

# VIRGINIA AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

VIRGINIA'S PREMIER GATHERING OF AQUACULTURE PROFESSIONALS



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November 15-16, 2019  
Newport News Marriott, City Center  
740 Town Center Drive  
Newport News, Virginia

[www.vaaquacultureconference.com](http://www.vaaquacultureconference.com)

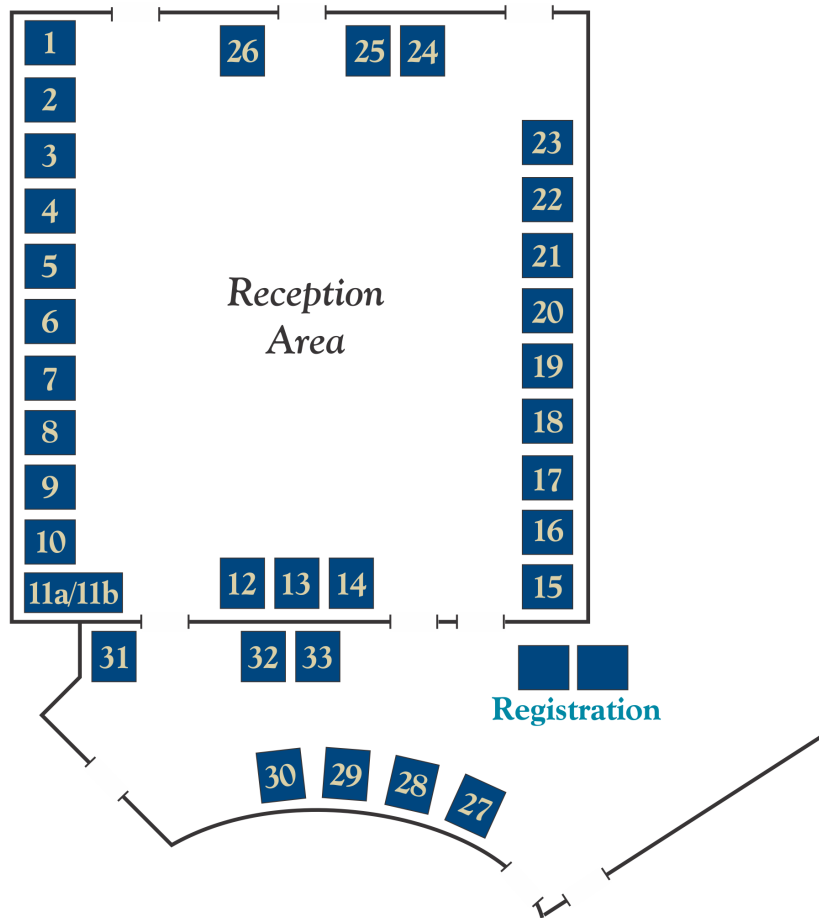


## Virginia Aquaculture Conference 2019

### Trade Show Exhibitors

AlgaGen\* (31)  
 Alltech\* (32)  
 AquaCal\* (18)  
 Bay Watch Oyster Seeds (7)  
 Cherrystone Aqua-Farms\* (11)  
 Chesapeake Bay Foundation (12)  
 Eastfields Farms (16)  
 Global Aquaculture Supply Co. (23)  
 Hoopers Island Oyster Co. (2-3)  
 Ketcham Supply Corp. (8-10)  
 National Aquaculture Association (30)  
 OysterGro\* (22)  
 Oyster Seed Holdings (26)  
 Oyster Tracker (6)  
 Powerhouse (14)  
 Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center /  
 Sensible Seafood Program\* (21)  
 Shellfish Growers of Virginia\* (28)  
 Thunderbird Plastics\* (4)  
 U.S. Aquaculture Society\* (13)  
 USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (29)  
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (17)  
 VIA Design (27)  
 VIMS Aquaculture Genetics and Breeding  
 Technology Center (5)  
 Virginia Department of Agriculture and  
 Consumer Services (1)\*  
 Virginia Farm Bureau Federation\* (33)  
 Virginia Marine Products Board (25)  
 Virginia Oyster Trail\* (20)  
 Vitsab USA\* (15)  
 Ward Oyster Co. (24)  
 Zapco Aquaculture – Vogt Oyster Co.\* (19)

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## Featured Guest Speaker

Friday at 5:00 pm

The Steering Committee is pleased to welcome Jim Perdue, Chairman and Advertising Spokesman of Perdue Farms



### A Path for Growth

**Jim Perdue**, Chairman and advertising spokesman of Perdue Farms, has led Perdue Foods from an East-coast-centered premium fresh chicken brand to a national roster of premium protein brands, including turkey, pork, beef and lamb, and Perdue Agribusiness from a regional grain and oilseed business to a multi-faceted international player. Jim has strong ties to aquaculture; trained in marine biology and fisheries, this Maryland oyster grower serves the Oyster Recovery Project as board chairman. He will discuss parallels between today's aquaculture industry and the poultry industry of yesteryear and share insight into how the aquaculture industry could flourish and grow.



