



Est. 1908

National Shellfisheries Association Quarterly Newsletter

2026(3)

President's Message



"Summertime and the livin' is easy". Well perhaps this was not written for marine scientists. For us, the summer is full of field work, interns, data processing, and logistics. It's exciting, but not always easy.

There have been some big developments. The National Science Foundation just announced their 2026 Engine Awardees (<https://www.nsf.gov/news/nsf-awards-12-new-regional-innovation-engines-fuel-research>) including the NSF Seafood Engine in New England. The NSF Seafood Engine in New England, led by the Portsmouth-based non-profit Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS), is a collaboration of seafood industry, tech sector, government, and research partners across Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. This innovation ecosystem aims to revitalize the seafood sector through advanced technology reducing the national seafood deficit and strengthen every level of the seafood supply chain addressing the goals outlined in the April Executive Order on [Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness](#). The Seafood Engine will initially receive an award of \$15 million over two years, with the potential to grow up to \$160 million over ten years as it works to build an internationally competitive technology and innovation cluster.

Also, President Trump declared July 2, 2026 "National Scallops Day" followed by NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator, Eugenio Piñeiro Soler announcing region-specific actions in support of Executive Order on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness including implementing rotational access for the Northern Edge scallop fishery ([click here to read full announcement](#)). This area was designated a Habitat of Particular Concern (HAPC) to protect groundfish (particularly Atlantic Cod) in 1994 and has been closed since then. It is the best scallop grounds in US waters and an extremely hot topic on the New England waterfronts.

I imagine everyone else is as busy, but I hope you find some time to enjoy the seafood we all work on so hard to understand. I've enjoyed some lobsters, scallops (of course) and mussels. I think oysters are next on the list.

Kevin Stokesbury, President

MEETING DEADLINES

Abstract Submission
December 15, 2026

Early-bird Registration
January 16, 2027

Hotel Registration
February 17, 2027*

**price will increase after this date*

BOOK YOUR ROOM EARLY - \$179 per night

<https://shellfish.memberclicks.net/annual-meeting---hotel>

In this issue:

- 119th Annual Meeting Update
- Carriker & Abbe Student Research Grant Updates
- Oysters with Teeth
- The JSR receives 18th APEX Award
- Seeking Honored Life Member Bios

2025 Melbourne Carriker Student Research Award Update

Awardee: Allison Weber
Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

“Population genetics of Crassostrea virginica within a Texas hybrid zone”

Populations of eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) are threatened by environmental change, pollution, disease, habitat loss, and harvest pressure. In Texas, declining wild oyster reefs have resulted in large decreases in commercial landings, early closure of harvest seasons, and permanent closure of several bays. An important component for developing effective fisheries, restoration, and aquaculture policies for eastern oysters in Texas is the population structure along the coast.

Previous studies have identified two genetically distinct groups of eastern oyster in Texas: one predominant along the southern Texas coast, and the other primarily found in estuaries of the northern Texas coastline and into the northern Gulf. These populations coexist in a “transition zone” spanning Corpus Christi Bay, Aransas Bay, Copano Bay, and several other neighboring estuaries. Hybridization has been documented in this region, but the extent and patterns of admixture remain unclear. Additionally, previous observations suggested a northward shift occurred in the location of the transition zone between Corpus Christi Bay and Aransas Bay. A change in transition zone location can have important implications for management of wild and cultured populations. Part of a larger project funded by Texas Sea Grant, this study aims to refine our understanding of eastern oyster genetic patterns along the Texas coast by identifying the current position of the transition zone, mapping fine-scale population structure, and evaluating potential admixture between the two populations.

During the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024, wild oysters were collected from 30 sites across the transition zone to resolve fine-scale population structure. Additional samples were taken from sites in Matagorda Bay and Galveston Bay to serve as northern reference locations, and from two sites in the Lower Laguna Madre to provide southern reference samples. Mantle tissue was swabbed for DNA collection and extraction. Genotyping libraries were prepared following the Genotyping-in-Thousands by Sequencing (GT-seq) workflow using a microhaplotype panel developed as part of this project. Briefly, samples underwent two rounds of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with an intermediate quantification and dilution step, followed by pooling, dual-sided purification, and quality assessment. Final pools were standardized and combined into a final library for sequencing on an Illumina NovaSeq™ platform.

