

Overview

In 2023, Ocean Strategies, in partnership with David Binder Research, conducted a survey of 500 registered voters to assess public opinion regarding shellfish aquaculture in 6 shellfish producing counties throughout Washington state.

Counties polled included Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Thurston, Grays Harbor and Pacific – all major shellfish producing counties in Washington. Below we have outlined the key findings of this survey as well as the driving factors for continued support of shellfish aquaculture in these counties.



Key Highlights

- 81% of voters support shellfish farming in WA with more than 50% strongly supporting the industry
- Only 6% of respondents were opposed to shellfish farming in WA
- 48% noted that food safety of shellfish is **the most important factor** when purchasing to consume
- 83% of voters noted that shellfish farming has a positive impact on the economy
- 66% of voters agreed that shellfish farming has a positive impact on the environment
- 59% of respondents noted they would pay more for Washington shellfish

Many Reasons to Support Shellfish

As part of this survey, Ocean Strategies tested a series of messages to determine what resonates with individuals in shellfish producing communities. Information that resonated well with individuals included:

- Shellfish are an iconic part of Washington's heritage and a point of pride for the state (90%)
- Shellfish farms are beneficial to Washington's economy (84%)
- Shellfish farms are beneficial to the environment including Puget Sound and Willapa Bay/Grays' Harbor (74%)
- It is important for Washington to maintain its leadership position as a producer of farmed shellfish. (74%)

86% of those surveyed support clear and consistent policies that would help shellfish farms and farmers throughout the state. This includes transparent information about permitting processes, clear guidance at the county, state, and federal level for farming requirements and systems throughout the permitting process to support shellfish farming as a preferred use.



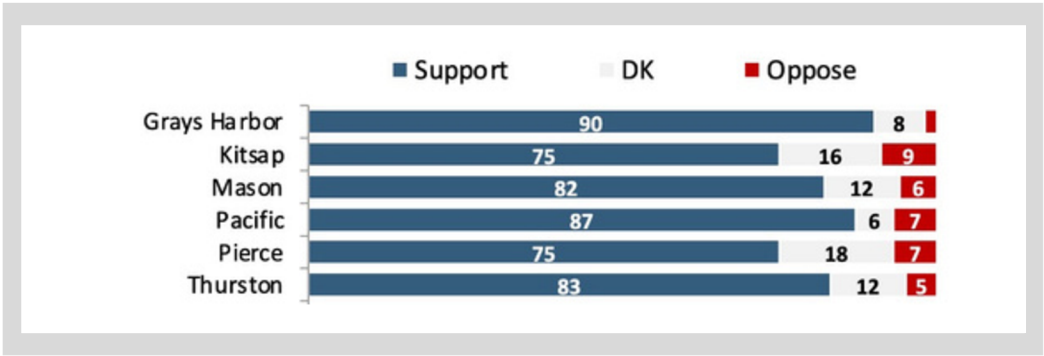
2025 KEYS TO SUCCESS

Washington, working closely with the federal government, has a critical role to play in domestic seafood production. State agencies, NOAA, US Army Corps of Engineers and local government need to work together to support shellfish farmers continued success in Puget Sound, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor.

