

Economic Evaluation of Shellfish to Determine Commercial Aquaculture Viability

Economic Evaluation of four shellfish species to determine aquaculture commercial variability, break-even values and risk assessment". Over the past year, several commercial farmers have worked with Marine Economist Brad Gentner to develop enterprise budget models for four species of clam production: *Mercenaria mercenaria*, *Mercenaria* hybrids, Sunray venus, and blood arks. The second step of this project is grounding these detailed economic models with industry surveys including accessing production variability and increasing production risks to commercial clam aquaculture. Finally, many states would like to promote shellfish farming both for its environmental and economic benefits, yet many government officials and NGO do not understand the production and financial stress these farms currently operate. This workshop will be critical in gaining enough data to ground the enterprise budgets, understand and quantify hazards to the industry, and to provide different risk mitigation strategies to insure against crop failure.

Session chairs: Nicole Kirchhoff (Live Advantage Bait), Brad Gentner (Gentner Group), Tom McCrudden (Great Florida Shellfish), and Angela Collins (Florida Sea Grant)