The DNA sequence data underwent processing and filtering before analysis. Processing consisted of a custom bioinformatic pipeline wherein raw DNA sequences were trimmed, aligned to a reference genome, and used to call SNP and microhaplotypes. After filtering for individual and locus missing data, Hardy-Weinberg disequilibrium, excess heterozygosity, duplicate genotypes, and close kinship (parent-offspring and full sibs), the dataset was reduced to 645 individuals and 206 high-quality loci.

Using principal component analysis (PCA), discriminant analysis of principal components (DAPC), and the program ADMIXTURE, genetic clusters within the transition zone were identified, individuals were assigned a probability of deriving from each population, and a level of admixture was determined for each sample.

Results support the presence of two genetic groups, with strong differentiation between the northern and southern reference samples on the PCA. Individuals from Corpus Christi Bay showed the highest levels of admixture and the widest spread of northern to southern ancestry. Interestingly, samples from a minor bay within the Mission-Aransas estuary largely clustered with the northern population. The overall pattern resembled a gradual north-to-south genetic transition across sites.



Photo credit: Michaela Labare

Using a 70% admixture threshold, meaning individuals with less than a 70% probability of deriving from either population were considered admixed, 45 individuals in the dataset were classified as admixed. Analysis is ongoing and future plans include investigating admixture with the program NEWHYBRIDS, as well as estimating population differentiation (F_{ST}) and effective population size (N_e). Landscape genetics approaches, including redundancy analysis (RDA), are also underway to examine the relationship between genetic variation and environmental variables, and to understand the spatial distribution of genotypes along the transition zone.

I would like to thank the National Shellfisheries Association for supporting this project. The Melbourne R. Carriker Award provided essential funding for laboratory consumables and sequencing, enabling the generation of data critical for the population genetics component of my dissertation. This work is expected to inform conservation and restoration planning, guide fishery and aquaculture practices, and provide demographic insights needed for broodstock sourcing and management decisions. The resulting dataset and methods will also serve as a baseline and framework for long-term monitoring efforts, as well as foundational material for subsequent chapters of my dissertation.

In Memorium

Donald 'Mutt' Meritt
(Oct. 24, 1949 - May 25, 2026)

Link to obituary: <https://www.fhnfuneralhome.com/obituaries/donald-don-mutt-meritt/#!/Obituary>

Memorial contributions can be made to the Dick Kleen Fund of the Mid Shore Community Foundation (www.MSCF.org)

Award Nominations **Deadline: November 1st**

Nominations for:

- Honored Life Member Award
- David H. Wallace Award
- Neil Bourne - Ken Chew Award
- Paul Galtsoff Industry Award

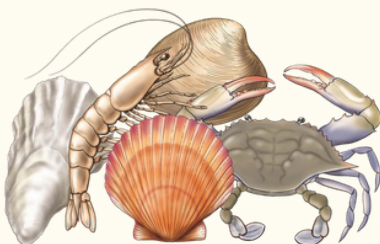
Student Research Grant Awards:

- Melbourne R. Carriker Award
- Michael Castagna Award
- George R. Abbe Award
- R. LeRoy Creswell Award
- Susan E. Ford Award

Send nominations & applications to
Past-Presidents Committee Chair:

Aswani Volety
voletyak@uncw.edu

Visit www.shellfish.org for specific
award descriptions and instructions



STILL TIME TO ORGANIZE A SESSION FOR BALTIMORE

Plans for the 119th annual conference in Baltimore are well underway and the program is filling fast. If you have an interest in organizing a session, there is still time – just let us know and we'll add it to the grid (www.shellfish.org) and you can chase your participants before the abstract deadline of December 15, 2026. This is great activity in which to engage senior graduate students and post-docs as part of their career-development path – and it can be fun!



It's also a chance to engage your colleagues from outside the NSA and expand our membership.

PLEASE pay close attention to the Abstract Submission deadline (December 15, 2026). These deadlines are set for a reason as there is a lot of work to be done after submissions to prepare the program, notify participants of scheduling, and get it printed in time for delivery.

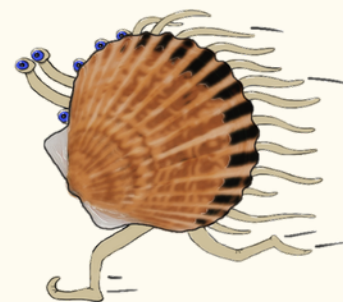
Thanks for your consideration. Questions and suggestions welcome.

Get those auction items ready and see you all in Baltimore!

