



Oliver Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road; Suite 116
Wakefield, RI 02879
401-783-3370

PUBLIC NOTICE

File Number: 2004-05-024

Date: September 21, 2016

This office has under consideration the application of:

John & Cindy West
Cedar Island Oyster Co
5 Plantation Drive
Saunderstown, RI 02874

for modification a State of Rhode Island Assent to: grow sugar kelp *Saccharina latissimi* on a submerged longline system from November 1 to May 1 on an existing aquaculture site.

Project Location:	Point Judith Pond
City/Town:	Narragansett
Plat/Lot:	/
Waterway:	Point Judith Pond

Plans of the proposed work may be seen at the CRMC office in Wakefield.

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws) you may request a hearing on this matter.

You are advised that if you have good reason to enter protests against the proposed work it is your privilege to do so. It is expected that objectors will review the application and plans thoroughly, visit site of proposed work if necessary, to familiarize themselves with the conditions and cite what law or laws, if any, would in their opinion be violated by the work proposed.

If you desire to protest, you must attend the scheduled hearing and give sworn testimony. A notice of the time and place of such hearing will be furnished you as soon as possible after receipt of your request for hearing. If you desire to request a hearing, to receive consideration, it should be in writing (**with your correct mailing address, e-mail address and valid contact number**) and be received at this office on or before October 21, 2016.

/lat

Appendix to CRMC Assent Modification Request Form

Oysters are the most economically valuable shellfish produced domestically and are considered an environmentally sustainable crop since they require no artificial food input and can serve as a net nitrogen sink. However, oyster growth is severely limited during the winter months by cold-water temperatures, which can negatively impact aquaculture employment and production. Incorporating cold-water seaweed crops, such as the sugar kelp *Saccharina latissima*, into my existing shellfish farm requires minimal equipment and maintenance, and can benefit my employees by diversifying crop production. Like oysters, sugar kelp is considered an environmentally sustainable crop and provides ecosystem services in the form of bioextraction of carbon and nitrogen.

The major steps involved in establishing kelp at my existing oyster farm is to: (1) establish a sugar kelp nursery, (2) deploy kelp long lines on oyster farms, and (3) assess growth of kelp. Step 1 will be completed and housed with partners at the University of Rhode Island and baby kelp will be deployed on floating long lines above oyster cages in mid-November (see figure below). Two long lines (10-20 m) will be deployed directly above the bottom-cultured oysters and the length of the mooring chain will be adjusted for appropriate depth. We will harvest kelp in late Spring and remove the long lines and mooring balls.

