

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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The Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative releases the Final Strategic Plan

Today, the <u>Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative</u> (MSI) task force released a <u>strategic plan</u> with recommendations on how to balance the growing and competing demands for shellfish resources and create a stronger shellfish industry in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts waters are home to some of the most abundant and accessible near-shore shellfish resources in the country, which provide invaluable ecosystem services while supporting thousands of year-round commercial fishing industry jobs and countless recreational shellfish fishing opportunities in coastal communities. In fact Massachusetts had over \$45M from state-waters shellfish landings in 2018. To protect the shellfish industry, MSI, the first of its kind stakeholder driven initiative led by a <u>21-member task force</u>, has created a strategic plan that works to maximize the economic, environmental, and social benefits of shellfish resources across the state.

The MSI is hosting a press conference to discuss the findings of the MSI strategic plan Tuesday, May 4th at 10 AM. If you're interested in listening into the conference, you can register <u>here</u>. Once registered, you will automatically receive an email with the Zoom link to the press conference. To view the Final Strategic Plan, click <u>here</u>.

For information on the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative, please visit their website.