

NETWORK

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NOVEMBER 14-15 | NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

2025

Virginia

# AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

Virginia's Premier Gathering of  
Aquaculture Professionals

PRESENTED BY



## SCHEDULE & AGENDA

THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
VIRGINIA SEAFOOD AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER  
VIRGINIA TECH™



AQUACULTURE  
INFORMATION EXCHANGE



## TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS

- Aquaculture Information Exchange
- Atlantic Aqua Farms
- Blue Trace
- Cascadia Visualizations
- Cherrystone Aqua-Farms
- Farm Service Agency (USDA)
- Guardian Technologies Group
- JD Associates
- Ketcham Supply Company
- OceanFarmr / SEAPA
- OysterGro
- Oyster Seed Holdings
- Reed Mariculture
- Shellfish Growers of Virginia
- Shred Electric
- Thunderbird Plastics
- U.S. Aquaculture Society
- Via Design
- Virginia Aquarium - Sensible Seafood Program
- Virginia FAIRS
- Virginia Harvester Boats
- VIMS Aquaculture Genetics & Breeding Technology Center
- VIMS Marine Advisory Program (Host)
- Virginia Marine Products Board
- Virginia Oyster Trail
- Virginia Sea Grant (Host)
- VT - Seafood AREC
- Zapco Aquaculture



## TRADE SHOW **BINGO**

Visit each booth and receive a stamp to complete a **BINGO** on your card.

You can win diagonally, horizontally, or vertically. Multiple BINGOs are encouraged! **Put your name on the back of the card** and submit completed cards at the registration table. Cards will be drawn at random to **win fabulous prizes** during breaks. Must be present to win.

## WELCOME ADDRESS SPEAKER



### Joe Guthrie

Commissioner, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

As Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Joe Guthrie leads an agency with a mission to promote the economic development of Virginia agriculture, provide consumer protection, and encourage environmental sustainability. He brings to the job decades of experience in production agriculture as a 6th

generation owner of a beef cattle farm in Pulaski County. He also has fifteen years of experience as a member of the faculty of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech. His previous public service includes ten years as a local elected official in Pulaski County with four years on the school board and six years on the Board of Supervisors including the final two as Chair. Joe holds degrees in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech and from Massey University in New Zealand where he was a Fulbright Scholar. He and his wife Carol have three grown children and divide their time between Richmond and the farm in Pulaski County.

## THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS!



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## THANKS TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS!



# AGENDA - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

## VIRGINIA AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

Time	Activity/Session	Location
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b>	Pearl

### WELCOME ADDRESS

The Honorable Joseph Guthrie,  
*Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

- **International Markets and Economic Outlook for Aquaculture Products**  
Joseph Guthrie, VDACS Commissioner
- **Virginia Aquaculture Today: A Snapshot of Species, Scale, and Success**  
Karen Hudson, VIMS and Brendan Delbos, VDWR
- **Agriculture Innovation and Virginia Partnerships**  
Daniel Haskett, Canon USA
- **Building a Resilient, Sustainable and Intelligent Seafood Supply Chain for Virginia**  
Yiming Feng, VT Seafood AREC
- **U.S. Oyster Production: Recent Trends and Market Potential**  
Bobbi Hudson, Robert Rheault, Matt Parker and Michael Rubino
- **Crop Insurance Panel: USDA Risk Management Agency, USDA Farm Service Agency, and Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance** \*Session subject to change due to external factors.
- **3-minute Tech Talks**  
Ketcham Supply, Atlantic Aqua Farms, SEAPA, BlueTrace, OysterGro, Oyster Seed Holdings, and Zylem

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>NETWORKING BREAK</b>	Grand Ballroom
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>VIRGINIA OYSTER TRAIL STATE OF THE UNION</b>	Bluepoint
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>SHELLFISH GROWERS OF VIRGINIA MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b>	Pearl
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>AQUACULTURE RECEPTION</b>	Grand Ballroom

### THANKS TO OUR SILVER SPONSORS!



# AQUACULTURE RECEPTION

Friday 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm



LIVE BLUEGRASS MUSIC FROM

THE  
TIDEWINDERS

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

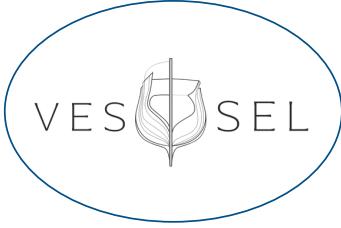
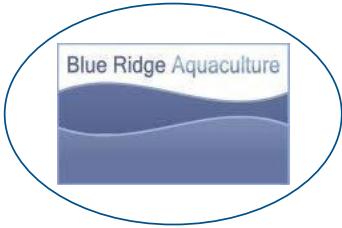
**Enjoy a selection of Virginia's finest cultured products:**

