

John Finger Bio:

After earning his B.S. in Marine Biology at Southampton College, on Long Island, NY, John headed west for a few years. After working at an oyster operation in Moss Landing for 3 years, he decided to start his own oyster farm, Hog Island Oyster Company, in 1983, in Tomales Bay, Marin County. The farm started with 5 acres, and now totals 160 acres, producing over 3 million oysters and 50,000 pounds of clams a year. The company recently started an oyster and clam seed operation in Humboldt Bay, and is in the process of securing leases to farm market sized oysters there, as well.

In 2003, Hog Island opened an oyster bar in the Ferry Building, in San Francisco, which recently expanded, and in 2008, opened a second oyster bar in the Oxbow Public Market, in Napa. Today, the company employs over 200 people.

Mr. Finger is a long time board member of the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (representing shellfish farmers from California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii). He is a past board member of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, and a founding member of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council

Whenever he gets anytime off, he is on or in the water – fishing or surfing.

Topics:

- Status of California's farmed shellfish industry
- Efforts to increase production areas through the California Shellfish Initiative
- CDPH shellfish program – concerns about funding (for existing levels of farms), especially if we increase areas, # of companies.