Washington State Support for the Shellfish Industry During Pandemic COVID19 Outbreak
Presented by Jennifer Hennessey and Joshua Berger

The webinar will begin shortly.

Hosted by

Sea Grant
Washington

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Our Presenters today

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Director of Maritime, Washington State Department of Commerce
COVID-19 & Shellfish Industry Impacts

Update on Economic Recovery Efforts

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MARCH 18, 2020
What we’ll cover

• What we’re hearing

• What we know - resources available now

• What we’re working on

• Your input – questions, concerns, and ideas
What we’ve heard...

Impacts and actions by the shellfish industry.
Impacts
Current actions by businesses

- **Workforce** – freezing hiring, laying off employees, standby, shared work, reduced salaries
- **Capital** – halting construction of facilities, purchase of equipment and supplies
- **Operations** – altering planting, harvest, processing & product distribution; closing restaurants & bars
- **Planning** – addressing short-term and long-term issues for survival and recovery
Industry Issues and Ideas, so far..

Mix of short-term and long-term ideas:

- **State:**
  - Reducing fixed costs – waive/delay state fees, etc.
  - Marketing

- **Federal:**
  - Trade: tariff relief, new markets, marketing
  - Loans: loan guarantees, raising SBA loan limits
  - Specialty crop insurance
  - Corps’ regional general permit

Other: seed grants, flights/crate mobility, rent assistance
What we know now...

Programs and links to resources at the State and Federal level.
State Resources

• **WA State COVID-19 Response Website**
  [https://coronavirus.wa.gov/](https://coronavirus.wa.gov/)

• **Employee Information**
  The state legislature has authorized $200 million in emergency funding for COVID-19. This includes $25 million to help mitigate the costs to businesses due to an expected increase in unemployment claims. Visit the Employment Security website here:
  [https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19](https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19)
State Resources cont...

- **WA Commerce Resources and Links**
  Commerce continues to work with the governor, state legislators and business leaders to identify other avenues of support..


- **Dept. of Revenue - Tax Relief**
  For businesses that need some temporary tax relief, the Department of Revenue has put into place new measures you can view here:

Federal Resources

• **SBA Loans**
The Small Business Administration has released its guidelines for $50 billion in emergency loans related specifically to COVID-19. Businesses in all 39 counties* are eligible to apply for relief.

What we are working on...

State and Federal programs we are developing, asking for, and need input on.
State Efforts

• **Economic Retention, Resiliency and Recovery**  
  Led by Dr. Lisa Brown, Director of Commerce & Suzi LeVine, Commissioner of ESD. Coordinating across state agencies to address immediate and long-term economic impacts to workers and employers. Specific plans are being developed.

• **Strategic Reserve Fund Expansion (SRF)**  
  $3-4 Million Dollars available through COM to support retention of Washington businesses. Developing program to address current crisis.

• **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**  
  Additional $’s becoming available for small cities to partner with business groups, ports, tribes, and others.
Federal Efforts

• **Economic Stimulus Bills**
  Series of bills being heard now and over the next several months. Areas of increased funding and participation will likely include:

• **Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Relief Funds** are flexible and can be deployed quickly once authorized. Working with Congress to expedite these.

• **Dept. of Labor / OSHA** as well as **Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST-MEP)** to provide direct services and clear guidelines for businesses to support prevention and response to job site outbreak.

• **Industry Specific Bail-outs** are on the table

• **Major Infrastructure Investments** are being discussed.
We need your input...

How are you adjusting for prevention? How have you been impacted? What are your immediate and longer-term needs?
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