The Conference Management Team

The Scallop Gallop

NSA 5K in Baltimore



Contact Lewis Deaton:
lewis.deaton@lusfiber.net

Abstract Formatting Details

The portal is open - submit your abstract today!

DEADLINE: December 15, 2026

(www.shellfish.org)

Bold, left alignment, not capitalized

Management of biofouling in shellfish aquaculture

Sandra E. Shumway^{1*}, William C. Walton², Stephan Bullard³, Steven W. Fisher⁴, Charles Adams⁵, and Robert. B. Whitlatch¹

¹University of Connecticut, Department of Marine Sciences, 1080 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340

²Co-author affiliation address – full/complete mailing address

³Co-author affiliation address – full/complete mailing address

⁴Co-author affiliation address – full/complete mailing address

⁵Co-author affiliation address – full/complete mailing address

sandra.shumway@uconn.edu

Authors in **bold**, * by the presenting author, numerical superscripts, single-spaced, presenting author's email only, left alignment

Single-spaced, Justified alignment

Biofouling poses an ongoing problem for aquaculture operations and, in particular, for shellfish farmers. Fouling of the structures and the farmed organisms increase maintenance costs, slow growth, reduce marketability and, in extreme cases, cause mortality of the farmed animals. The goal of this session is to bring together industry members and researchers to share knowledge, exchange ideas and guide timely and targeted research. Industry members are strongly encouraged to participate in these discussions as an essential means of both focusing research efforts currently underway and of keeping shellfish farmers informed of new efforts to thwart biofouling.

To this end, the session will include: 1) a presentation of a national survey of shellfish farmers, identifying costs, problem species, current means of mitigation and control and areas of concern; 2) an update on the current status of development and field testing of environmentally friendly anti-fouling coatings for aquaculture gear, and; 3) a presentation on the problems posed by ascidians.

These brief presentations will lead into a cooperative discussion among audience and panel members, identification of problems, discussion of various management methods and assimilation of information for future research and mitigation strategies.

ENTIRE abstract single-spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12
NO figures or keywords
250 word limit

The file name of your uploaded abstract must be in the following format using the name of the PRESENTING AUTHOR: **first name.last name.doc** (e.g. thurlow.nelson.doc). If you are submitting more than one abstract, append a numeral after your last name for subsequent submissions (eg. thurlow.nelson2.doc).

If changes need to be made to your abstract after it has been submitted, contact the Secretariat (secretariat@shellfish.org).

DO NOT submit a revised version via the portal.

AQUACULTURE '28 is coming to Seattle!

February 7-11, 2028



Yes, we are still working on the program for our upcoming meeting in Baltimore, but the meeting planning never stops!

Program development for AQ '28, the 14th Triennial meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, Fish Culture Section, American Fisheries Society, World Aquaculture Society, and the National Aquaculture Association is underway. The NSA will be leading the

effort this time and we need strong turnout for a successful conference. A request will be forthcoming soon recruiting session organizers and ideas – you don't have to organize a session to suggest one!

The Triennial meeting is the largest aquaculture conference and trade show in the world, a great venue to learn new things, establish new friendships and collaborations, and an exceptional opportunity to showcase your work to an international audience, while still meeting up with all of your usual NSA colleagues.

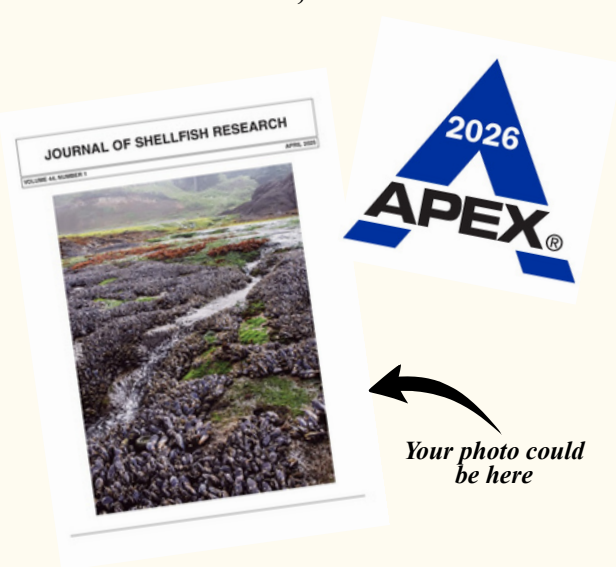
Mark your calendars now and contact any of us with your session plans and suggestions:

Jay Parsons, Program Co-Chair
(jay.parsons007@gmail.com)

Sandy Shumway, Program Co-Chair
(sandra.shumway@uconn.edu)

Steve Allen, NSA Program Representative
(stevenmallen@gmail.com)

The Journal of Shellfish Research was awarded its 18th APEX Award for Cover - Design & Illustration Volume 44, number 1



Your photo could be here

Thank you Wallace Kaufman for submitting the photo!

