

For: State and County Offices

**Establishing Natural Mortality Rates and Prices
for 2014 Crop Year Mollusk Aquaculture Under NAP**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Current NAP policy requires STC’s to establish Statewide average market prices that are reasonable when compared to local markets for eligible commodities. 1-NAP, paragraph 108 provides instructions for calculating average market prices for eligible commodities.

The National Office conducted research on mollusk (clam and oyster) prices, and compared the prices to State NCT records. Research indicates discrepancies in some States on mollusk prices recorded in NCT.

For the 2014 crop year, STC’s are required to review the accuracy of their respective State’s average market prices and natural mortality rates for mollusk aquaculture and document in STC minutes reliable sources used for establishing average market prices and natural mortality rates.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- instructions to STC’s for establishing natural mortality rates for each individual size of mollusk aquaculture
- guidance to STC’s for establishing average market prices for mollusk aquaculture.

Disposal Date	Distribution
February 1, 2014	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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2 Establishing Natural Mortality Rates and Prices for Mollusk Aquaculture

A Establishing Natural Mortality Rates

Natural mortality rates must be established before any crop loss can be determined. On a State-by-State basis, STC's must establish natural mortality rates for each size of mollusk aquaculture by obtaining recommendations from reliable sources, such as:

- aquaculture or shellfish associations
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- FWS
- NIFA
- other applicable aquaculture organizations.

Note: Natural mortality can be based on the size of species. For example, research shows natural mortality of the 10mm – 24mm oyster is much higher than subsequent, later stages and may range from 80 to around 90 percent.

B National Office Research of Mollusk Prices

Current NAP policy requires STC's to establish average market prices that are reasonable when compared to local markets. The National Office research indicates that while the wholesale price for seed is constant, the wholesale price for market size oysters varies regionally.

The National Office has compiled a table of recommended prices by size in millimeters (mm) which are believed to be comparatively reasonable. STC's will do all of the following:

- review the 2014 Recommended Mollusk Price table in this notice
- compare recommended prices to approved regional data from reliable sources
- determine whether the recommended prices are reasonable for their specific production and marketing area before 2014 NCT loading and approval.

If STC determines the following recommended prices are reasonable, use "other reliable sources" as the price source when loading data in the 2014 NCT.

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2 Establishing Natural Mortality Rates and Prices for Mollusk Aquaculture (Continued)

B National Office Research of Mollusk Prices (Continued)

Some regions may have a larger regulatory market size (above 50 mm on oyster and 40 mm on clam), which will require additional research and documentation by the respective State before NCT data loading.

2014 Recommended Mollusk Prices by Size (Per Piece)			
Length (mm)	Oyster \$	Clam \$ (Nursery/Raceway)	Clam \$ (Growout)
001	0.00883	0.00548	
002	0.00103	0.00762	
003	0.01177	0.00976	
004	0.01324	0.00119	
005	0.01471	0.01404	
006	0.01618	0.01618	
007	0.01765	0.01832	
008	0.01912	0.02046	
009	0.02059	0.00226	
010	0.02206	0.02474	
012	0.02500	0.02902	
014	0.02794	0.03330	
016	0.03088		0.02758
018	0.03382		0.04186
020	0.03676		0.04614
022	0.03970		0.05042
024	0.04264		0.05470
026	0.04558		0.05898
028	0.04852		0.06326
030	0.05146		0.06754
035	0.05881		0.07824
040	0.06616		0.08894
045	0.07351		
050	0.08086		
060			
070			
080			

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3 State Office Action

A State Office Action

By **August 30, 2013**, STC's will:

- establish natural mortality rates for each size of the following types of mollusks:
 - oysters (3001-OYS)
 - growout clams (3001-GRO)
 - nursery clams (3001-NUR)
 - raceway clams (3001-RAC)
- **if determined, with credible data**, that mollusk prices differ significantly from the prices listed in subparagraph 2 B:
 - follow procedure in 1-NAP, paragraph 108, in establishing average market prices for all sizes of mollusk aquaculture
 - document recommendations and the sources used in STC minutes
 - FAX the appropriate documentation and sources used to the National Office, **ATTN:** Kay Niner, at 202-690-2130, for review
 - load mollusk prices into the 2014 NCT according to 1-NAP, subparagraph 757 A, after documenting applicable sources in STC minutes.

Prices shall be loaded into the NCT for 2014 and subsequent years only. Approved 2012 and 2013 NCT records must **not** be reset to modify the graduated price. The records will be monitored by the National Office for unauthorized resets and price modifications.