## Aquaculture Reception

Friday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

*Gather to meet, network and sample a taste of Virginia's seafood success!*

### A Delicious Taste of Virginia's, Fresh & All-Natural Farmed Seafood

Featuring channel catfish, tilapia, mountain trout, and hard clams from select purveyors across the Commonwealth.

### A Special "Merroir to Terroir" Oyster Pairing Experience

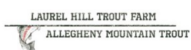
Our partners at the Virginia Oyster Trail present a "water to land" palate experience showcasing member pairings of fresh, farmed oysters with Virginia wine and beer companions.



#### The Pairings:

- **York River Oysters** (Chessie Seafood and Aqua Farms) paired with **Alewerks'** exclusive batch of "York River Oyster Stout" made with said oysters.
- **Rappahannock Oyster Company's** "Olde Salt" oysters paired with **Saude' Creek Vineyards** signature "Pearl" vintage created to specifically pair with Virginia oysters.
- Featuring special guest, **Deborah Pratt**, Virginia's National Oyster Shucking Champion

*Thanks to our seafood & beverage sponsors!*



# Virginia Aquaculture Conference 2019

Friday, November 15, 2019

**12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**      **Trade Show Opening**

**GRAND BALLROOM**

**1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**      **Breakout Sessions**

## **BIVALVE SHELLFISH**

**PEARL BALLROOM**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm: Grower Panel – Good Neighbor Strategies to Avoid User Conflicts**

*Growers relating their experience with good neighbor strategies - one of the key elements of the industry's best management practices.*

Moderated by Karen Hudson, VIMS MAP

Chris Buck, Ruby Salts Oyster Co.; Chris Ludford, Pleasure House Oysters; and Patrick Oliver, Rappahannock Oyster Co.

**2:00 – 2:30 pm: Ask a Regulator – Open forum with shellfish agency staff**

Moderated by Karen Hudson, VIMS MAP

VDH Shellfish Safety: Danielle Schools, Plant Program Manager; Adam Wood, Growing Area Manager. VMRC: Andrew Button, Head of Conservation and Replenishment; Ben Stagg, Director of Shellfish Aquaculture Leasing and Mapping

## **FINFISH**

**GRAND BALLROOM III & IV**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Research and Extension Updates**

### VT-VSAREC

- Michael Schwarz - New facilities, programs, & IALR update
- Jonathan van Senten – Economics, marketing, and regulations
- Reza Ovissipour – Sustainable Food Production Systems

### VT - Blacksburg

- David Kuhn - Aquaculture Production Innovations and Post-Harvest Quality

### VSU

- Chris Mullins – Aquaponics
- Brian Nerrie – Pond Aquaculture
- Martin Crosby – Fish Health

**2:00 pm – 2:15 pm: VDGIF Aquaculture Program Updates** – Brendan Delbos, State Aquaculture Coordinator, VDGIF

**2:15 pm – 2:30 pm: Aquaculture Round Table (Producers and Associations)**

Moderated by Brian Nerrie, Extension Specialist, Virginia State University

**2:30 pm – 3:00 pm**      **Networking and Trade Show Break**

**3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**      **Breakout Sessions**

## **BIVALVE SHELLFISH**

**PEARL BALLROOM**

**Rapid Fire Student Research – Part 1.** VIMS graduate student research supported by Virginia Sea Grant.

Moderated by Abigail Hils, Virginia Sea Grant

- Do Larval Conditions in the Hatchery Impact Field Performance of Juvenile Oysters? - Annie Schatz
- Hard Clam Genetic Structure and Tool Development for Industry - Ann Ropp
- The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Forecast System: Real-time Information for the Aquaculture Industry - Fei Da
- Social, Regulatory, and Spatial Constraints in VA's Oyster Aquaculture Expansion - Jennifer Beckensteiner

