

NETWORK

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EXPLORE

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



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.

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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	GENERAL SESSION	Pearl
WELCOME ADDRESS The Honorable Joseph Guthrie, <i>Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Markets and Economic Outlook for Aquaculture Products Joseph Guthrie, <i>VDACS Commissioner</i>• Virginia Aquaculture Today: A Snapshot of Species, Scale, and Success Karen Hudson, <i>VIMS</i> and Brendan Delbos, <i>VDWR</i>• Agriculture Innovation and Virginia Partnerships Daniel Haskett, <i>Canon USA</i>• Building a Resilient, Sustainable and Intelligent Seafood Supply Chain for Virginia Yiming Feng, <i>VT Seafood AREC</i>• 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 <i>*Session subject to change due to external factors.</i>• 3-minute Tech Talks Ketcham Supply, Atlantic Aqua Farms, SEAPA, BlueTrace, OysterGro, Oyster Seed Holdings, and Zylem		
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	NETWORKING BREAK	Grand Ballroom
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM	VIRGINIA OYSTER TRAIL STATE OF THE UNION	Bluepoint
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	SHELLFISH GROWERS OF VIRGINIA MEMBERSHIP MEETING	Pearl
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM	AQUACULTURE RECEPTION	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

The Virginia
Oyster Trail

THANKS TO OUR SEAFOOD & BEVERAGE SPONSORS!



AGENDA - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

VIRGINIA AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

Time

Activity/Session

Location

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

HATCHERIES OVER HASHBROWNS (*Bivalve*)
An interactive, hatchery-centric session hosted by the Acuff Center for Aquaculture.

Pearl
Breakfast available in Grand Ballroom

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

BIVALVE BREAKOUT SESSION

Pearl

Molecular Muscles: Genetic Tools for Better Bivalves

- Genomics at Work: Accelerating Oyster Breeding for a Stronger Aquaculture Industry
- *Jessica Small, VIMS ABC*
- Harnessing efficient genetic improvement to maximize economic return in oysters
- *Sam May, Center for Aquaculture Technologies (CAT)*
- Using molecular tools to inform commercial hard clam breeding
- *Lexy McCarty, Cherrystone Aquafarms*
- Application of tools to assess genetic health of ABC's selected lines of oysters
- *Robin Varney, VIMS ABC*
- Large-scale genetic structure and genetic impacts on oyster performance in the field
- *Katie Lotterhos, Northeastern University*

Improving Aquaculture Production -opportunities and innovations

- Addressing Labor Demand and Production Efficiency in Shellfish Aquaculture
- *Caela Gilsinan, VIMS*
- From stress to solutions: Identifying opportunities for farm innovation through a nationwide needs assessment - *Matt LaGanke, VIMS*
- Use of drones to manage clam aquaculture - *Katie Houle, Pacific Shellfish Institute*
- Co-culture of sea lettuce with oysters - *Madeline Pitsenbarger, VIMS*

GENERAL AQUACULTURE BREAKOUT SESSION

Bluepoint

Updates from the Agencies

- Virginia Dept. Wildlife Resources (VDWR) - *Brendan Delbos*
- Virginia State University College of Agriculture (VSU-COA) - *Chris Mullins*
- VT-Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center (VSAREC)
- *Michael Schwarz*
- Seafood Economic Analysis and Marketing Research (SEAMaR)
- *Jonathan van Senten*
- Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) - *Scott Lowman*
- Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
- *Tom Lavelle and Carrie Umberger*

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

BREAK

Grand Ballroom

AGENDA - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

VIRGINIA AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

Time

Activity/Session

Location

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

BIVALVE BREAKOUT SESSION

Pearl

Voices from the Water: Regional Perspectives in Bivalve Farming

- ME/VA - Jeff Auger, Atlantic Aqua Farms
- TX - Ellis Chapman, Harte Research Institute at TAMU-CC
- NC - Conor McNair, N. SEA Oyster Co.
- FL - Cainnon Gregg, Pelican Oyster Co.

From Restoration to Revenue: Bay Scallop Aquaculture on Virginia's Eastern Shore

- Richard Snyder, VIMS ESL and Lee Beauchamp, Baywater Seafood

GENERAL AQUACULTURE BREAKOUT SESSION

Bluepoint

Cultivating Innovation:

Lessons from Aquaponics and the Future of Striped Bass Farming

- Evolution of Aquaponics: a 30 year perspective - Charlie Shultz, Santa Fe Community College
- StriperHub - supporting growth of the striped bass aquaculture industry
- Eric Herbst, North Carolina Sea Grant

