



## 7 Things to Know About The Ventura Shellfish Enterprise

**W**ith new federal grant funds recently allotted to the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE), here's a quick primer on the proposed offshore project:

**What is the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise?** The VSE is a proposed "blue economy" aquaculture project that was created to begin farming sustainably cultivated mussels in the Santa Barbara Channel off Ventura Harbor. The mussels are to be farmed by commercial fishermen and landed at offloading facilities in the Ventura Harbor.

**Why:** The VSE was created to bring a new source of dependable fresh and sustainable seafood to the



region; to enhance and sustain Ventura Harbor as a major West Coast fishing port; and to support and expand the local economy. Once fully operational, the farms are projected to garner additional local revenues.

**When:** With approvals slated in the next several



years, the proposed project gained momentum in 2015 with a \$265,000 grant to the Ventura Port District from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, through its National Sea Grant College Program.

**How:** The Port District Board recently authorized permit applications seeking to use 2,000 acres (20, 100-acre growing sites). The applications have been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Coastal Commission.



**Where:** After extensive public engagement and independent analysis, the board OK'd a proposed site in federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel, about 3.5 miles northwest of Ventura Harbor.



fishing interests, and the distance from Ventura Harbor.

**What's New:** In 2018, the Ventura Port District earned an additional grant of \$266,660 to fund the next two-year phase of the project. The Port District Board additionally allocated \$90,000 for VSE project expenses for the fiscal year 2018-2019. The project also is the beneficiary of significant volunteer time from VSE partners.

**For More Information Contact:**

Brian Pendleton, Deputy General Manager  
bpendleton@venturaharbor.com  
(805) 642-8538, or  
Visit: [VenturaShellfishEnterprise.com](http://VenturaShellfishEnterprise.com)



Working with its VSE partners, Coastal Marine Biolabs, The Cultured Abalone and Ashworth Leining Group., the Port District considered many factors in selecting the best location, including potential adverse water pollution sources, potential visual effects from shore, potential interaction with commercial and recreational

