

Ninth international shellfish conference in The Netherlands, January 22-23, 2026



The next Dutch based international shellfish conference is scheduled for January 22 and 23, 2026, and will take place in the Da Vinci cinema and exhibition space De Babbelaar, in Goes, South-West Netherlands. This time we have decided to switch from Neeltje Jans to Goes, with its improved accessibility and excellent facilities for both the conference and trade fair.

The conference consists of presentations and discussions with contributions from national and international speakers. There is also a trade fair of institutions and companies. On Thursday afternoon there is the New Year's reception of the PO mussels and the mussel auction. The conference dinner is on Thursday evening.

The conference theme focuses on "prospects for sustainable production and sales". Prospects of shellfish as healthy nutrition and produced in nature friendly aquaculture will be addressed. But the industry also faces problems with both production and sales, especially of mussels. The mussel harvest in various countries of Europe is under pressure, due to a variety of factors. Causes, remedies and prospects will be reviewed. Meanwhile sales are under pressure. How to reach the market in an economic sustainable way, also for the younger consumer is a challenge. Innovations in the production and sales of mussels and oysters will be addressed, including recent offshore culture developments in Europe. Furthermore, attention is given to the experiences of young people as coworkers in the sector, as well as the increasing role of women in

practice and management of the industry.

Please check the website for up-to-date information www.shellfishconference.com

<https://www.schelpdierconferentie.com/en/home>

There you can read that shellfish conferences have in principle been organised every 2 years since 2007 and have taken place in Vlissingen, Goes, Deltapark Neeltje Jans and now back in Goes at the DaVinci Bioscoop. The number of participants increases every year and the trade fair also expands. Interest from abroad is also increasing. The themes of the conference focus on current issues, linked to long-term social developments. The target groups of the conference consist of people who work in the shellfish sector, their advisors, suppliers and customers, and people who work in research, policy and management. For several years now, civil society organisations, such as nature conservation organisations, have become more involved in the conference.

Goes, (pronounced Hoos) where the conference is held is in the heart of the mussel culturing and processing area of The Netherlands and to get useful background see back issues of The Grower. To learn more of the unique mussel auction and processing, (The Grower April 2014) and of some wonderful shellfish restaurants when samples were actually served in the lecture theatre (see The Grower 2024!).

Dates for your diary

ASSG Annual Conference
Oban, UK
October 1-2, 2025
www.assg.org.uk

Stranraer Oyster Festival
12-14th September 2025
<https://stranraeroysterfestival.com/>

Aquaculture Europe 25
September 22-25, 2025
"Aquaculture for/with everyone"
Valencia, Spain

NORA 6
November 24-27, 2025
Cartagena, Spain <https://nora6.es>

9th International shellfish conference
in The Netherlands
January 22-23, 2026

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