



DoAG Program Updates

2024 Harvester Training

May 21, 2024

CAES, New Haven, CT



Staff Updates

- **Administration**

- **Director** David Carey
- **Administrative Assistant** Lori Scianna

- **Shellfish Laboratory**

- **Fisheries Biologist II (Marine)**, Joseph DeCrescenzo
- **Fisheries Biologist I (Marine)** Andrea (Anne) Staak
- **Shellfish Pathologist**
- Dr. Lydia Bienlien

- ◉ **Shellfish Sanitation Program**

- **Supervising Environmental Analyst** Alissa Dragan
- **EA III** Jenifer Yeadon
- **EA II** Emily Marquis
- **EA II** Michal Zuber
- **EA I** Matt Bartell
- **EA I** Maylani Velazquez

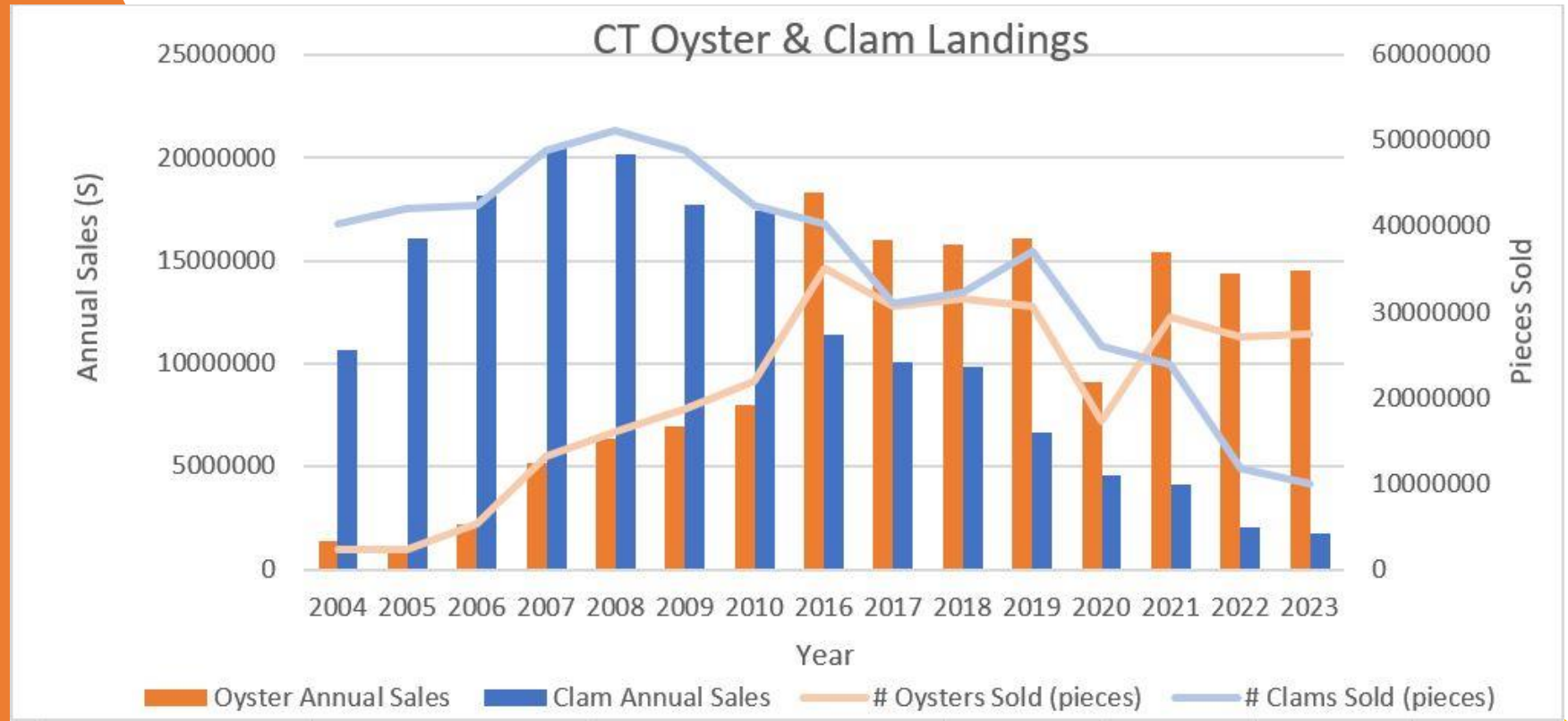
- ◉ **Boat Operations**

- **Vessel Captain** Rick Seiden

FSMA Registration

- The **FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)**, enacted on January 4, 2011, amended section 415 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), in relevant part, to require that facilities engaged in manufacturing, processing, packing, or holding food for consumption in the United States submit additional registration information to FDA, including an assurance that FDA will be permitted to inspect the facility at the times and in the manner permitted by the FD&C Act.³
- requires food facilities required to register with FDA to renew such registrations every other year
- <https://www.fda.gov/food/guidance-regulation-food-and-dietary-supplements/registration-food-facilities-and-other-submissions>

2023 Landings



Submitting License Changes

- License changes must be submitted in writing by email
 - Lot status, contact information, trucks, boats, etc.