NSA Student Presenters

Ready to celebrate the birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner?

The NSA annual meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, from March 21-25, 2027. The Charm City has lots to offer, not the least of which are The National Aquarium, Maryland Zoo, Edgar Allan Poe Museum, and even the birthplace of Babe Ruth.

The annual conference is a great opportunity for graduate student members of the NSA to present their original research at this fantastic meeting. Register now and submit your abstract: <https://www.shellfish.org/annual-meeting>

THE ABSTRACT DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15, 2026.

Student Travel Awards

To assist with the costs of attending this meeting, the Student Endowment Fund (SEF) provides a lottery-based system that offers waivers to NSA student members for either registration or accommodation costs. **The deadline to apply for the lottery is December 15, 2026** and the application can be downloaded at: <https://www.shellfish.org/sef-studentpresentation-and-travel-awards>

Student Presentation Awards

At the annual conference, the NSA will be adjudicating competitions for both the Thurlow C. Nelson (outstanding talk) and Gordon Gunter (outstanding poster) Presentation Awards. The winners of these awards receive membership for two years to the Association and a certificate of accomplishment. Only graduate students, presenting research conducted during their graduate research tenure, are eligible for this competition. Graduate student members wishing to participate in these competitions should do the following in order to be eligible for the Nelson and/or Gunter Award(s):

- Submit your abstract(s) by the conference deadline of **December 15, 2026.**
- Indicate that you wish your presentation to be judged during the abstract submission process.

NOTE: To be eligible for either of these opportunities you must also pay your 2026 membership dues by December 15, 2026! (YES, you are eligible for both, if you apply.)

For more information about both of these opportunities, visit: <https://www.shellfish.org/sef-student-presentation-and-travelawards>.

Call to Professional Members

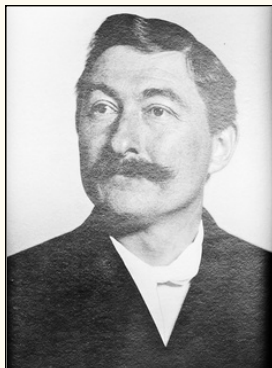
There is still one vacancy on the SEF Committee. We could use your help with scoring the travel applications and especially setting up the Nelson and Gunter Award scoresheets at the Annual Meeting. It's a great opportunity for someone good with setting up phone apps to complement the paper and spreadsheet options.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (Stephen.Geiger@MyFWC.com).

Steve Geiger
Student Endowment Fund Committee Chair

Julius Nelson Papers Available at Rutgers University Library

The Julius Nelson papers span the period 1876 to 1920, with a concentration from 1890 to 1915, and comprise two cubic feet of documents. The papers represent Nelson's work as a biology professor, his speeches and lectures, his day-to-day activities and concerns, and his research and writings.



For 28 years, Julius Nelson served as Biologist of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and professor of biology, physiology, and bacteriology at Rutgers University. During this time, he issued a *Descriptive Catalogue of the Vertebrates of New Jersey* (1890), and contributed sections, including oysters, shrimp, and sponges, to the *Cyclopedia of American Agriculture* (1908). He was a member of the National of Shell Fish Commissioners, the New Jersey Tuberculosis Commission and the New Jersey Science Teachers' Association, as well as President of the New Jersey State Microscopical Society. Nelson's research spanned much of the agricultural industry, but oyster investigations were his greatest achievement. In 1888, Julius estimated the acreage of New Jersey waters suitable for growing oysters was 200,000 acres. His research on the nature of oyster propagation included development of embryos, comparisons of viability of different different stocks, parasites, predators, and comparisons of oyster problems in different localities. Nelson had numerous oyster laboratory stations built throughout New Jersey, along with some of the first experimental oyster culture ponds and a laboratory houseboat.

Julius was the father of two NSA Past-Presidents and Honored Life Members: Thurlow Nelson and J. Richards Nelson. The repository also holds the papers published by Thurlow, which may contain related materials, as the younger Nelson (1890-1960) was also a biology professor at Rutgers who conducted research on oysters.

