

N.C. Oyster Summit:

Promoting a Healthy Coastal Environment and Economy

March 10 - 11, 2015

N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC

Summit Objectives:

- Explore the economic and environmental returns on investing in North Carolina oyster restoration, enhancement and production.
- Update the *Oyster Blueprint for Action* to rebuild North Carolina oyster habitat, stocks and fisheries, and to improve the state's coastal water quality and economy.
- Discuss prioritized scientific challenges to implementing successful oyster restoration strategies in North Carolina.

Draft Agenda:

Tuesday, March 10

- 1:00 p.m. Keynote: Why a Blueprint for Oyster Restoration?
Speaker pending
- 1:20 p.m. The N.C. Experience: The History of Oyster Management Over the Past Century
Dr. Louis Daniel, Director, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)
- 1:40 p.m. The Importance of Oysters in Providing for Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
Dr. Martin Posey, University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW)
Dr. Mike Piehler, University of North Carolina Institute of Marine Science (IMS)
- 2:00 p.m. The Importance of the Oyster Fishery to Coastal North Carolina
Bradley Styron, Commercial Oysterman
- 2:15 p.m. Oyster Fundamentals: What it takes to Have Productive Oyster Populations and Fisheries in North Carolina
Facilitator: Ted Wilgis, N.C. Coastal Federation
Panelists: *Dr. Pete Peterson, IMS; Dr. Dave Eggleston, North Carolina State University Center for Marine Sciences and Technology (CMAST); Dr. Ami Wilbur, UNCW; Dr. Bill Crowell, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP); Jason Peters & Brian Conrad, DMF*
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Setting Restoration Goals for the Next Decade
Dr. Brandon Puckett, National Estuarine Research Reserve, Division of Coastal Management

- 4:00 p.m. Why Restoring Oysters Makes Economic Cents
Facilitator: Tom Looney, Lenovo & N.C. Economic Development Board
Panelists: Sara Lawrence, Research Triangle Institute; Dr. Pete Peterson, IMS
- 4:50 p.m. Looking Ahead: Key Challenges and Questions to Be Addressed
Todd Miller, N.C. Coastal Federation
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn to Auditorium
- 5:15 p.m. *Rowan Jacobsen, the award-winning author of A Geography of Oysters, will offer an energizing and lively discussion about the uniqueness and varieties of oysters, how North Carolina plays a role in the global oyster market, and the conservation value of cultivating oysters and keeping waters clean to support this growing industry.*
- 6:00-7:30 p.m. Legislative Reception

Wednesday, March 11

- 8:00 a.m. Coffee and Pastries
- 8:30 a.m. Goals for the Day: Defining Goals and Objectives for the Next Five to Ten Years
Erin Fleckenstein and Dr. Lexia Weaver, N.C. Coastal Federation
- 8:45 a.m. Linking Restoration of Oysters to an Economic Development Strategy for Coastal N.C.
Facilitator: Raj Narayan, Associate Director Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology & Science
Panelists: Rob Lamme, N.C. Coastal Federation; Dr. Andy Keeler, Coastal Studies Institute; Simon Rich, Stevens Towing; John Preyer, Restoration Systems
- 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Strategies for the Next Five Years
Facilitator: Erin Fleckenstein, N.C. Coastal Federation
Panelists: Dr. Dave Eggleston, CMAST; Curt Weychert & Jason Peters DMF; Justin Bashaw, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Troy Alphin, UNCW
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Cultch Planting Strategies for the Next Five Years
Facilitator: Willy Phillips, Fish Dealer, Full Circle Crab Company
Panelists: Chris Conoway, Conoway Marine Construction; Jim Swartzenberg, J&B Aquafood Farm; David "Clammerhead" Cessna, Commercial Fisherman; Dr. Louis Daniel & Garry Wright, DMF; Dr. Niels Lindquist, IMS
- 11:15 a.m. Oyster Mariculture Priorities for the Next Five Years
Facilitator: Sara Mirabilio, North Carolina Sea Grant
Panelists: Senator Bill Cook (R) District 1; Marc Turano, Pentair Aquatic Eco-Systems, Inc.; Jay Styron, Grower & President, NC Shellfish Growers Association; Brian Conrad, DMF; Patti Fowler, DMF Shellfish Sanitation

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Managing Oysters on Public Bottoms
Facilitator: Trish Murphey, DMF
Panelists: Dr. Ami Wilbur, UNCW; Tina Moore, DMF; Adam Tyler, Commercial Fisherman; Shannon Jenkins, DMF Shellfish Sanitation
- 2:00 p.m. Watershed Management Priorities for the Next Five Years
Facilitator: Lexia Weaver, N.C. Coastal Federation
Panelists: Jamin Simmons, Hyde County Landowner; Ted Wilgis, N.C. Coastal Federation; Dr. Mike Burchell, N.C. State University; Hunter Freeman, Withers & Ravenel; Erin Carey, City of Wilmington; Steve Murphey, DMF Shellfish Sanitation
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. Facilitated Discussion: ww.ncoysters.org: What are the types of information needs?
What are the components of a database for restoration efforts?
Facilitator: Jim Hawhee, APNEP
- 3:35 p.m. Wrap-up; Charge to Audience and N.C. Oyster Steering Committee
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn