



Massachusetts Aquaculture Association

Annual Meeting
February 27, 2026

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MDAR Communications

- MDAR Farm & Market Report
 - MDAR's bi-monthly e-newsletter: *Commissioner's Column*, program updates, workshops, USDA & UMass events
 - Distributed to ag community in Massachusetts.
 - Grants announced through the F & M Report
 - **Subscribe online:** <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-farm-and-market-report>
- MDAR Calendar of Events
 - Workshops & Meetings
 - Contact MDAR to get your event listed
- MDAR text list (new!)
 - Get notified of upcoming grant opportunities

MDAR Ag Grant Programs Opening Soon

- **Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture**
 - Business training & funding for new farmers
- **Climate Smart Agriculture Program** (\$1.8M awarded to aquaculture!)
 - Food Safety, Environmental, & Energy- **open next week!**
- **Food Security Infrastructure Grants** (\$2.2M awarded to aquaculture!)
 - Infrastructure & Local Access - **Late March/April**
- **New!! Farm Readiness Program open now!**
 - \$50k with 20% match

Watch the Farm and Market Report and sign up: [Mass.gov/AGR](https://www.mass.gov/AGR)

New Farm Readiness Grant

- Ready-to-go projects, including equipment, infrastructure, & facility improvements
- Must be completed by June 30, 2026
- Supports immediate operational benefit, such as food safety, environmental, energy, etc.
- Examples: tumblers/graders/coolers, etc.
- Up to \$50k with 20% match
- **Due Tues, March 17th, 2026, 4 PM**

FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT \$42M

- Work Plan is in pipeline
- MDAR expects confirmation within a month
- RFR will be issued
- Covering weather related losses from 2023-24
- Compensation for expenses related to crop, & livestock losses, including on-farm infrastructure

MDAR Aquaculture Centers Funding

2019: \$50k

2020: \$50k

2021: \$50k

2022: \$50k

2023: \$60k

2024: \$60k

2025: \$60k

2026: \$60k – Current Contract

2027:

MDAR has funded \$440K to the Centers since 2019.

Massachusetts Agriculture Day at the State House

March 11, 2026

“Come to Boston to meet with your
representatives and celebrate all things
Agriculture”

Massachusetts Agriculture Youth Council

- High school rising Juniors & Seniors
- One student from each County (14)
- Monthly meetings, in-person & virtual
- Optional farm/industry tours

- **Applications due April 27, 2026**

- [Application: Mass.gov/agr](https://www.mass.gov/agr)



...to cultivate and foster the next generation of agricultural leaders

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization declares 2026: International Year of the Woman Farmer



International Year of the
Woman Farmer **2026**



Nominate a Farmer:

USDA resources to find customers outside the U.S.

- ▶ Education: general & tech topics
- ▶ Market Entry: Buyer Missions, FTM, Rep Finder
- ▶ Market Promotion: offset 50% of costs - booth, display, international travel, promotion, labeling

Connect with Buyers 2026

- ▶ **Seafood Expo North America**, Boston. March 15 - 17
Mass Avenue coordinated by DMF & MDAR.
One-on-one seafood buyer meetings. March 14
- ▶ **Seafood Expo Global**, Barcelona. April 21– 23
Low-cost tabling option
- ▶ **National Restaurant Assn**, Chicago. May 16 – 19

WELCOME TO



#2949



#2859



#2959



#2957



NORTH ATLANTIC
PACIFIC SEAFOOD LLC

#2945



#2951



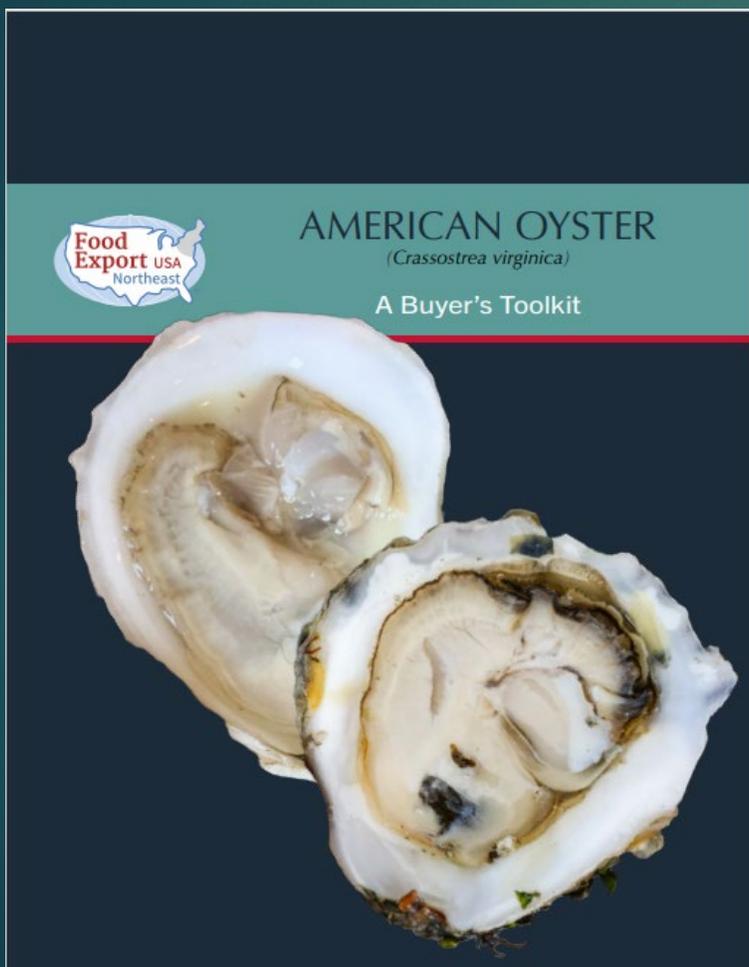
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CHECK OUT THE LOCAL FLAVOR!

Oyster Buyer's Toolkit

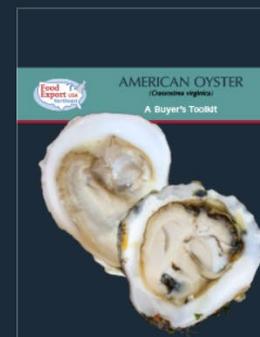
seafoodbuyersguide.foodexport.org/oyster/



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AMERICAN OYSTER

Raised by hand on small farms in the pure, clean waters of the Northeastern U.S., each oyster brings their own special flavor to the table.

Questions? Contact Us!



DOWNLOAD THE TOOLKIT BY CLICKING A LANGUAGE BELOW:

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- Polski
- Português
- Tiếng Việt

Guidance for Exporting Shellfish

- MA and WA can sell into the EU
- Spain & the Netherlands can sell into the U.S.

Dealer permit:

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-seafood-dealer-permit>

FDA guidance for the EU, China, UK, Saudi Arabia:

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-export-lists/seafood-exports-european-union-and-china>

Register for the EU shippers list:

<https://www.fda.gov/media/112092/download>

First time Aquaculture Month event & proclamation

- ▶ Nov 7, 2025, Copley Square Farmers Market
- ▶ Shucking demonstrations & tasting: Corey Hendricks, Seth Garfield, Scott Soares & Dale Leavitt
- ▶ Comments: MDAR Commissioner Ashley Randle, DMF Director Dan McKiernan, Seth Garfield, & Spencer Gowan

Proclamation & Massachusetts Aquaculture Month



Questions?

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