen
- Predictable investment
- Profitable results
- Simplifies every aspect of the business from setting out equipment to tending and harvesting

**Cost/Time/Labour/Savings**

- Efficient, effective, and economical
- Drastic labor savings
- Minimizes labor costs
- Time savings: flip and sink convenience

**Higher Quality & Yield**

- Quality
- OysterGro™ consistently produces a higher quality oyster that gets top dollar
- Desirable size and shape
- Consistent growth
- Appealing look
- High-value harvest

**Yield**

- Maximizes & improves yield
- Reduced mortality losses
- Faster growth



www.oystergro.com

**Bouctouche Bay Industries Ltd.**

P.O. Box 2162

Bouctouche, NB E4S 2J2

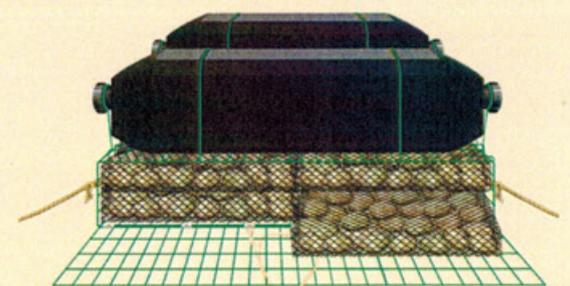
T 506 743-5455 F 506 743-6729

info@oystergro.com



Local dealer Ketcham Traps

Also Available in  
**OysterGro®  
Mini**



— Continued from page 3  
**Federal Lab Funding Woes**

work when I visited Dr. Morris's lab earlier this year. In preparing for future fish farm applications as the Gulf of Mexico region gets ready to launch their new Aquaculture Fisheries Management Plan, scientists at the Beaufort lab have mapped all the competing uses, navigation lanes, fishing hot spots, oil platforms and pipelines in the Gulf. They have published recommendations for minimizing whale and turtle interactions and are readying a similar

document outlining how shellfish aquaculture and eelgrass can coexist. I see a huge value in these types of products.

I was pleased by the caliber of the work being done at our labs, but the unused space and the poor morale of the folks in Milford, who were hanging on watching as their coworkers were reassigned or retired, was difficult to see. Given the astonishing growth of shellfish aquaculture and the amount of lip service that NOAA pays our industry, it was discouraging to tally the declines in funding support for the Milford Lab.

The ECSGA has been working to solidify federal support for the Milford Lab, but Congress has not been able to help much. NOAA leadership does not see aquaculture research as a priority. NMFS spends less than one percent of its budget on aquaculture, concentrating dollars on stock assessments in response to pressure from fisheries groups and NGOs.

I feel as if the tide may be turning, and hope that aquaculture may soon be getting the attention it deserves. In the meantime, I will continue to travel to D.C. to push for more and better science funding to help address the many critical research needs we face.



Maryland Senator Ben Cardin has posted an informative YouTube video that manages to demonstrate the economic benefits of oyster production in 30 seconds flat. *Oysternomics 101*, says, "You start with a U.S. senator named Ben. By helping to restore thousands of acres of oyster beds, he kept hundreds of oystermen on the job,

*which keeps wholesalers in business. And that means more delivery companies making deliveries to more restaurants, which hire more workers, and that means more oystermen. It's like he's out here with us. He's my friend, Ben. I hope he's your friend, too."* Check it out for yourself at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_hQyHHWLSOs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hQyHHWLSOs)



Pentair Aquatic Eco-Systems offers solutions and expertise to improve growing conditions in any environment from recirculating aquaculture systems to improving water conditions in pens. Pentair AES can help you improve results in any part of the growing cycle.

Pentair AES employs experts in coldwater aquaculture—pioneers in the industry who earned their knowledge by running operations of their own—to provide the best possible solutions for cold-water aquaculture facilities, from hatcheries to grow-out and everything in between.

From new builds, retrofits or even troubleshooting, Pentair AES has expertise and solutions to help your cold-water operation.

In an industry with small margins for error, the importance of quality and reliability can't be overstated. You'll find every solution you need, including:

- Biofiltration
- Effluent Management
- Disinfection
- Oxygenation
- Monitoring & Control
- Influent Treatment
- Gas Balancing
- Solids Removal
- Water Quality & Movement



**AQUATIC ECO-SYSTEMS®**

Online Orders: [PentairAES.com](http://PentairAES.com) • Email: [PAES.Ponics@Pentair.com](mailto:PAES.Ponics@Pentair.com)  
 Phone Orders and Tech Advice: 877-347-4788 • 2395 Apopka Blvd., Apopka, Florida 32703

© 2016 Pentair Aquatic Eco-Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



PLEASE VISIT [PENTAIRAES.COM](http://PENTAIRAES.COM) FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS AND NEW PRODUCTS

# Superior oysters, superior farming systems.



[www.seapausa.com](http://www.seapausa.com)

Sean Grizzell  
☎ (214) 238 4640  
📱 @seapaptyltd

## SEAPA



— Continued from page 1

## Shellfish Theft

30 percent said they had experienced occasional problems, while 20 percent were not sure. Almost a third said they would be willing to spend \$2,000 for an effective deterrent or a conviction.

