

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



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Our Presenters today



**Jennifer Hennessey,
Senior Policy Advisor on Ocean Health and Environment for
Washington State, Governor Jay Inslee**



**Joshua Berger,
Governor Jay Inslee's Maritime Sector Lead, State of Washington
Director of Maritime, Washington State Department of Commerce**

COVID-19 & Shellfish Industry Impacts

Update on Economic Recovery Efforts

Jennifer Hennessey

GOVERNOR'S SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

Joshua Berger

GOVERNOR'S MARITIME SECTOR LEAD

MARCH 18, 2020



Washington State
Department of
Commerce



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/>

- **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>

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..

<http://bit.ly/wa-covid19>

- **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:

<https://dor.wa.gov/about/2019-novel-coronavirus-outbreak-covid-19-update>

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.

<https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

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?



Jennifer Hennessey

GOVERNOR'S SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

Jennifer.Hennessey@gov.wa.gov

360.902.7311

Joshua Berger

GOVERNOR'S MARITIME SECTOR LEAD

Joshua.berger@commerce.ws.gov

206.747.0563



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

www.commerce.wa.gov

