

Chapter 130, Section 1C. There shall be established in the division of marine fisheries a shellfish advisory panel to: (i) advise the director on matters of concern relevant to shellfish fisheries; (ii) provide a forum for governmental entities to receive and disseminate information relevant to shellfish resources and shellfish management; and (iii) allow members of the public and representatives of governmental entities to bring forth emerging issues in shellfish fisheries.

Members appointed by the chair shall serve for terms of 3 years and may be eligible for re-appointment by the chair. Members of panel shall serve without compensation. The panel shall meet not less than 2 times annually to address issues of substance related to shellfish resources, fisheries and management and assist in the dissemination of information to stakeholders. The chair shall consider the input of the panel.

- The shellfish advisory panel shall consist of:*
- the director or a designee, who shall serve as chair;*
- the commissioner of agricultural resources or a designee;*
- the commissioner of environmental protection or a designee;*
- the director of the food protection program within the department of public health or a designee;*



- *and 14 persons to be appointed by the chair:*
- *1 of whom shall be a representative of the National Sea Grant College Program in the commonwealth,*
- *2 of whom shall be holders of valid seafood dealer permits and be involved in the wholesale or retail sale of shellfish,*
- *1 of whom shall be a holder of a valid Massachusetts commercial fishing permit and be involved in a Massachusetts-managed wild harvest shellfish fishery,*
- *2 of whom shall be holders of valid state and municipal commercial shellfish permits and be involved with wild harvest of municipally-managed shellfish,*
- *3 of whom shall be holders of both a valid Massachusetts aquaculture permit and a municipal site license for the commercial production of shellfish,*
- *1 of whom shall be a holder of a valid recreational shellfish permit in a municipality in the commonwealth and be involved with the recreational harvest of shellfish,*
- *2 of whom shall be current municipal shellfish constables nominated by the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association,*
- *1 of whom shall be a member of the marine fisheries advisory commission;*
- *and 1 of whom shall be a representative from a nongovernmental organization involved with shellfish conservation.*

- *Members appointed by the chair shall reflect diverse coastal geographic distribution and stakeholder representation.*



Shellfish Advisory Panel Top Priorities

- Prior to today's meeting, 12 SAP members submitted their top three priorities that they think SAP should address.
- The recommended priorities were synthesized into common recurring themes and categorized under the overarching objectives and goals of the MSI Strategic Plan.
- The six objective categories of the MSI Strategic Plan are:
 1. fostering communication and coordination among local, state, and federal managers and developing improved guidance for such communication;
 2. building public and stakeholder capacity to support shellfish resources and shellfish fisheries;
 3. development of management, research, and industry resources;
 4. supporting and promoting balanced and sustainable economic opportunities around shellfish;
 5. supporting and promoting cultural and historical uses of shellfish; and
 6. ensuring ecologically sound management and enhancement of shellfish resources and coastal ecosystems.



- Sap member priorities were categorized under specific priority goals within the six Strategic Plan objectives.
- The number of listed SAP priorities that fit under specific MSI Strategic Plan Goals are provided below.
 - ✓ Goal 1.1: Developing and strengthening means of communication between managers, regulators and community groups both within and across all levels of government. **9**
 - ✓ Goal 2.1: Improving how local and state managers communicate and engage with stakeholders **4**
 - ✓ Goal 2.2: Increase public support and awareness around the economic and ecological value of shellfish resources and shellfisheries. **3**
 - ✓ Goal 3.1: Strengthening state and local capacity to effectively manage shellfish resources and shellfish fisheries in the face of increasing management challenges. **8**
 - ✓ Goal 3.2: Support for research focused on issues impacting shellfish resource health, public health, and shellfish production at the local, state and federal level. **4**
 - ✓ Goal 3.3: Support for resources that promote industry development, communication, market opportunities, and resiliency. **5**



- ✓ Goal 4.1: Encourage economic opportunities around shellfish, but ensure they are managed in a way that is consistent with the character and interests of individual communities. **1**
- ✓ Goal 4.2: Improve and refine existing state management strategies that increase sustainable economic opportunities around shellfish resources and shellfisheries while balancing shellfish sanitation concerns. **7**
- ✓ Goal 5.1: Protect public access to coastal waters and habitat quality in support of cultural uses of shellfish resources. **2**
- ✓ Goal 6.1: Ensuring shellfish and coastal restoration efforts are designed to consider animal health and management implications, and do not result in adverse economic impacts to existing industry. **2**
- ✓ Goal 6.2: Greater support for shellfish and coastal restoration efforts by developing minimum standards and further best guidance, revising restrictions on restoration activities in contaminated waters, and a requirement that restoration efforts demonstrate balance between shellfish fisheries interests and public health. **3**

