

THREE SUGGESTED ACTIONS

Through the California Shellfish Initiative, we suggest three areas for dialogue, cooperation and action:



1. Policy - Improved Inter-Agency Review Process:

Encourage and support a dialogue between industry, governmental agencies, environmental and scientific representatives to create a comprehensive and efficient permitting process for both shellfish restoration and commercial farming. Seek to ensure that the process is cost effective for both the review agencies and the applicants.

2. Support Local Community Planning

Support community based and stakeholder driven planning at three estuaries - Humboldt, Tomales and Morro Bay, which comprise about 90% of California's current shellfish production. Help complete the innovative pilot project now underway at Humboldt Bay. Support new community efforts at Tomales and Morro Bay.

Accelerate local restoration plans, like the 50-year Subtidal Conservation Plan to restore 8,000 acres of San Francisco Bay shellfish habitat. This effort by the SF Estuary Partnership, the State Coastal Conservancy and other leaders, will restore oyster reefs to protect shorelines in the face of climate change and sea level rise.

3. Statewide Aquaculture Options Mapping & Planning

Utilize the state's Geoportal and other state-of-the-art tools to involve the public and evaluate the opportunities and challenges for new shellfish operations along California's coastal and offshore ocean waters. Establish an interagency regime to evaluate and respond to offshore aquaculture proposals.

The First Step: A Shellfish Aquaculture Stakeholders Workshop

The Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association is collaborating with the state and federal leaders to increase the dialogue among all stakeholders on key shellfish aquaculture policy issues.

The growers have proposed a late August workshop to bring together state and federal agency representatives along with shellfish industry, environmental and scientific leaders to discuss the policy, planning and science issues that should be addressed to develop a more effective state shellfish aquaculture policy.