## **FINFISH**

**GRAND BALLROOM III & IV**

**3:00 – 3:30 pm: Resources for your New or Expanding Aqua-Business**

Stephen Versen, Manager, Office of Agriculture and Forestry Development, VDACS

**3:30 – 4:00 pm: A Partnership Approach to Strengthening Aquatic Animal Health**

Paul Zajicek, Executive Director, National Aquaculture Association

**4:00 pm – 4:45 pm**

**GRAND BALLROOM III & IV**

**Shellfish Growers of Virginia Membership Meeting** – Open to members and non-members

**5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**      **GENERAL SESSION - Featured Guest Speaker**

**PEARL BALLROOM**

Jim Perdue, Chairman & Advertising Spokesman, Perdue Farms. Moderated by Tony Banks, VA Farm Bureau Federation

**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**      **Aquaculture Reception**

**GRAND BALLROOM**



# Virginia Aquaculture Conference 2019

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

<u>7:30 am – 8:30 am</u>	<u>Hot Breakfast (provided)</u>	GRAND BALLROOM
<u>8:00 am – 8:30 am</u>	<u>Virginia Oyster Trail State of the Union</u>	GRAND BALLROOM III & IV
<u>8:30 am – 10:00 am</u>	<u>Breakout Sessions</u>	

### BIVALVE SHELLFISH

### PEARL BALLROOM

**8:30 – 9:30 am: Industry Expansion Panel** - Discussion of a potential new strategy for shellfish industry expansion along with the associated legal/policy implications. Moderated by Pat Geer, VMRC

Panelists: Roger Mann, Professor, VIMS; Marcia Berman, Comprehensive Coastal Inventory Program Manager, Center for Coastal Resource Management, VIMS; Angela King, Assistant Director, Virginia Coastal Policy Center, William & Mary; and Jim Wesson, Retired VMRC Oyster Management

**9:30 – 10:00 am: Rapid Fire Student Research – Part 2.** VIMS graduate student research supported by Virginia Sea Grant. Moderated by Abigail Hils, Virginia Sea Grant

- How do Harmful Algal Blooms Affect Cultured Oysters? Clara Robison
- Hunting for HAB Toxins in Chesapeake Bay - Michelle Onofrio
- When Oyster Larvae Meet HABs - Sarah Pease

### FINFISH

### GRAND BALLROOM III & IV

**8:30 – 9:15 am: Emerging Species and Technologies** - Chris Tollini, Assistant Aquaculture Manager, UMBC-IMET

**9:15 – 10:00 am: A Case Study: Black Sea Bass Commercialization Efforts** - Chris Bentley, Seawater Research Manager, Eastern Shore Laboratory, VIMS

10:00 am – 10:30 am    Networking and Trade Show Break (refreshments provided)

10:30 am – 12:30 pm    Breakout Sessions

### BIVALVE SHELLFISH

### PEARL BALLROOM

**10:30 – 11:30 am: News from the Genetics Front**

Moderated by Stan Allen, Director, Aquaculture Genetics and Breeding Technology Center (ABC), VIMS

- Improving Hard Clam Genetics for Better Performance - Richard Snyder, Director, Eastern Shore Laboratory, VIMS
- Investigating the Genetic Basis of Triploid Oyster Mortality - Joey Matt, VIMS
- The Future Added Value of Shellfish Breeding - Stan Allen, VIMS

**11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Biosecurity and Shellfish Health** - Moderated by Ryan Carnegie, Research Professor, VIMS

- Regional Disease Management Matters - Ryan Carnegie, VIMS
- Hatchery Health - Collaborative Efforts Supporting Hatchery Production - Emily Rivest, Assistant Professor, VIMS
- Proactive Efforts to Gauge the Potential Threat of Herpes-Type Virus to Virginia oysters - Kimberly Reece, Professor, VIMS

### FINFISH

### GRAND BALLROOM III & IV

**Aquaponics**

**10:30 – 11:00 am: Novel Sanitizers for Controlling Bacterial Biofilms** - Reza Ovissipour, VT Seafood AREC

**11:00 – 11:30 am: State of the Aquaponics Industry** - Brian Filipowich, Chair, Aquaponics Association

**11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Hands-on Aquaponics Demonstration** - Chris Mullins, Extension Specialist, VSU

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm    Lunch (provided)

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm    GENERAL SESSION

### PEARL BALLROOM

**1:30 – 2:30 pm: Positive Aquaculture PR Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Sherri Smith, Lander Creative