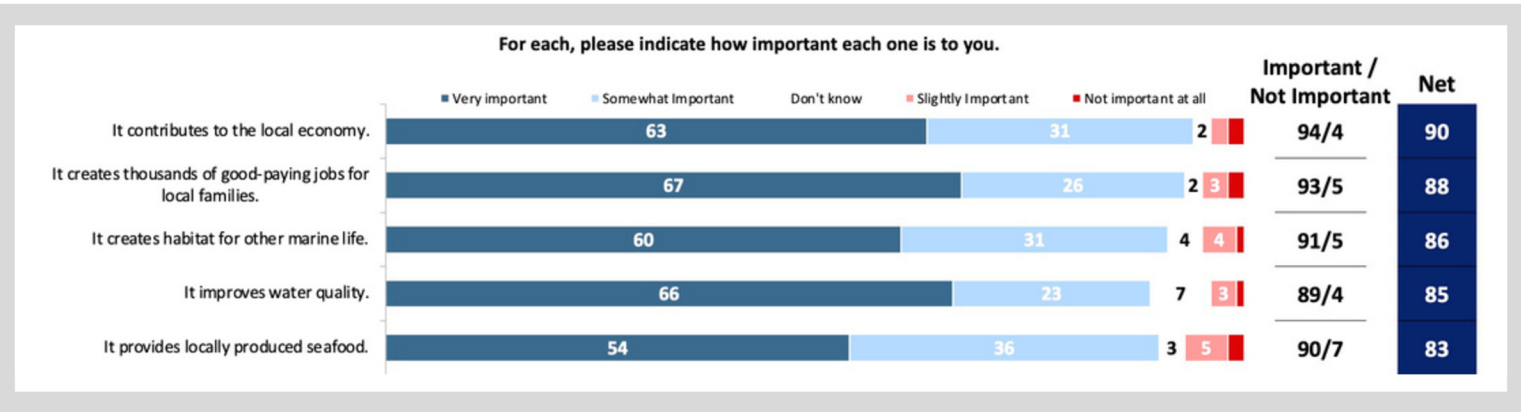
Shellfish Survey

County Level Data

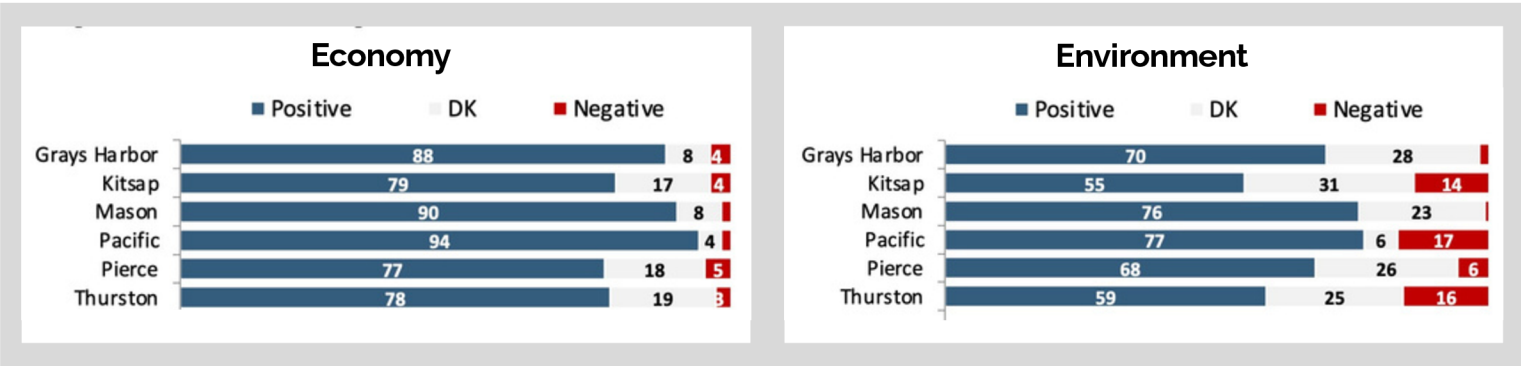
All counties showed overwhelming support for shellfish aquaculture regardless of political affiliation and economic income. The chart below shows the range of responses throughout all counties.



Respondents ranked the following five (5) reasons as the top benefits of shellfish farming.



Below is county level breakdown about shellfish farming's impact on the economy & environment.



Call to Action



- Reach out to Ocean Strategies so that we can support your permitting endeavor.
- Share this with a friend or colleague.
- Visit our website to sign up for *Washington Aqua Bites*, our seasonal newsletter collaboration on all things aqua in Washington State.