

# Sea Grant Postcard from the Field



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## Peer-to-Pier Learning

Sea Grant fellowship helps oyster farmers grow their business (literally) by providing opportunities to learn from their colleagues



*"We spent time in Leslie Sturmer's (University of Florida) lab discussing husbandry practices and learning about the lab's other research. We expressed an interest that we would like to partner in any future research opportunities."*

*- Dennis David (Indian River Oyster Company)*



## Peer-to-Pier Learning

Last January, [Dr. Bill Walton of Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium](#) announced [a fellowship program](#) funded by the National Sea Grant Office and [Oyster South](#) that provides travel assistance to southern shellfish farmers to visit existing aquaculture operations, hatcheries, workshops or trade shows to learn best practices from their peers.

Because shellfish aquaculture is relatively new in many areas of the southern U.S., the goal of the fellowship is to help farmers have the best chance for commercial success by meeting face to face with established operators and hatchery managers.

By creating these opportunities, Sea Grant is supporting coastal aquaculture of oysters and other shellfish species, as well as addressing major constraints on increased oyster production through presentations about permitting and policies, current and emerging species, production systems and seafood safety and quality.

Since the launch of the fellowship program, there have been eight recipients of travel awards to visit aquaculture operations as close as the Auburn University Shellfish Lab in Dauphin Island, Alabama, and as far away as Thailand.

[Original article](#)

[More information about the fellowship and instructions for applying.](#)

[Learn more about Sea Grant's oyster work](#)

\*\*\* FYI: August 5 is National Oyster Day - share your favorite oysters pictures and recipes with us on social media using the tag #SeaGrantOysters!

*Image description:* Two images. Left: Dennis David of [Indian River Oyster Company](#) in New Smyrna Beach, FL with oysters (Credit: Jon Gill); Right: Plated oysters from the Point Aux Pins farm are served in an Alabama restaurant (Credit: Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant)

***Have an idea for a postcard?*** Share your program's work with Sea Grant!

[Submit your ideas for a Postcard from the Field.](#)

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