- Building Community to Avoid User Conflict - Shannon Alexander, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission and Bay Country Kayaking
- Weathering the High and Low Tides of Your Business - Carl Knoblock, District Director, Small Business Administration
- Targeting Your Market Your Way - Harry Jarrett, On Sunny Slope Farm

**2:30 – 3:00 pm: Regulatory Costs**

- Reforming Regulations: Inside Out, Outside In - Paul Zajicek, Executive Director National Aquaculture Association
- Measuring the Cost of Regulations on U.S. Aquaculture Producers - Charles Clark, VT Seafood AREC

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm    Networking and Trade Show Wrap-up

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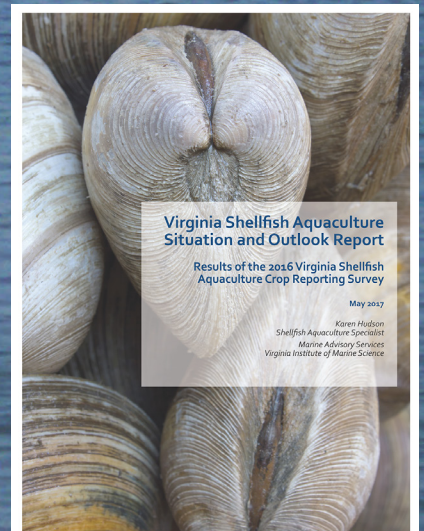
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## VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE MARINE ADVISORY PROGRAM

*The role of VIMS/MAP is to respond to the needs of marine industries, resource managers and the general public, and to provide science-based information that will increase the public's awareness of the marine environment.*

*MAP also implements marine extension services on behalf of Virginia Sea Grant.*

- Aquaculture
- Coastal Economies
- Commercial Fisheries
- Education
- Recreational Fisheries







## **A RICH HISTORY OF COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

Virginia Sea Grant unites the strengths of seven university partners to focus on opportunities and issues surrounding seafood, ecosystems, community resilience, education, economic development, and workforce development.

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## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

*Are you planning to start or expand an aquaculture business?*

If so, you may be eligible for a grant from the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund.

**CONTACT US TODAY!**

[Stephen.Versen@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:Stephen.Versen@vdacs.virginia.gov)

(804) 786-6911



[www.vdacs.virginia.gov](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov)



The United States Aquaculture Society (USAS) is a chapter of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS). WAS is a worldwide professional organization dedicated to the exchange of information and networking among the diverse constituencies interested in advancing the aquaculture industry. As WAS becomes more globally involved in providing services and professional development opportunities, the role of USAS is increasingly important to the U.S. aquaculture community by:

- Providing a national forum for the exchange of timely information among U.S. aquaculture researchers, educators, students, and industry members.
- Sponsoring and convening workshops and Aquaculture America conferences to foster educational opportunities.
- One of the official hosts for WAS conferences held in the U.S.
- Hosts webinars and workshops important to the development of U.S. aquaculture.

Please join this dynamic organization and assist in the development of US Aquaculture.

For further information go to: <https://usaquaculture.org/>

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## Virginia Aquaculture Conference 2019

### Conference Steering Committee

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(BP) = Bivalve Shellfish Program Committee

(FP) = Finfish/Aquaponics Program Committee

### Thanks to Our Silver Sponsors



### The Virginia Oyster Trail





# Virginia Aquaculture Conference 2019

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## Guest Speaker Bios

### FINFISH BREAKOUT SESSION

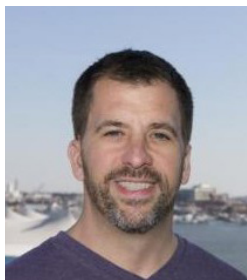
#### **Brian Filipowich**

Brian Filipowich is the Chairman of the National Aquaponics Association. He administers Association business, coordinates an annual conference, writes articles, and conducts public policy work. Key policy issues have been the decision to keep aquaponics organic-eligible, and the inclusion of aquaponics in the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill. Mr. Filipowich is also the Director of Anacostia Aquaponics DC LLC. This small business has conducted a variety of aquaponics projects since 2016, including the management of the University of the District of Columbia's 3,000 gallon aquaponic systems in 2017. Currently, Anacostia Aquaponics focuses on aquaponic systems for STEM education, and operates multiple aquaponic and hydroponic systems at a DC high school. Mr. Filipowich also serves on the Washington, DC Urban Ag Subcommittee of the DC Food Policy Council. Mr. Filipowich has a Master of Public Policy degree from the George Washington University, a Master Urban Composter Certificate from the DC Department of Parks and Rec, and is the graduate of multiple aquaponics training courses. From 2007 to 2015 Mr. Filipowich was a Professional Staff Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.