OYSTERS    VIRGINIA HARD CLAMS    TILAPIA    BAY SCALLOPS

*Oyster Pairing Experience Curated by*



**THANKS TO OUR SEAFOOD & BEVERAGE SPONSORS!**



# AGENDA - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

## VIRGINIA AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

Time	Activity/Session	Location
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	<b>HATCHERIES OVER HASHBROWNS</b> ( <i>Bivalve</i> ) An interactive, hatchery-centric session hosted by the Acuff Center for Aquaculture.	Pearl <i>Breakfast available in Grand Ballroom</i>
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>	
<b>BIVALVE BREAKOUT SESSION</b>		Pearl
<b>Molecular Muscles: Genetic Tools for Better Bivalves</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Genomics at Work: Accelerating Oyster Breeding for a Stronger Aquaculture Industry<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Jessica Small, VIMS ABC</li></ul></li><li>Harnessing efficient genetic improvement to maximize economic return in oysters<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sam May, Center for Aquaculture Technologies (CAT)</li></ul></li><li>Using molecular tools to inform commercial hard clam breeding<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Lexy McCarty, Cherrystone Aquafarms</li></ul></li><li>Application of tools to assess genetic health of ABC's selected lines of oysters<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Robin Varney, VIMS ABC</li></ul></li><li>Large-scale genetic structure and genetic impacts on oyster performance in the field<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Katie Lotterhos, Northeastern University</li></ul></li></ul>		
<b>Improving Aquaculture Production -opportunities and innovations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Addressing Labor Demand and Production Efficiency in Shellfish Aquaculture<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Caela Gilsinan, VIMS</li></ul></li><li>From stress to solutions: Identifying opportunities for farm innovation through a nationwide needs assessment - Matt LaGanke, VIMS</li><li>Use of drones to manage clam aquaculture - Katie Houle, Pacific Shellfish Institute</li><li>Co-culture of sea lettuce with oysters - Madeline Pitsenbarger, VIMS</li></ul>		
<b>GENERAL AQUACULTURE BREAKOUT SESSION</b>		Bluepoint
<b>Updates from the Agencies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Virginia Dept. Wildlife Resources (VDWR) - Brendan Delbos</li><li>Virginia State University College of Agriculture (VSU-COA) - Chris Mullins</li><li>VT-Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center (VSAREC)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Michael Schwarz</li></ul></li><li>Seafood Economic Analysis and Marketing Research (SEAMaR)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Jonathan van Senten</li></ul></li><li>Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) - Scott Lowman</li><li>Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tom Lavelle and Carrie Umberger</li></ul></li></ul>		
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>BREAK</b>	Grand Ballroom

