

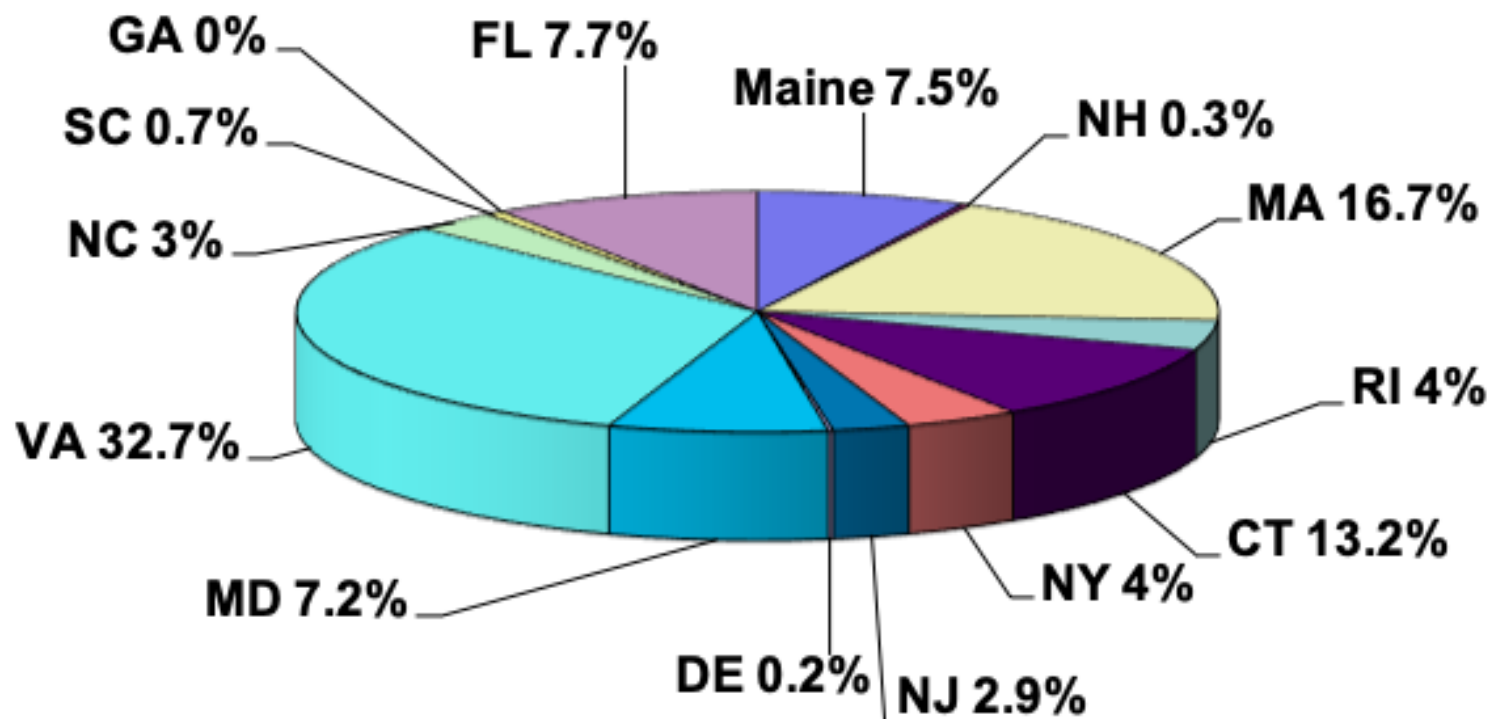
Role of Associations in Shellfish Sanitation



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Shellfish Aquaculture by State percent of total East Coast

\$175 million farm gate



Shellfish Aquaculture

- About 1500 farms
- ECSGA has about 250 grower-members, 35 equipment suppliers
- \$175M, 65% oysters, 35% clams
- Oyster production up 7-10% annually

ECSGA Website

- New! Revised Best Practices Manual!!
- Training & Education
 - Marketing tips from the pros
 - Ecosystem benefits
 - Vibrio fact sheets
- Newsletter Archives
- Tons of grower resources
- www.ecsga.org



Major Focus Areas

- Working in DC to ensure our representatives know our issues
- Working with the ISSC to keep regulators from killing our businesses
- Working with agencies for research support
- Press point of contact



ECSGA LISTSERV

- Great source of timely information
- Questions answered fast by pros
- Also SWAPMEET for used gear



Recent Wins

- Jones Act exemption for farmers
- Access to ELAP – Emergency Livestock Protection – It's FREE!
- USDA ARS oyster breeding program
 - Sequenced the genome
 - Acquired \$2.7 M/y for genetics
 - Plans to breed 100 families
- Lots of bad bills squashed



Interstate Seed Transfer

- Regional Shellfish Seed Biosecurity Program - RSSBP.org
- Hatchery Certification
- Mapping for pathogen prevalence
- Advisory panel
- Pathologist network



ECSGA Role in Shellfish Sanitation

- Vibrio evangelist
- ISSC participation
 - Evaluate proposals prior to ISSC
 - Track subcommittees
 - Rewrote aquaculture chapter
 - Developed guidance on birds
- Education – public and growers
- Press contact



Vibrio

- In 2005 the FDA wanted to force all oysters to be PHP, or irradiated, or pasteurized
- Pushed back through congress
- Developed educational material for growers - KEEP IT COLD!
- Delivered 23 talks to harvesters in 10 states
- Distributed thousands of educational brochures



Harvester Brochure

ISSC Participation

- We are not anti-regulation
 - Markets depend on safe shellfish
 - We just need regulations to be science-based and workable
- The ISSC gives us a voice even if we don't vote on the final outcome
- Evaluate proposals prior to ISSC
- Track ~25 subcommittees

ISSC Participation

- In 2020 rewrote aquaculture chapter of the NSSP
- FDA – If gear may attract birds or mammals must have an operational plan to address guano and coliforms
- Developed guidance section



Press contact

- Whenever there is a HAB closure – note that shellfish on the market is safe!
- Recent press fascination with flesh-eating bacteria
- 40-50 articles – killed markets
- All mention oysters – despite most being wound infections
- Updated fact sheet on website

The New York Times

***3 Die in N.Y. Area From Infection
Spread Through Seawater and Oysters***

Associations

- We spread the word on the importance of safe shellfish.
- Industry developed Best Practices are outcome-driven, encourage innovation and are more flexible than laws and regulations which take years to change.
- Peer pressure is proven to be more effective than laws and penalties.
- When there is mutual respect the industry will be a huge asset to enforcement – we are always out there.
- We know that if someone is cutting corners the whole industry suffers from lost markets, closed areas and tighter regulations.

Questions?

Your voice in DC

www.ECSGA.org

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