

## **Advancing the Regional Shellfish Seed Biosecurity Program (RSSBP)**

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The Regional Shellfish Seed Biosecurity Program was launched in 2020 after several years of planning with shellfish experts, regulators, and producers to facilitate the safe exchange of broodstock and seed for shellfish aquaculture, restoration, and population enhancement. The program consists of four core elements: a database of shellfish pathogens and their current and recent distribution and status displayed via an online interactive viewer enabling users to understand what disease risks exist where; a voluntary hatchery biosecurity compliance program designed to help hatcheries develop and sustain product biosecurity and assist regulators with evaluating importation requests; a shellfish pathology working to provide expertise and guidance grounded in science; and an advisory council to represent stakeholder interests. This annual workshop will tackle one or more needs to advance the program so it can function efficiently and effectively to serve the industry and regulatory communities. Examples of workshop topics include a general introduction of the program and how to take advantage of its tools, training of extension personnel and auditors to implement the hatchery compliance program, evaluating and standardizing diagnostic tools while developing proficiency testing for shellfish pathology laboratories, developing new tools and visualizations to communicate disease status and risks.