

April 5, 2024

The Shellfisherman's Alliance recommends a multifaceted approach.

Transplants are useful for moving stock from uncertified waters to management areas but unless natural recruitment rates are improved no improvement to overall stocks will be realized.

The state should also commit to a large scale public-private shellfish hatchery because you can't do real restoration unless you have product to do restoration with.

The Redfield Ratio (16 parts N to 1 part P which is the optimum ratio for phytoplankton growth) should be a standard maintained throughout the year in shellfish harvest areas. This will provide food availability year round for shellfish. Phytoplankton data should be received in a timely manner. So to make the data available in a timely manner funding should be provided and DEM or NBC should be responsible for this task.

Thank you.

Mark Johnson,
President RI Shellfisherman's Alliance.