

Shellfish Focus Day Evaluation: Preliminary Results Summary

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Dr. Bridie McGreavy

The following is an analysis of the 2018 Shellfish Focus Day (SFD) evaluation. These results are based on 35 responses from industry stakeholders, including aquaculture growers/farmers (n=10), shellfish harvesters (n=8), non-profit and philanthropy (n=7), academic researchers and students (n=6), governmental representatives (n=3), and dealer or distributors (n=1), though some respondents selected multiple categories. Seventy-seven percent of respondents (n=27) attended SFD.

Table 1. General assessment of value for learning, interest in learning more, science communication effectiveness, and intentions to attend future events.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Learn Something	18	7	1	0	0
Interest in More	14	9	2	1	0
Science Easy Understand	8	15	3	0	0
Follow Up	12	8	6	0	0
Attend Future	20	3	3	0	0
Summative scores	72	42	15	1	0

Table 2. Total and relative usefulness of presentations. The % Utility is calculated as the sum of Very Useful and Useful divided by the total number of responses to demonstrate the relative percentage of people who found the presentation either very useful or useful.

	n	Very Useful	Useful	Not Useful	% Utility
Aquaculture Innovation, Mook	21	11	9	1	95
Municipal clam studies, Pepperman	24	17	5	2	92
Water Quality Q & A, McGreavy	23	9	12	2	91
Temporal variation in settlement, Beal	26	14	9	3	88
Education, Searsport	26	12	11	3	88
Clam decline study in Northern Bay, Bowden	25	12	10	3	88
Medomk Task Force, Melvin	24	14	7	3	88
Recruitment Boxes, Randall	23	12	8	3	87
Harmful Algae Blooms, Lewis	25	16	5	4	84
Tidal Survey, Hillyer	25	10	11	4	84
Public Health Evaluation, Kanwit	23	7	12	4	83
Education, Zoellick and Leighton	25	11	9	5	80
Mussel Survey, Marc-Nault	26	5	14	7	73
Needs Assessment, Joyce	20	6	7	7	65
Summative scores		156	129	51	

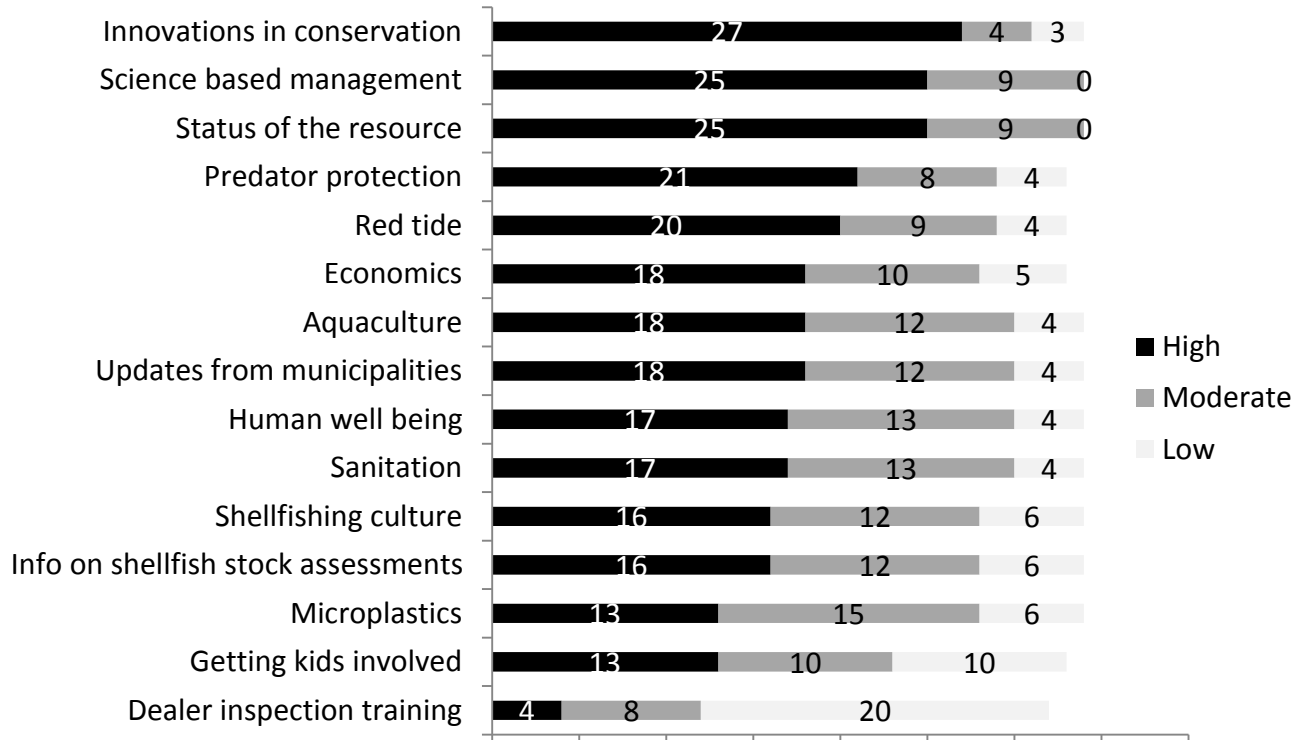


Figure 1. Total and relative interest in shellfish related topics for next year. The highest interest is in innovations in shellfish conservation, science-based management, and a report on the status of the shellfish resource.

Example Qualitative Comments and Initial Recommendations

- Presentation focus:** I'd like to hear more about the commercial viability of netting and boxes. The research angle has been covered quite a bit, but can these strategies be scaled up to be an option for harvesters to make money? If it isn't profitable for harvesters, then it's not a solution, just a research project.
- Process inclusivity and transparency:** (Edited for confidentiality) The agenda should be decided by a panel that would include DMR, DEI, Maine Clammers Assn., ShAC, Enforcement, Public Health. No state of the resource again, no talk of management plan from DMR again, no DMR vision for the future. (Note: this response should be interpreted to mean that the participant wanted to see these topics on future agendas)
- Information access:** Would it be at all feasible to provide electronic documents/ppt/abstracts of all the presentations on the DMR website? Either before or after, but a way for people to go back and find useful information or names. Thanks for all your hard work organizing this event. I find it to be the most important part of the Forum
- Clammer and municipal official involvement:** I'm not sure what level of outreach goes out to towns leading up to the event, but I have spoken to some clammers in the past who aren't aware of it or forgot that it was happening in March. Since it's such a key meeting for the industry and it only happens once a year, there may be opportunities for increasing the visibility of the event by working with municipal programs and clam committees to provide a common packet (PDFs that can be emailed or printed; a blurb with links that can be copy-pasted into emails to clammers, etc.) that managers in towns can easily distribute to clammers.