For more information on the Julius Nelson Papers, visit the Rutgers University Libraries' Archives and Special Collections at Rutgers' webpage: <https://archives.libraries.rutgers.edu/repositories/11/resources/957>



Dedication of the New Jersey Oyster Investigation Laboratory in 1927.

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE JSR

You will note a new ABSTRACT FEE on your meeting registration form. Here's why:

BioOne, a major source of funding for the NSA, provided a list of the most downloaded papers in 2025 from the *Journal of Shellfish Research*, i.e., the top 10 papers that contributed most to the revenue flow (see below). That list includes the published Abstracts from conferences in 2008, 2011, 2014, 2015 (the year publication of abstracts ceased). The EXCOM has decided that we will again publish meeting abstracts, beginning with the 119th meeting in Baltimore. This will increase the cost of publication page charges, but it is hoped that participants will recognize the importance of the decision for the financial well-being of the NSA and support the small fee. There will be an option on the registration form to opt out of publication if desired. Publication is not only an opportunity to increase revenue, it is a chance for your work to be noticed. and opens the door to potential collaborations. THANK YOU for your support!

2025 Most Accessed Articles

Article Title	Hits
Harvest, export, economic, and legal status of land and sea snails in Turkey	3,616
Abstracts of technical papers presented at the 100 th annual meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, Providence, Rhode Island, April 6-10, 2008	2,762
Nutritional value and food safety of bivalve molluscan shellfish	2,529
Abstracts of technical papers presented at the 107 th annual meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, Monterey, California, March 22-26, 2015	2,495
Abstracts of technical papers presented at the 103 rd annual meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, Baltimore, Maryland, March 27-31, 2011	2,184
Life cycle and natural mortality rates of the blue spiny lobster (<i>Panulirus inflatus</i>)	1,992
Abstracts of technical papers presented at the 106 th annual meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, Jacksonville, Florida, March 29-April 2, 2014	1,846
A comparative study on metals and parasites in shellfish of freshwater and marine ecosystems	1,660
An estimate of carbon storage capabilities from wild and cultured shellfish in the Northwest Atlantic and their potential inclusion in a carbon economy	1,574
Worldwide abalone production statistics	1,557

Hits are defined as full-accesses and PDF downloads from BioOne.



Still Seeking Authors for Biographies for Honored Life Members

This is an on-going plea to get biographical information for Honored Life Members posted on our web page. Thanks to Kay McGraw, who volunteered to prepare a piece on her major advisor, Gordon Gunter. We are still seeking bios for the following individuals, several of whom are the namesakes of our major awards. All of these individuals deserve recognition and newcomers to the field should have the opportunity to learn of their contributions. It's not an onerous undertaking and can be fun – please give it some thought. If you are interested in doing some digging and writing a short biography on any of these folks, please get in touch with Sandy Shumway (Sandra.shumway@uconn.edu). The article does not have to be long, just informative. Some information can be found in *Taming of the Oyster* and contacting individuals who knew the members could also prove rewarding.

Jarvey W. Wiley	J.L. McHugh
Trevor Kincaid	Walter A. Chipman
Pieter Korringa	Philip Butler
Hugh Smith	Wesley Coe
Cedric Lindsay	Robert Lunz
Ronald Westley	R.E. Coker
H. Butler Flower	

RENEW YOUR DUES

Reminder emails will begin
October 1st

REVIEW YOUR PROFILE
INFORMATION

Recruit 5 new members and earn
a free 2027 membership

Questions, contact
Secretariat@shellfish.org

An Oyster with Teeth Reveals When Molluscs Covered the Chesapeake Bay

In 1898, a dredging boat collected a set of dentures with an oyster attached to them from the bottom of the Chesapeake Bay. The strange specimen was sent to the Smithsonian Institution, where it has remained since - but not without pushback from several toothless individuals claiming ownership of the dredged-up dentures. One man insisted that the false teeth belonged to him, even though the dentures were found more than a decade before he was born.



An eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) attached to an upper set of artificial teeth. Several oysters growing on unexpected objects are part of the National Museum of Natural History's bivalve collection. Photo credit: Smithsonian Institution

Despite the specimen's unusual appearance, this oyster was doing what all oysters do: searching for a safe hold above the mud. While most oysters opt for a rock or another oyster, some have more unconventional tastes - and once they find a suitable surface, they don't discriminate. Oysters attached to smoking pipes and a teapot lid were similarly collected from the Chesapeake Bay around 1900 and are also housed in the museum's collection.