The challenges in building monitoring systems are many. Some growers could rely on a land-based system, but many would need the equipment to operate remotely, floating offshore.

Naturally, any equipment would need to be robust enough to withstand the punishing effects of the marine environment, and ideally should be effective in darkness and fog. To

prove that a violator was harvesting within the confines of a lease and actually get a conviction, it would likely be necessary to discern boat numbers and to present a video recording to law enforcement authorities. In many cases a grower's only recourse is to rely on

understaffed marine patrols that may have very long response times following a complaint.

I looked into a land-based radar system from KelvinHughes.com that looks as if it would be up to the task of detecting a boat on a lease under almost any conditions, but it comes with a hefty price tag of more than \$20,000. One of our members has installed a high-resolution web cam on his dock that provides remarkable color images of his lease, day or night, from a mile away. He can remotely pan and zoom, and the camera can identify vessels and even individuals in starlight or daylight. Again, the downside is affordability: the starlight cameras start at \$19,000 (UnitedVisionSolutions.com),

making these solutions affordable only for large firms, or perhaps by groups of growers working in close proximity.

A few months ago I talked about the needs of our industry with a firm in Fall River called Aquabotix, which designs underwater cameras and has developed a system for monitoring leases above water. The AquaLens Connect boasts a full 1080p HD camera with pan/tilt and recording capability. In addition, multiple cameras can be connected together through the Aquabotix control application to create a security network of underwater and surface cameras. The camera costs only \$1,500 and is designed to withstand full submersion, so water

is not a problem. Add in the price of a phone hotspot and some batteries, and you could probably deploy a system for under \$2,000. They will be rolling out their new system in

Canada later this month, and hope to be displaying their wares at the Northeast Aquaculture Conference

and Expo (NACE) that will be held in Providence, R.I., January 11-17, 2017 (visit [www.northeastaquaculture.org](http://www.northeastaquaculture.org)). Check out AquaLens Connect at [Aquabotix.com](http://Aquabotix.com).

If you have computer and camera skills you should be able to cobble together a system for even less money. Kyle Hess of Chessawanock Island Oyster Co. in Rhode Island put together a solar-powered camera that includes a Geovision GV-BX220D box-camera housed in a watertight enclosure. Kyle recommends using a 5-megapixel camera at minimum.

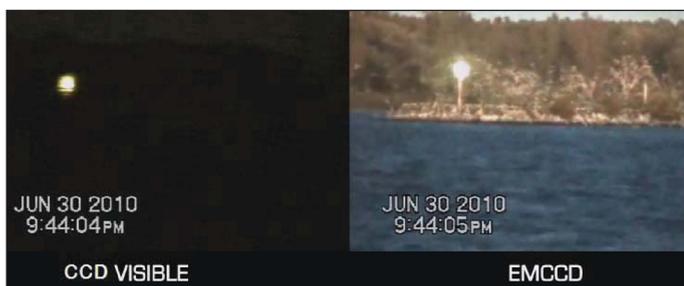
Others have suggested placing a simple infrared-activated game camera on access roads to catch land-based thieves as they come and go,

as long as you know how they are accessing your site. One enterprising grower has even used a drone to survey his lease, and is working on a mechanism to trigger an alert when someone transits his lease so he knows when to fly it. I would think that a high-powered, highly-focused spotlight might be enough to chase off most would-be thieves, if you could figure out a way to have it come on at the appropriate time and focus the beam on the intruder.

Judging from the amount of e-mail I've received on this topic, I can tell it's a high-priority issue for our community. The subject may be addressed in a session at NACE in Providence in January. Just one more good reason to make plans to attend.

On a related topic, I recently heard a member complaining that he was taking heat from other growers because he was selling to a restaurant that was thought to be involved in an oyster theft incident earlier this year. He pointed out that the alleged thief was no longer associated with the restaurant, and that, "besides, they pay well," and it was simply "a business decision."

I am hardly the arbiter of morality here, but it is my opinion that if your business decisions have the appearance of supporting thieves and scofflaws, then don't be surprised if others hold you accountable for the appearance of not caring about your fellow growers. Our industry is stronger when we work together and support each other as a community.



[WWW.UNITEDVISIONSOLUTIONS.COM](http://WWW.UNITEDVISIONSOLUTIONS.COM)

The same scene shot in darkness using a camera that senses only visible light (l) and one using EMCCD technology (r) capable of detecting single photon events and using a unique electron multiplying structure built into the sensor.



**southern label company**

**supplier of shellfish tags**

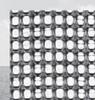
**laser, thermal, dot matrix & pressure sensitive**

**contact carolyn bailey today!**

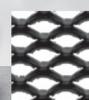
**888.829.8080**

**[www.shellfishtagslc.com](http://www.shellfishtagslc.com)**

# Netting Protection

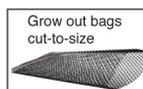


Above  
and  
Below  
Water



**Predator Exclusion • Pens & Cages**

- UV resistant plastic • Easy to fabricate
- Rolls, sheets and tubes custom cut-to-size in 24 hours



**INDUSTRIAL NETTING**



1-800-328-8456 [www.industrialnetting.com](http://www.industrialnetting.com)