



The 75th Annual Mid-Atlantic Interstate Seafood Seminar

Hosted Proudly by the State of Delaware
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Shellfish Program

The Virden Retreat Center
700 Pilottown Road – Lewes, Delaware

*“The Diamond Anniversary of the ISS in the Diamond State:
Polishing Our Practices for a Brighter Seafood Future”*

Monday, 5.12.2025: Travel Day and Early Registration – 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Virden Retreat Center

DAY ONE: TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

Breakfast at 700 (*included in registration*)

Registration Desk Open 700-1050
(*sign up now for DE Sea Grant Mini Field Trips on Wednesday*)

SESSION #1: Opening Session and Updates

Moderator: Andrew Bell

0815 - 0825: Welcome to the ISS and Introductions

Michael Bott, Environmental Program Administrator,
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control,
Watershed Assessment & Management Section

0825 - 0835: Welcome to the City of Lewes

The Honorable Mayor Andrew Williams

0835 - 0845: Welcome to Sussex County

TBA

0845 - 0915: Keynote Address: “The Story of Sea Watch International”

Joe Myers, Senior Director, Innovation & Sustainability,
Sea Watch International

0915 - 0930: Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference Update
Michael Bott, Executive Board Chairman, ISSC

0930 - 1000: States Updates
Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania,
North Carolina

1000 - 1030: Industry Update
Gary Hill, Region 3 Industry Representative, ISSC
Mark Casey, DE Representative on Board of Directors,
East Coast Shellfish Growers Association

BREAK - 1030-1050

SESSION #2: Risk-Based Approaches for Illness Prevention

Moderator: Josh Barth

1050 - 1120: Illness Tracking Dashboard
Adam Wood, Shellfish Growing Area Manager
Virginia Department of Health, Office of Environmental Health Services,
Division of Shellfish Safety and Waterborne Hazards

1120 - 1200: Conducting Risk-Based Inspections
Jessica Swift, Retail Food Project Coordinator
New Jersey Department of Health, Public Health & Food Program
Sarah Good, Plant Program Manager
Virginia Department of Health, Office of Environmental Health Services,
Division of Shellfish Safety and Waterborne Hazards

LUNCH - 1200-1300 at Virden Retreat Center (*included in registration*)

SESSION #3: Pioneering Research

Moderator: Ashley Tabibian

1300 - 1330: Growth of Different Strains of Oysters
Rileigh Hudock, M.S. Student,
School of Marine Science and Policy, Sea Grant Program,
College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, University of Delaware

1330 - 1350: Ecology of Vibrio
Ava Schein, Cooperative Oxford Laboratory Director,
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration,
Ecological Forecasting Roadmap, Pathogens Team

- 1350 - 1410: Effects of Aquaculture Practices, Physico-chemical Parameters, and Weather On the Population Dynamics of Vibrio Species in Oysters and Sea Water in the Mid-Atlantic Region
Dr. Salina Parveen, Professor,
University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Department of Agriculture Food and Resource Sciences, Center for Food Science & Technology, and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center
- 1410 - 1430: Toxic Benthic Mats
Cathy Wazniak, Environmental Program Manager
Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Resource Assessment Service
- 1430 - 1500: A Test Method to Monitor Vibrio in Seafood
Dr. Ali Parsaeimehr, Senior Research Scientist, Delaware State University
Dr. Gulnihal Ozbay, Associate Dean for Cooperative Extension
Delaware State University

BREAK - 1500-1515

SESSION #4: Pioneering Technology

Moderator: Erin Velott

- 1515 - 1545: Drone Technology Utilization for Effective Shellfish Patrol
Major Melissa Scarborough
Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resource Police
- 1545 - 1600: Flow Cam
Leah Anne Gibala-Smith, Marine Aquatics Sales Manager for North America, Yokagowa Fluid Imaging, Flow Cam
- 1600 - 1630: Flow Cam Utilization for Harmful Algal Bloom Surveillance
Amy Hamilton, Natural Resources Biologist,
Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Resource Assessment Service
- 1630 - 1700: Mussel Biofuel & Ultra Cold High-Pressure Processing
Dr. David Kingsley, Research Microbiologist,
US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service

SOCIAL HOUR - 1530-Till

DINNER - On Your Own

DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025

Continental Breakfast at 700 *(included in registration)*

Registration Desk Open 700-1045
(sign up now for DE Sea Grant Mini Field Trips on Wednesday)

SESSION #5: The Intersection of Shellfish and the Environment

Moderator: Andrew Bell

0830 – 0905: Ecosystem Services: Juvenile Fish Use of Aquaculture Gear
Dr. Brendan Campbell, Researcher
University of Delaware

0905 – 0935: Assessing Bivalves as Biomonitoring of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
Shannon Jones