"It's like a little bivalve freak show," John Pfeiffer, research zoologist and curator of bivalves at the National Museum of Natural History, said of the ensemble.

These "freak show" oysters also provide a snapshot of the biological and cultural past of the Chesapeake Bay. Oysters were once extremely common there and provided the livelihood of Indigenous peoples, but European settlers overharvested oysters and dredged the bay, destroying large oyster reefs. Today, more than 99 percent of the historic native oyster population has disappeared from the Bay.

Abstracted from: Smithsonian Magazine, August 5, 2026.
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-of-natural-history/2026/08/05/an-oyster-with-teeth-reveals-when-mollusks-covered-the-chesapeake-bay/>

2025 George Abbe Student Research Award Update

Awardee: Talia Barry
Rutgers University

“Evaluating predator interactions: the impact of blue crabs and oyster drills on juvenile oyster survival”

While predator interactions between higher predators and mud crabs have been extensively studied in oyster reef systems, those involving gastropod predators such as *Urosalpinx cinerea*, the Atlantic oyster drill, remain relatively unknown. Oyster drills are significant predators of oysters that have historically been destructive on oyster beds. In New Jersey, individual oyster drills can consume over 300 young spat per season, which can substantially decrease the local oyster population. More recently, oyster drills pose an issue in restoration efforts along the mid-Atlantic. In their native habitat they are limited by various physical



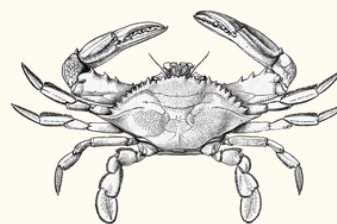
factors such as salinity and temperature, but their exact trophic controllers are unknown. Drill interactions with other predatory species, like blue crabs and stone crabs, could shape top-down control on oyster reefs. While these larger

species (stone crabs, blue crabs) can consume oysters themselves, their presence does not further reduce oyster abundance compared to when just mud crabs and drills are present. Given the recent and historically significant levels of drill predation on oysters, it is important to understand the trophic relationships between drills and other predator species and how their relationship impacts predation on juvenile oysters. Through two trials, it was explored whether blue crabs could act as a trophic controller on drill predation of oysters.

Research was conducted at the Rutgers Aquaculture Innovation Center located along the Cape May Canal between Cape May Harbor and lower Delaware Bay through a week-long mesocosm experiment. There were six treatments with all combinations of crabs, drills, and oysters to combinations of crabs, drills and oysters to determine what type of interaction, if any, is between the crabs and drills. One trial of the experiment was run in the fall of 2024 and one in the summer of 2025.

Results from the fall of 2024 experiment showed high levels of predation by the oyster drills and low predation by blue crabs. Drill presence significantly increased spat mortality (GLM $p = 7.29 \times 10^{-4}$). The presence of blue crabs did not increase spat predation, but increased variability when paired with drills (GLM $p > 0.05$). There was slightly higher predation in the treatment with all three species compared to the treatment with just drills and spat. Overall, there was no observed predation on drills by crabs and very low drill mortality. The experiment repeated in September 2025 showed a similar trend in drill predation as 2024, but drill predation was overall lower which could be due to a shorter duration of the experiment. Similarly to the previous trial, predation on spat was highest in the treatment with all three organisms (blue crabs, drills, and spat); however the greatest variability was seen in the treatment with just drills and spat.

In both experiments, oyster mortality was highest in the treatment where both predators were present, meaning that direct control of drill predation by blue crabs is unlikely. The exact predator that consumed each oyster is unknown, but observed drill holes show that the blue crabs did not necessarily reduce foraging by the drills and may have consumed oysters along with them. The blue crabs did not consume many drills when oysters were present, but did consume drills when they had no other food source. This means that blue crabs are not a direct controller of drill abundance. The oyster mortality shows no relationship between drills and crabs, but drill behavior tells a different story. When drills had oysters available, most were found actively foraging, either on the sand or shells regardless of blue crab presence. When there were no oysters present, the drills behaved differently by avoiding the bottom when there was a blue crab present and then foraging on the bottom when the crab was absent. Treatment with only blue crabs and drills had the highest drill mortality so the behavior change by the drills could have been to avoid the blue crab or avoid the scent of the death of conspecifics. To further eliminate the possibility that oyster drills do not respond to blue crabs, plans are to test the responses of oyster drills by measuring their foraging activity when exposed to blue crab urine and injured conspecifics. These findings bring researchers closer to understanding trophic control of drills on oyster reef systems. Understanding drill predation for better control can improve living shoreline and restoration efforts as well as improve aquaculture.



