



The Coastal Shellfish Industry — By the Numbers

The commercial shellfish industry in southwest Washington is over 125 years old. In 1895 the Bush and Callow Land Acts allowed the sale of 46,784 acres of state-owned tidelands to private owners.

Willapa Bay

- **54.5%** of Bush and Callow Act Lands are in Willapa Bay.
- **23%** of intertidal lands in Willapa Bay are used for shellfish production.
- **5.95M** pounds of shellfish production in Willapa Bay in 2015
- **\$15.6M** value of shellfish production in Willapa Bay in 2015
- **82%** of harvest by weight in 2013
- **\$45M** shellfish-related payroll in Pacific County in 2010
- **1,580** shellfish-related jobs in Pacific County in 2010
- Considering indirect impacts from processing, equipment sales and tourism, **the shellfish industry accounts for 15-24% of total labor-earned income** in Pacific County.

Grays Harbor

- **15.1%** of Bush and Callow Act Lands are in Grays Harbor.
- **3%** of intertidal lands in Grays Harbor are used for shellfish production.
- **1.2M** pounds of shellfish production in Grays Harbor in 2015
- **\$3.86M** value of shellfish production in Grays Harbor in 2015
- **16%** of harvest by weight in 2013
- **\$6M** shellfish-related payroll in Grays Harbor County in 2010
- **210** shellfish-related jobs in Grays Harbor County in 2010

Sources: Taylor et al. 2015, WSG 2015, Flores & Barker 2014, Northern Economics 2013, Dumbauld et al. 2009; Feldman et al. 2000, DNR 2021

Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor produce a substantial percentage of the nation's cultivated shellfish.

Cultivated species include Pacific oysters and Manila clams.

85-90% of shellfish production still relies on traditional bottom culture methods, though off-bottom methods are also used.

In spatial terms, each acre under cultivation generates an annual average of \$5,230 in economic output and \$2,604 in labor income.



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