SESSION #6: Spotlight on Surf Clams and Ocean Quahogs

Moderator: Erin Velott

0935– 1000: Happy as a clam? Changing Conditions and New Science for Atlantic Surfclam
And Ocean Quahog
Jessica Coakly, Fishery Management Specialist, Surfclams and Quahogs
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

1000 – 1030: Surf Clam Nearshore Aquaculture and Responses to Climate Stressors
Dr. Daphne Munroe, Professor,
Rutgers University, Department of Marine & Coastal Sciences,
Haskin Shellfish Research Lab

BREAK – 1030-1045

SESSION #7: Open Forum for Discussion & Collaboration

Choose a break-out discussion for open collaboration among federal, state, and industry reps

Moderator: Michael Bott

Task Force I: Growing Areas
Facilitator: Ashley Tabibian

Task Force II: Harvesting, Handling, and Distribution
Facilitator: Andrew Bell

LUNCH – 1200-1330 (on your own)

Before leaving for lunch, please be sure to sign up at the Registration Desk for your first and second stations for this afternoon's Mini Field Trips.

SESSION #8: 'How I Learned To...' Panel Discussion

Moderator: Andrew Bell

- 1330 - 1400: How I Learned Harmful Algal Bloom Identification and Surveillance
Leah Anne Gibala-Smith, Marine Aquatics Sales Manager for North America,
Yokagowa Fluid Imaging, Flow Cam
Ashley Tabibian, Environmental Scientist,
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control,
Shellfish Program
- 1400 - 1430: How I Learned Geospatial Analysis Using GIS and R
Josh Barth, Environmental Program Manager,
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control,
Watershed Assessment Branch
Lori Brown, Environmental Scientist,
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control,
Watershed Assessment Branch
Ashley Tabibian, Environmental Scientist,
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control,
Shellfish Program

SESSION #9: Sea Grant Mini Field Trips

*Sign up at the registration desk to for one station in each time slot
For tours of Delaware Sea Grant projects and facilities
(see map for locations; each station limited to 20 participants)*

- 1430 - 1530: *Sign up for One Station:* Oyster Hatchery - Alyssa Campbell
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation - Brittany Haywood
Wind Turbine - Kathryn Lienhard
Robotics Lab - Chris Petrone
- 1530 - 1545: Walk/drive between stations
- 1545 - 1645: *Sign up for One Station:* Oyster Hatchery - Alyssa Campbell
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation - Brittany Haywood
Wind Turbine - Kathryn Lienhard
Robotics Lab - Chris Petrone

SEAFOOD BANQUET - 1800 at Virden Retreat Center

DAY THREE: THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

Registration Desk Open 730-900

SESSION #10: 'A Day in the Life of A...' Speed Talks

Moderator: Andrew Bell

- 0815 - 0830: Perspective of A: Young Waterman
Chase Evans, Captain,
Emersyn Taylor
- 0830 - 0845: Perspective of A: Young Oyster Grower
Jordan Nally, Owner-Operator,
Nancy James Oyster Company
- 0845 - 0900: Perspective of A: Shellfish Patrol Officer
Sergeant Nathan Evans,
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental
Control, Natural Resources Police
- 0900 - 0930: Perspective of A: Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator & Regulator
Colby Harrington, Assistant Director of Public Works,
Kent County Regional Resource Recovery Facility
Jena Saxton, Environmental Scientist
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental
Control, Division of Water
- 0930 - 0945: Perspective of A: Shellfish Sample Lab Technician
Linda McFarland, Laboratory Evaluation Officer,
Virginia Department of Health, Office of Environmental Health
Services, Division of Shellfish Safety and Waterborne Hazards
- 0945 - 1000: Perspective of A: Shellfish Illness Epidemiologist
Lisandra Clarke, Enteric Epidemiologist,
Delaware Department of Health & Social Services,
Division of Public Health, One Health Program

BREAK - 1000-1015

- 1000 - 1015: Perspective of A: Restaurant Inspector
Dave Mancuso, Health Program Coordinator,
Delaware Department of Health & Social Services,
Division of Public Health, Office of Food Protection,
Environmental Health Field Services - Sussex County

SESSION #11: Shellfish Restoration

Moderator: Ashley Tabibian

- 1015 - 1045: Eastern Bay Oyster Restoration Project
Chris Judy, Director,
Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Shellfish Division
- 1045 - 1115: Shellfish and Wetland Restoration
Alison Rogerson, Environmental Scientist
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control,
Wetland Monitoring & Assessment Program

SESSION #12: Final Session

Moderator: Andrew Bell

- 1145: Next Year's Host Remarks
State of Virginia
- 1150: Closing Remarks
Michael Bott, Environmental Program Administrator,
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control,
Watershed Assessment & Management Section
- 1200: Adjourn

Thank you for attending the ISS in Delaware! Safe travels!

