

From: Dennis David - National Wildlife Refuge Association
To: [Aquaculture2018 - ARS](#)
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Subject: Oyster farmer feedback for USDA ARS and NIFA research, extension and education programs
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:26:15 AM

Hello,

We are off bottom oyster culture on the Atlantic side of FL and were unable to participate in any of the webinars where you were seeking feedback for USDA ARS and NIFA research, extension and education programs. We are providing this as our input as off bottom **oyster farmers** .

1. We believe the largest constraint to growth and expansion of our sector of aquaculture is greater access to triploid (and diploid) seed in quantity and seasonal availability - especially earlier in the spring months.
2. The greatest short-term, 1-4 years, research and extension needs in our view is producing more and improved quality seed, particularly in the spring, and selective breeding of faster growing seed?
3. Over the longer term, the greatest research and extension needs over the next 5-10 years are to address water quality issues such as algal blooms that can affect growth, survival and harvest closures. Also, programs that help provide funding for oyster farmers attend regional and national workshops to learn and share production practices, problems and solutions that work for them.
4. More effective communication strategy to reach and inform farmers of new solutions to problems or better technologies may be sector oriented news letters, video or podcasts and perhaps a Facebook link for sharing both new research and equally if not more important is practical application and best management practices. Also, fund workshops and symposiums targeting all aspects of oyster farming - great example is *Oyster South* type programs.

The agencies would greatly appreciate receiving written feedback for USDA ARS and NIFA research, extension and education programs at Aquaculture2018@ars.usda.gov through August 31, 2018.

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