Recruits Corner

Dear Recruits,

We hope everyone had a productive summer! We are looking forward to the fall season and have a few announcements and reminders to share with you.

First, the [Student Research Grants](#) are due November 1st, 2026. The NSA sponsors five research grants (George R. Abbe Grant, Melbourne R. Carriker Grant, Michael Castagna Grant, LeRoy Creswell Award, and the Susan E. Ford Grant) for various topics in shellfish research. Writing grants like these provide valuable experience during graduate school, and we strongly encourage you to apply. Each grant provides \$1,250 to support your project. See the NSA website for details.



Next, the 119th NSA Annual Conference will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 21-25, 2027. We are planning the annual student events, including the student field trip, the student breakfast, and a casual graduate student night out! Watch your emails for notices regarding these events. Make plans now to take advantage of early-bird registration rates (\$400 for student members). When you submit your abstract, be sure to sign up for the presentation competitions. You will work hard on your presentations, and these competitions are opportunities to be recognized for it.



Student travel awards are also available, and applications are due **December 15th, 2026**. These awards can cover registration or shared rooms in exchange for a little volunteer work during the conference, but you must join or renew your 2027 membership dues before you submit your application. Check the [NSA Student Awards](#) page for details.

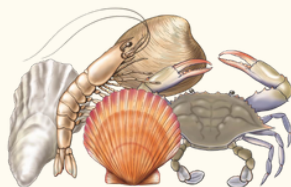
It's never too early to be thinking of the future. If you're interested in getting more involved with the NSA, let us know. The Recruits is a fantastic way to network and build your CV. Feel free to reach out to your current Co-chairs for more information.

As always, if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please get in touch with your Co-chairs. We are always happy to connect with our student recruits. Don't forget to follow the NSA on Facebook, @shellfisheries, on Instagram, @nationalshellfisheries, and we also have a student group on Facebook, "NSA Students."

See you in Baltimore!

Brandon and Anne

brandon.feole@stonybrook.edu
anne.gilewski@uconn.edu



NSA AT THE MOVIES



Do you have a shellfish-related video or movie you would like to share?
Send it to Eric Heupel (eric@heupel.com)

Movies will be playing on a loop throughout the conference - pop in when you have time!

Jimmy Alcivar-Arteaga Student Travel Award



Covers NSA membership, airfare, shared hotel room, meals, poster printing, and airport-Baltimore-airport transportation costs.
(12 awards available; special consideration given for foreign travel, all students welcome to apply)

Students must present a poster at the NSA meeting and send an abstract (250 words), curriculum vitae, and copy of the visa page in your passport to fucobi@gmail.com as soon as possible.

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 8, 2026

OYSTER STUFFING

As Versatile and Imaginative as the Cook!



Stuffings - seasoned mixtures used to stuff food - were originally 'invented' as a means of 'stretching and improving' a fowl or other meat, i.e. making a small amount of meat go further with the added benefit of embellished flavor. In the case of chickens and turkeys, they also provide padding to help the bird maintain its shape during cooking. As Master Chef Louis P. DeGouy once noted, stuffings are 'toothsome successes only if the seasoning is wisely done'. The recipe below adheres to this advice by providing subtle flavoring to be infused into the food being stuffed.

Everybody has their favorite recipe, many handed down for generations, and recipes for oyster stuffing seem to be particularly prone to individual preferences. Nearly all include breadcrumbs. My mother and grandmother would cringe at that thought, and only used common crackers for their stuffings. Other bases include noodles, rice, or any number of combinations of ingredients. Use your imagination and substitute ingredients to suit your own taste.

While most folks think about stuffing as being for the birds, a well-seasoned stuffing can add flavor and substance to a variety of other foods. It certainly adds to the presentation of any dish, but can also be a central part of the entrée. In addition to the traditional turkeys and chickens, try stuffing with any number of other foods, including fish, pork, artichoke hearts, tomatoes, bell peppers, zucchini, eggplant, Cornish hens, mushroom caps, eggs, or just have stuffing! Fresh oysters not available? Try canned oysters, or for added flavor, add smoked oysters.

HERB & OYSTER BREAD STUFFING FOR POULTRY

1 pint oysters and liquor	½ teaspoon ground sage
1 cup unsalted butter	½ teaspoon dried thyme
1 cup chopped onion	½ teaspoon dried marjoram
1 cup chopped celery	½ teaspoon dried rosemary
8 cups cubed day-old bread	½ cup chopped fresh parsley
2 well-beaten eggs	Salt & pepper to taste

Drain and coarsely chop the oysters, reserving ½ cup of the liquor. Melt the butter in a skillet; pour off and reserve ½ cup. Sauté the onion and celery in a skillet until tender. Stir in the oyster liquor and simmer for about 5 minutes. Toss the bread cubes and the vegetable mixture together in a large bowl, and allow the mixture to cool slightly. Add the eggs and herbs, and mix until well blended. Add the oysters and salt and pepper to taste. Allow the stuffing to cool before using.

Sandy Shumway

Recipe source: Reardon, J. (2000). *Oysters, A Culinary Celebration*. The Lyons Press. 246 pp. Reprinted with permission.

NSA Pacific Coast Section News

A quick note from the National Shellfisheries Association-Pacific Coast Section (NSA-PCS) to remind everyone that the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA) and NSA-PCS Annual Conference & Tradeshow will be held at the Semiahmoo Resort in Blaine, Washington, September 14-17, 2026. [Register now!](#)

This year's agenda is packed with outstanding presentations and engaging sessions, including Ecosystem and Regulatory, Fisheries Management, and Ocean Conditions. Attendees can also participate in workshops on USDA, Social License, and Restoration.

We're excited to introduce several special sessions this year, including Pearls of Wisdom and Shellfish Sisterhood. Our 'Legends in Shellfish' keynote speakers, Steve Seymour and Betsy Peabody, will open the conference by sharing the story of how collaboration helped reopen Drayton Harbor to harvesting and how Drayton Harbor Oyster Company continues that legacy today.



The luncheon speaker, Virginia Shaffer, is a food writer, oyster sommelier, and founder of Lady Oyster Tours & Tastings. In addition to the educational program, there will be plenty of opportunities to connect with colleagues and have fun, including a golf scramble, tradeshow reception, student fundraiser, silent auction, and the annual awards luncheon. If you would like to attend, you can view the conference agenda and register here: <https://pcsga.org/events/annual-shellfish-conference-tradeshow/>

For additional conference information, please contact NSA-PCS Chair Sandy Zeiner (szeiner@nwifc.org). Students with questions about student support are encouraged to contact Laura Spencer (lhs3@uw.edu).

For the latest updates and information about the Pacific Coast Section, visit the NSA-PCS website (<https://www.shellfish.org/pacific-coast-section>) or follow along on social media (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067554640281>).

I look forward to seeing you in Blaine, WA.

Sandy Zeiner
Chair, Pacific Coast Section



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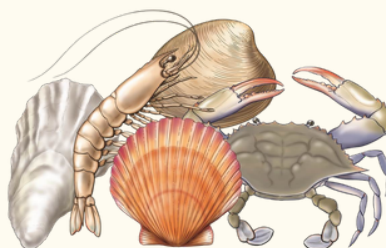
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Upcoming Events

International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety:
Sept. 6-11, 2026. Exeter, England, UK. For more
information: <https://www.icmss.net/>

PCSGA/NSA-PCS 80th Annual Conference and
Tradeshaw: Sept. 14-17, 2026. Semiahmoo Resort,
Blaine, Washington, USA. For more information: [https://
pcsga.org/conference-tradeshaw/](https://pcsga.org/conference-tradeshaw/)

13th International Conference on Fisheries &
Aquaculture: Sept. 29-30, 2026. Miri, Sarawak,
Malaysia. For more information: [https://
aquaconference.tiikm.com/](https://aquaconference.tiikm.com/)

International Shellfish Restoration Society: Oct. 4-7,
2026. Shelton, Washington, USA. For more information:
<https://www.shellfish-society.org/icsr2026.html>

International Abalone Symposium: Nov. 2-5, 2026. Long
Beach, California, USA: For more information: [https://
www.internationalabalonesociety.net/](https://www.internationalabalonesociety.net/)

7th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity:
Nov. 17-20, 2026. Belgium. For more information:
<https://www.wcmb2026.org/>

119th NSA Annual Meeting: Mar. 21-25, 2027.
Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Watch for details.

120th NSA Annual Meeting (Triennial): Feb. 7-11,
2028. Seattle, Washington, USA. Watch for details.

If you would like to announce a meeting, conference, workshop, or
publication of interest to NSA members, please contact the *QNL* Editor,
Steven Allen (stevenmallen@gmail.com).