# AGENDA - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

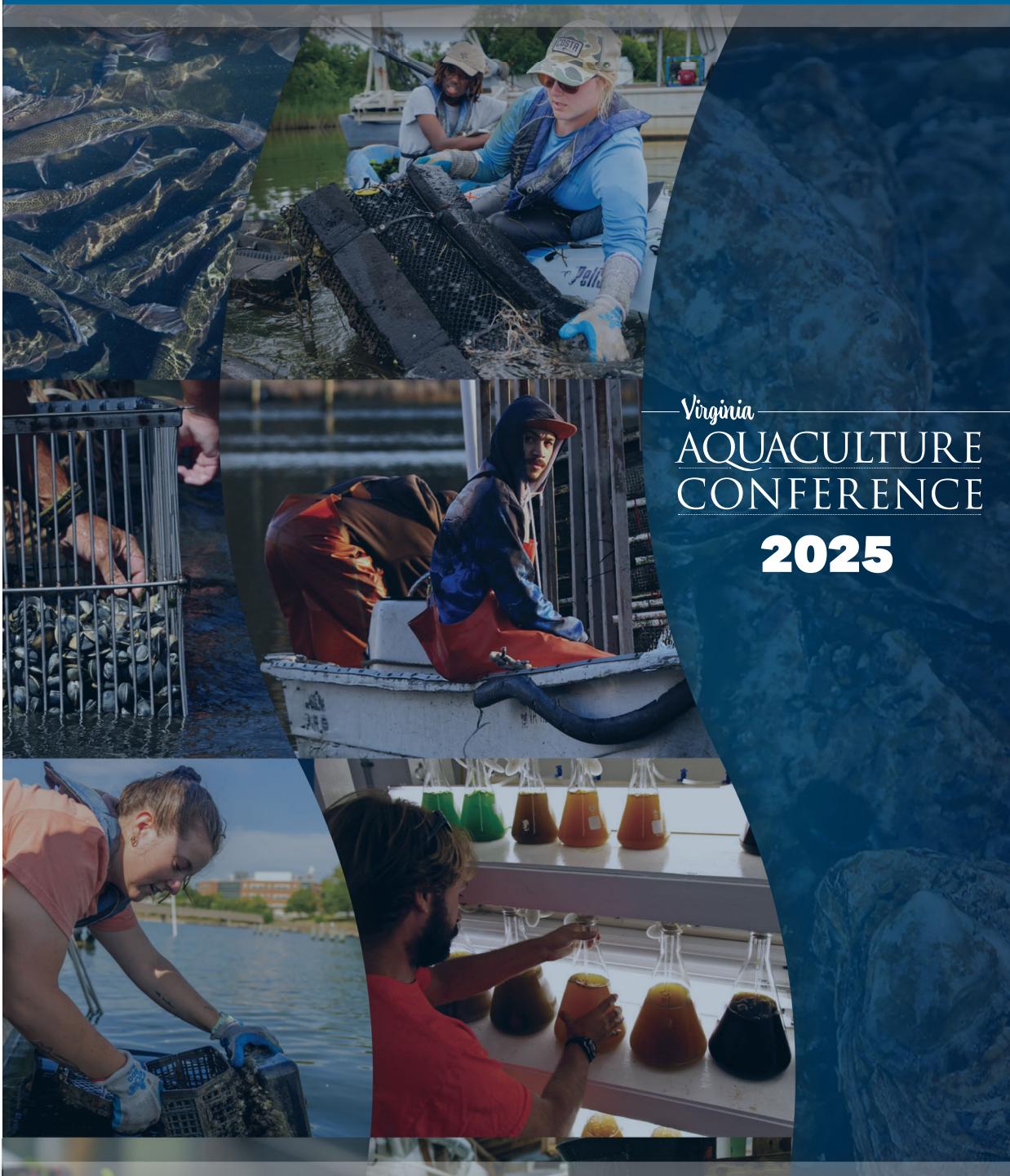
## VIRGINIA AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

Time	Activity/Session	Location
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>BIVALVE BREAKOUT SESSION</b>	Pearl
	<b>Voices from the Water: Regional Perspectives in Bivalve Farming</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ME/VA - Jeff Auger, Atlantic Aqua Farms</li><li>• TX - Ellis Chapman, Harte Research Institute at TAMU-CC</li><li>• NC - Conor McNair, N. SEA Oyster Co.</li><li>• FL - Cainnon Gregg, Pelican Oyster Co.</li></ul>	
	<b>From Restoration to Revenue: Bay Scallop Aquaculture on Virginia's Eastern Shore</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Richard Snyder, VIMS ESL and Lee Beauchamp, Baywater Seafood</li></ul>	
	<b>GENERAL AQUACULTURE BREAKOUT SESSION</b>	Bluepoint
	<b>Cultivating Innovation: Lessons from Aquaponics and the Future of Striped Bass Farming</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evolution of Aquaponics: a 30 year perspective - Charlie Shultz, Santa Fe Community College</li><li>• StriperHub - supporting growth of the striped bass aquaculture industry - Eric Herbst, North Carolina Sea Grant</li></ul>	
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	<b>LUNCH</b>	Grand Ballroom
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	<b>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</b>	
	<b>BIVALVE BREAKOUT SESSION</b>	Pearl
	<b>Shellfish Health and Biosecurity</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perspectives on shellfish disease and biosecurity - Ryan Carnegie, VIMS</li><li>• Good news story for Atlantic and Gulf coasts regarding OsHV-1 - Colleen Burge, California Department of Fish and Wildlife</li><li>• Investigating causes of mortality cultured hard clams - Mark Brush, VIMS</li><li>• A 'Waffle House Index' for Oyster Growers to Gauge Crop Health - Bill Walton, VIMS</li></ul>	
	<b>GENERAL AQUACULTURE BREAKOUT SESSION</b>	Bluepoint
	<b>From Farm to Future: Unlocking Value in Aquaculture</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redefining Farm-Raised Fish - Ty Walker, Smoke in Chimneys</li><li>• CEA and K12 - Grace Duregger, VT Seafood AREC</li><li>• Beyond the fillet - turning fish processing byproducts into profitable opportunities - Yiming Feng, VT Seafood AREC</li></ul>	

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**AQUACULTURE  
CONFERENCE**

**2025**

**VIMS** | WILLIAM & MARY  
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

**Sea Grant**  
VIRGINIA

WE DEDICATE THIS PROGRAM TO THE MEMORY OF

**MIKE OESTERLING**

A SHELLFISH LEGEND WHO LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK  
ON THE VIRGINIA AQUACULTURE COMMUNITY.