

East Coast Commercial Fishermen's and Aquaculture Trade Expo



2026 Aquaculture & Commercial Fishing SEMINARS

Roland E. Powell Convention Center • Ocean City, MD • Second Floor

January 17, 2026 • 10:30 AM to 4 PM

TOPICS

SPEAKERS

10:30 AM

Welcome

Don Webster, University of Maryland Extension

10:40 AM

U.S. Oyster Market Outlook: Trends and Opportunities

Bobbi Hudson, Pacific Shellfish Institute

11:00 AM

Panel Discussion on Oyster Lease Management: Ideas, Gear, and Strategies

Bill Walton, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Jessica Small, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Brendan Campbell, University of Delaware

11:45 AM

Evaluating Your Business to Determine Profitability; Government Financial Assistance and Loan Programs That May Benefit You

Matt Parker, University of Maryland Extension
Jonathan van Senten, Virginia Tech
Steve McHenry, Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO)
Allison Goin, US Department of Agriculture

12:25 PM

Advances in Seafood Processing and Automation, High Pressure Processing, New FDA Food Traceability Rule, and Other Seafood Safety Regulations

Cathy Liu, University of Maryland Extension
Yang Tao, University of Maryland Clark School of Engineering
US Food and Drug Administration Staff

1:10 PM

Oyster Breeding Strategies and New ABC Broodstock Lines

Jessica Small, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

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TOPICS

SPEAKERS

1:25 PM

Commercial Crab Fishery Updates

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Staff

1:40 PM

Opportunities and Challenges in Seafood Marketing: How to Succeed in an Ever-changing Economic Environment

Alaska Seafood Marketing Initiative:

Bobbi Hudson, Pacific Shellfish Institute

Aging of the Fleet and Young Fisherman's Initiative:

Shelby White, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Maine Oyster Trail:

Jaclyn Robidoux, Maine Sea Grant

2:25 PM

Update on Robotics in Shellfish Culture

Don Webster, University of Maryland Extension

2:45 PM

Shellfish Disease Update and Future Potential Concerns

Ryan Carnegie, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Brian Preziosi, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Gulni Ozbay, Delaware State University

3:15 PM

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Updates

Carrie Kennedy, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

STEERING COMMITTEE

University of Maryland Extension

Maryland Sea Grant

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Oyster Recovery Partnership

Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Sea Grant
MARYLAND



The Trade Expo takes place on Friday to Sunday, Jan 16–19, 2026.

Admission to the show includes the seminar program.

The Trade Expo is organized and operated by the Maryland Watermen's Association.