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2016 AQ Summit: Education Update by Dana Morse

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Aquaculture In Shared Waters: Educational programming toward diversifying Maine's Working Waterfront



Maine Aquaculture
Innovation Center



Town of Brunswick:
Dan Devereaux, MRO



Darcie Couture:
Resource Access
International



Aquaculture training in Maine is not new, or the need to diversify:

- Maine Aquaculture Training Institute (C. Davis, C. Newell and partners) ~ 1998
- The Cod Academy (S. Belle, Maine Aquaculture Association) ~ 2010

Aquaculture In Shared Waters is strongly shaped by the knowledge/people from those efforts



Photo: Maine Aquaculture Association

Landings
News & Views from Maine's Lobstering Community

Home Science Management People Community Voices Miscellaneous

Income diversity and the Maine seafood producer

April 27, 2011
By Dana Morse, Maine Sea Grant

A year in the life of a Maine fisherman has changed dramatically in the last 25 years. No longer do you hear a fisherman say, "I go scalloping and shrimping in the winter, dig clams on the side, fish a few lobsters, and go groundfishing when I could."
Regulations designed to protect stocks of fish and shellfish have put Maine's fishing men and women into boxes, forcing them to focus on a single species, and shutting them out of other fisheries, so they now say, "Pretty much all I can do is go lobstering." Life in such a box is precarious. Economic strain on fishing families means they have to fish harder and harder just to stay ahead.

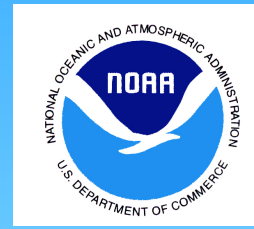
Opportunities for fishermen to diversify—which can ease the strain and improve incomes—have been few and far between. Yet in recent years, a handful of fishermen in Maine have found a way to diversify their income by becoming shellfish farmers. While aquaculture and fishing have not always gotten along,



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Enter: *Aquaculture In Shared Waters*

Principal Funding: National Sea Grant Program



Goals:

- Provide training for fishermen and their families to diversify into aquaculture, and support business development.
- Improve our understanding of the potential for integrating aquaculture and commercial fishing, including a better understanding of social and cultural dynamics.

Activities:

- Perform social science research to better understand attitudes, opinions, knowledge about aquaculture, by fishermen and others.
- Develop and deliver a comprehensive training program for fishermen, on aquaculture of bivalve molluscs and marine macroalgae.

Research:

- Semi-structured interviews with fishermen in the program, and with others
- Repeat contacts with participants before, during and after course delivery

Training:

- Comprehensive course on all aspects of aquaculture business, classroom and hands-on
- Creation of a curriculum and reference guide
- Homework: create a draft lease application and business plan

Topics for classroom and applied-learning sessions:

Introduction to Aquaculture

Bivalve and Seaweed Ecology and Biology

Introduction to Business Planning

Site Selection

Leasing, Licensing and the Regulatory Process

Husbandry and Equipment: Shellfish

Husbandry and Equipment: Seaweed and Urchins

Financing and Financial Management

Sales and Marketing

Farm Management and Biosecurity

*2016 will include Tourism and engaging
the Culinary industry.



Field trips or hands-on activities:

Shellfish and Seaweed Farms

Shellfish and Seaweed Hatcheries

Aquaculture Research Facilities

Dissections/lab exam of shellfish and seaweed

Water quality equipment demonstration

Construct sample lease application

Develop a prospective business plan

Mock Lease Hearing



Outputs and Outcomes

2013: Harpswell and Corea

- 12 students
- 1 new business

2015: Harpswell

- ~ 12 students
- 4 new business and 6 students involved

Reference book: new materials and helpful collection of existing documents

Fact sheets: four finished, two nearing completion

Useful feedback on the course from social science (Dr. T. Johnson and students)

Network of people/groups working on education and training

Additional funding supporting a 2016 class, beginning late January in Thomaston

Harder to quantify: easing the integration of aquaculture and fishing



Grow Away!