No Overnight Holding

- Relay product is not allowed to be held overnight on vessel.
- New license language.
- DoAG will approve limited exceptions for weather related events
 - MUST BE APPROVED BY DoAG ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS

VMS Updates

- Current requirement is to ensure your unit is working
 - Requires logging into the system to check
- New system being put out to bid will include
 - Over the next 6 months expect a turnover of units
 - Units will be solar powered
 - Tamper proof
 - Will immediately notify via text both the Dealer and DoAG of interruptions
 - Continuing to work after notification will result in a license violation and an administrative hearing
 - System will include Relay log

Relay From Closed Areas

- DoAG will no longer allow relay out of areas under a rainfall closure due to the difficulty to enforce
- Exception when the lot was previously listed as a 'Relay from'






Operational plans

Chapter VI. Shellfish Aquaculture

Requires Operational Plans for:

- Seed production in Prohibited or unclassified waters
 - Aquaculture that attracts birds or mammals
 - Land based aquaculture
- 

Operational plans

Operational Plans for Seed in Prohibited Waters:

Section II, Chapter VI. @.03 B.

“Operational Plan. Each aquaculture site that cultures seed in waters classified as prohibited or unclassified shall have a written operational plan. The plan shall be approved by the Authority prior to its implementation and shall include:

- (1) A description of the design and activities of the culture facility;
- (2) The specific site and boundaries in which shellfish aquaculture activities will be conducted;
- (3) The types and locations of any structures, including rafts, pens, cages, nets, or floats which will be placed in the waters;
- (4) The species of shellfish to be cultured and harvested;
- (5) Procedures to assure that no poisonous or deleterious substances are introduced from the seed production activities; and
- (6) Corrective actions for addressing seed exceeding the maximum seed size as defined by the Authority.”

Operational plans

Operational Plans for Aquaculture that attracts birds or mammals:

Section II, Chapter VI. @.04 A.

“Operational Plan. Each aquaculture site that the Authority determines may attract sufficient birds and/or mammals that their waste presents a human health risk shall have a written operational plan. The plan shall be approved by the Authority prior to its implementation and shall include:

- (1) A description of the design and activities of the culture facility;
- (2) The specific site and boundaries in which shellfish aquaculture activities will be conducted;
- (3) The types and locations of any structures, including rafts, pens, cages, nets, or floats which will be placed in the waters;
- (4) The species of shellfish to be cultured and harvested;
- (5) Procedures to assure that no poisonous or deleterious substances are introduced from the aquaculture activities;
- (6) A description of the mitigation or deterrent measures to minimize the potential pollution impact of birds and/or mammals; and
- (7) Maintenance of the required records.”

Operational plans

- Operational Plans for Aquaculture that attracts birds or mammals:
- Floating gear is a significant attractant to birds and mammals
- Mitigation/deterrent methods must not violate the Migratory Bird Act
- CT VPCPs do not address floating gear
- Any floating gear in CA or A waters will need a different VPCP to include **at least 2 weeks** of submergence prior to harvest
 - This would require that DoAG conduct intensive time to temperature studies to establish parameters for this activity to determine the appropriate resubmergence time-frame

Operational plans

Operational Plans for land-based Aquaculture:

Section II, Chapter VI. @.05 A.

“Operational Plan. Each facility shall have a written operational plan. The facility must obtain approval from the Authority prior to its implementation and shall include:

- (1) A description of the design and activities of the culture facility;
- (2) The specific site and boundaries in which shellfish culture activities will be conducted;
- (3) The types and locations of any structures, including rafts, pens, cages, nets, tanks, ponds, or floats which will be placed in the waters;
- (4) The species of shellfish to be cultured and harvested;
- (5) Procedures to assure that no poisonous or deleterious substances are introduced into the activities;
- (6) A program of sanitation, maintenance, and supervision to prevent contamination of the shellfish products;
- (7) A description of the water source, including the details of any water treatment process or method;
- (8) A program to maintain water quality, which includes collection of microbial water samples and their method of analysis and routine temperature and salinity monitoring (the bacterial indicator monitored shall be the same as used for monitoring growing areas);
- (9) If applicable, collection of data concerning the quality of food production (algae or other) used in the artificial harvest system; and
- (10) Maintenance of the required records.”

New Robo Call System

- DoAG has fully transitioned to a robo call platform for area closure/reopening notifications. You will no longer be contacted directly by staff
- Upon receiving the call:
 - Wait a few seconds – **DO NOT HANG UP**
 - Listen to the entire message
 - Analysts are not always immediately available. Please *do not call back* unless there is an issue with the message
- Calls may not go through in locations with poor service
- Robo-call blockers may reject the call
 - Remove blocker
 - OR add each Analyst's cell number to your accepted calls