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH

Grand Ballroom

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

BIVALVE BREAKOUT SESSION

Pearl

Shellfish Health and Biosecurity

- Perspectives on shellfish disease and biosecurity - Ryan Carnegie, VIMS
- Good news story for Atlantic and Gulf coasts regarding OsHV-1 - Colleen Burge, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Investigating causes of mortality cultured hard clams - Mark Brush, VIMS
- A 'Waffle House Index' for Oyster Growers to Gauge Crop Health - Bill Walton, VIMS

GENERAL AQUACULTURE BREAKOUT SESSION

Bluepoint

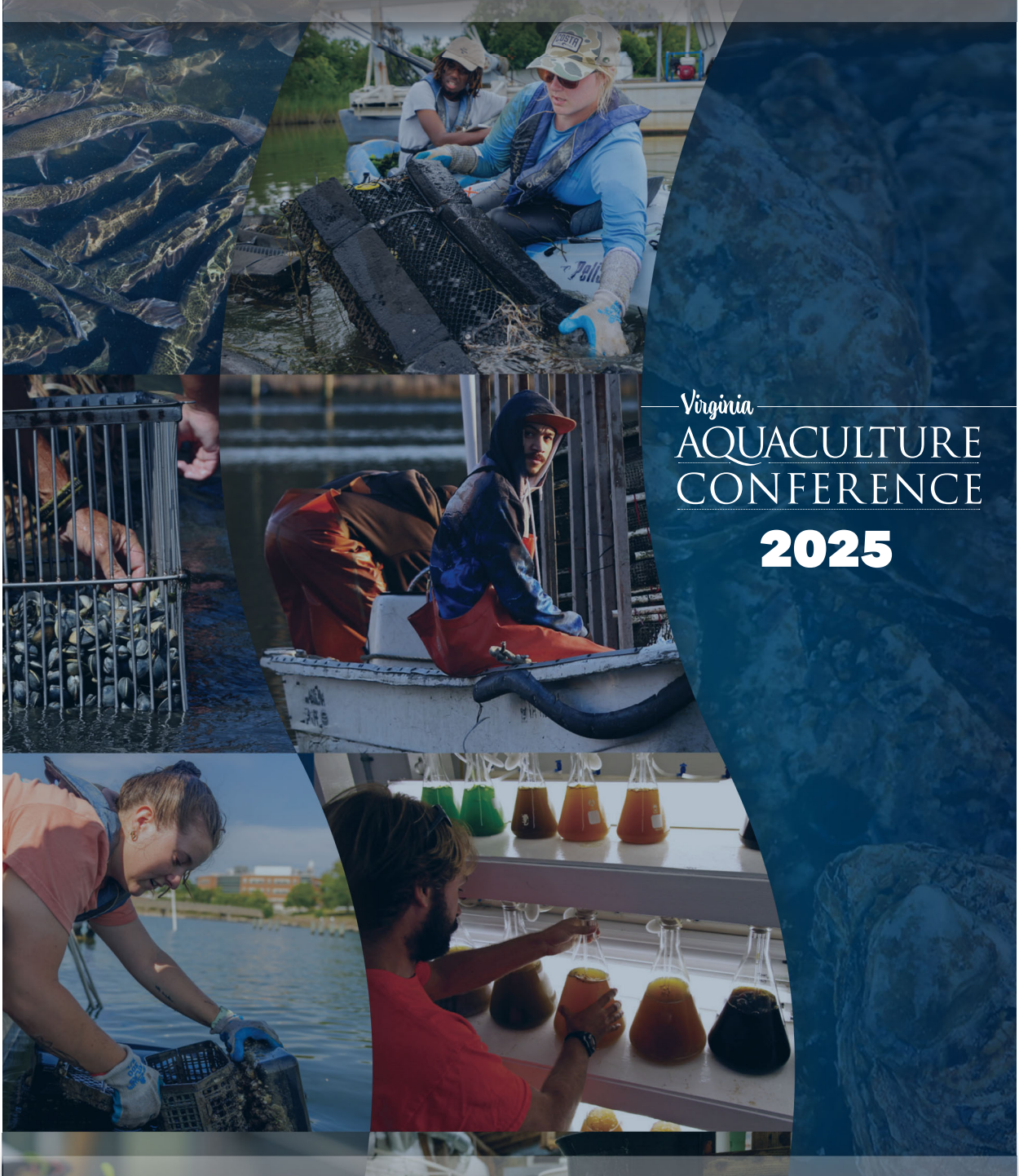
From Farm to Future: Unlocking Value in Aquaculture

- Redefining Farm-Raised Fish - Ty Walker, Smoke in Chimneys
- CEA and K12 - Grace Duregger, VT Seafood AREC
- Beyond the fillet - turning fish processing byproducts into profitable opportunities
- Yiming Feng, VT Seafood AREC

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Virginia
**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.