

Massachusetts Aquaculture Association (MAA)  
Research Guidance Committee  
2018 - 2019 Priority Research Areas and Topics

The following Priority Research Areas (4) and Topics (listed under each area) were prepared and approved by MAA through the MAA Research Guidance Committee. It has been prepared in order to better acquaint researchers with needs articulated by Massachusetts aquaculture industry members so that proposed and executed research may be better aligned with industry needs.

**1. Animal Health & Disease**

- Broodstock improvements/genomics/improving seed quality
- Boring sponge
- Reliability of seed testing to prevent disease
- Locally developed triploid
- Ocean acidification - Acidification resistance
- Information needed to inform the evaluation of risks/benefits of zone management in MA
- Evaluate public health and water quality impact of contamination by birds
- Deterring birds on gear to reduce WQ issues
- Kelp - biohazard risks
- Bamboo worms in quahogs (clymenella)

**2. Tools for Management**

- Oyster hatchery research
- Deep water storage vs. pitting
- Best size to broadcast seed for propagation (cost benefit analysis and growth rates and mortality at various starting sizes)
- Predict future winter impacts
- Purge rate studies for FC to determine max-seed size for upwellers in closed waters
- Rainfall closure purge studies
- WTP malfunction viral purge rates (MSC)
- Understanding entanglement risk - “Turbidity causing aquaculture activities” and impact on seagrass
- Nitrogen credits for industry (with wastewater mgmt. plan #s) (regional approach, RI to ME?)
- Kelp spool source genetics- issue with transplanting or cross breeding
- Deterring birds on gear to reduce water quality issues

**3. Marketing**

- Alternative species - Kelp, Blood Arc, surf clam, razor clam
- Sea level rise

**4. Food Safety**

- Product safety: cold chain improvements, risk-mitigating husbandry, Vp, BAH, Noro.
- Health of harbor/wastewater (BOH)
- Risk per serving survey to determine Vp closures
- Re-sub and Transplant work to reduce risk and in the event of closures
- Noro - Re-sub and Transplant work in the event of closures
- Kelp - food safety
- Growers: Upwellers for growing and moving seed
- Evaluate public health and water quality impact of contamination by birds