#### **Chris Tollini**

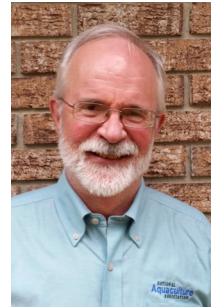
Chris Tollini is the Assistant Aquaculture Manager at the USM Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology's Aquaculture Research Center (ARC). Mr. Tollini received his MS in Biology from Bloomsburg University where his research focused on optimizing the nutritional requirements and culture conditions for green sea urchins. He has over 17 years of experience in aquaculture, 15 of which involving RAS, and has cultured over 20 different species of finfish and crustaceans. He is a member of the Aquaculture Engineering Society and has extensive experience in RAS design, build-out and facility management.



### GENERAL SESSION / REGULATORY COSTS

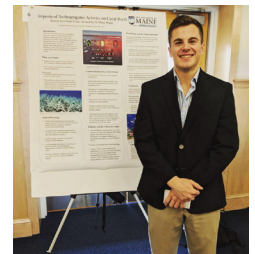
#### **Paul Zajicek**

Paul Zajicek is the Executive Director of the National Aquaculture Association. The NAA was formed by commercial aquaculturists in 1991 to advocate for US aquaculture and provide science-based information describing US aquaculture to the public. Mr. Zajicek served with Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services for 27 years in marketing and promotion and regulatory roles culminating in managing Florida's "one-stop shop" for aquaculture regulation. He was a longtime NAA member and joined the NAA staff on a full-time basis in November 2014.



#### **Charles Clark**

Charles Clark is a Laboratory & Research Specialist at the Virginia Seafood Agriculture Research Extension Center. He received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences. After graduating, Charles was employed at Fishers Island Oyster Farm on Fishers Island, NY. There, he gained hands-on experience in cultivating seed and marketable oysters that were sold various farms, restaurants, and households within the United States. Despite the cold winters, Charles' passion for shellfish aquaculture grew greater and brought him to the Virginia Seafood Agriculture Research Extension Center. With this new position, Charles hopes to contribute to the improvement of the US East Coast aquaculture industry, while expanding his knowledge of aquaculture.



## Guest Speaker Bios, continued

### GENERAL SESSION / POSITIVE AQUACULTURE P.R. PANEL

#### **Carl B. Knoblock**

Carl Knoblock serves as the District Director of the Virginia Small Business Administration District Office. Prior to this he was acting SBA regional administrator for Region 3 and district director for Western Pennsylvania SBA district office. He has served as C-Level executive for innovative startups especially in engineering & environmental field. He has been involved in more than 50 crowdsourcing projects. Prior to becoming district director, Knoblock owned/operated small businesses from manufacturing to the service industry. He was a foster parent for over 10 years. He served our country in the U.S. Navy. Knoblock lives by simple philosophy: "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." Albert Einstein



#### **Shannon Alexander**

Shannon serves as the Coastal Resources Program Manager for the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission. With degrees in Environmental Science and Coastal Zone Management, Shannon enjoys combining science, planning, and education for proper management of populated areas near sensitive ecosystems. Programs under her supervision or advisement include groundwater planning, interpretive signage installation, solid waste disposal, climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, water quality BMP implementation, and ecotourism. She also enjoys being out in natural areas and sharing them with others, which she does primarily through her Middle Peninsula based ecotour company, Bay Country Kayaking. Bay Country Kayaking strives to bring unique outdoor experiences to residents, visitors, and school groups, to instill a sense of connection with the land and water as well as gain a better understanding and appreciation of how their actions impact these areas.



#### **Harry Jarrett**

Harry Jarrett is the owner of On Sunny Slope Farm, a wedding and special events venue on his family farm. He is an entrepreneur and developer with skills in digital and social media marketing.



#### **Sherri Smith**

Sherri is on the board of the Virginia Oyster Trail. Owner of The Genius Center, LLC, an online educational resource, and Lander Creative, LLC, a consultancy, Sherri is dedicated to the establishment of trust-based business cultures, advancement of entrepreneurship, community collaborations, creative pursuits, and re-thinking education.





# Virginia Aquaculture Conference 2019

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