

Appendix 1. Statistical tests.

Table A1.1. Statistics for value statements. Medians were ranked using a 5-point Likert-type scale, where 1-2 indicated disagreement, 3 indicated neutrality, and 4-5 indicated agreement. U Mann-Whitney tests were conducted to determine the differences in the mean ranks of variables across study sites. The term ‘bivalve’ replaced ‘shellfish’ for the purposes of Figures 2, 3, and 4.

Statement	Location	n	Median	Mean Rank	U Mann-Whitney	P-value
Statement A: I am concerned that shellfish farms cause pollution and changes on the ocean bottom.	AH	71	4	59.80	1221.5	0.143
	NRH	41	4	50.79		
Statement B: The shellfish growing on farms could clean the waters they operate in.	AH	66	3	46.98	889.5	0.076
	NRH	34	4	57.34		
Statement C: Shellfish aquaculture activities do not have important impacts on coastal ecology. [†]	AH	68	2	52.37	1215.0	0.593
	NRH	38	2	55.53		
Statement D: Shellfish aquaculture provides/could provide sustainable jobs.	AH	68	3	45.24	730.5	p<0.001
	NRH	41	4	71.18		
Statement E: My community benefits/would benefit economically from shellfish farming.	AH	71	3	48.76	906.0	p<0.001
	NRH	41	4	69.90		
Statement F: I think the local jobs in shellfish aquaculture are filled/would be filled by local people.	AH	67	3	47.96	935.5	p<0.01
	NRH	41	4	65.18		
Statement G: I think that shellfish farms could negatively impact other marine/coastal businesses.	AH	70	4	57.14	1145.0	0.218
	NRH	38	3	49.63		
Statement H: The presence of aquaculture gear reduces/would reduce my enjoyment of coastal spaces.	AH	72	5	60.42	1302.0	0.184
	NRH	42	4	52.50		
Statement I: Seeing debris from shellfish farms washed up on the shoreline would diminish/diminishes my opinion of the industry.	AH	70	5	59.70	1106.0	p<0.05
	NRH	40	4	48.15		
Statement J: There should be more shellfish aquaculture in my community.	AH	71	2	56.25	1402.5	0.911
	NRH	40	2	55.56		

[†]Statement C was reworded in Figure 2 in the affirmative (i.e., Bivalve aquaculture activities *have* important impacts...) for clarity.