



State of Rhode Island
Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

(401) 783-3370
Fax (401) 783-2069

PUBLIC NOTICE

File Number: 2009-01-035 Date: May 16, 2022

This office has under consideration the application of:

**Rome Point LLC
c/o Russell Blank
516 South County Trail
North Kingstown, RI 02852**

for a modification of a State of Rhode Island Assent to:

Replace suspended oysters cages with low profile Hexcyl© floating baskets on an existing five acre oyster farm.

Project Location:	Narragansett Bay
City/Town:	North Kingstown
Waterway:	West Passage, Green Point

Plans of the proposed work are attached or can be requested at Cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov.

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 June 16, 2022.

Please email your comments/hearing requests to: cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov; or mail via USPS to: Coastal Resources Management Council; O. S. Government Center, 4808 Tower Hill Road, Rm 116; Wakefield, RI 02879.

/lat

Blank
2009-01-035





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REQUEST FOR ASSENT MODIFICATION

Assent/Permit Number: 2009-01-035 (including extensions) Expiration Date: 12-12/24
Name of Assent Holder: Rome Point LLC
Location of Project: West Passage Narragansett Bay
City/Town: North Kingstown Plat: _____
Lot: _____

Name of Present Owner: Rome Point LLC c/o Russell Blank
Mailing Address: 516 South County Trail
City/Town: North Kingstown State: R.I.
Zip: 02852
Phone Number: 401-742-0329 Email Address: astrickcharters@aol.com
Abutters: North Kingstown

I hereby certify that the names and addresses of adjacent property owners whose property adjoins the project site are accurate and current as of the date of application. If said names and addresses are found to be not accurate and/or current, any subsequent Assent may become Null and Void. Signed: Russell E. Blank

Describe the proposed modification(s): The modification will be from suspended gear to Hexcyl Baskets attached to 1" poly rope and anchored with moorings

Reason: To increase survivability, increase production, and a better quality oyster with less labor

What state of construction is the project in: Rhode Island

Rome Point LLC by Russell Blank
Owner Name (PRINT)

Rome Point LLC by Russell E. Blank
Owner's Signature (SIGN)

Note: The applicant acknowledges by evidence of their signature that they have reviewed the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program, and have, where possible adhered to the policies and standards of the program. The applicant also acknowledges by evidence of their signature that to the best of their knowledge the information contained in the application is true and valid. The filing of false information can result in the Coastal Resources Management Council revoking State Assent. Applicant requires that as a condition to the granting of this assent, members of the CRMC or its staff shall be access to the applicant's property to make on-site inspections to insure compliance with the assent. This application is made under oath and subject to penalties of perjury. 5/00

A. Category B Requirements

1. The requirements herein for a Category B Assent are necessary data and information for the purposes of federal consistency reviews. All persons applying for a Category B Assent are required to:

- a. Demonstrate the need for the proposed activity or alteration; The reason for the gear modification is to grow the oysters off the bottom removing them from predators like oyster drills and starfish, and decrease in mortality and grow a better product with thicker shells for easier shucking.**
- b. Demonstrate that all applicable local zoning ordinances, building codes, flood hazard standards, and all safety codes, fire codes, and environmental requirements have or will be met; Does not apply**
- c. Describe the boundaries of the coastal waters and land area that is anticipated to be affected; West Passage of Narragansett Bay, Green Point**
- d. Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant impacts on erosion and/or deposition processes along the shore and in tidal waters; The site is located far enough away from shore so no significant impacts on erosion or deposition.**
- e. Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant impacts on the abundance and diversity of plant and animal life; The hexcyl baskets are off the bottom so no significant impacts to plant or animal life**
- f. Demonstrate that the alteration will not unreasonably interfere with, impair, or significantly impact existing public access to, or use of, tidal waters and/or the shore; The site is located off shore and north of the sandy beach, where the shore line is rocky. Access to the shore from the bay would be to the South of the site so minimal impact. In the site is a couple of large rocks so navigation to the mooring field should be used to the South of the site, so minimal impact. Boats and Kayaks will be able to navigate between the lines, not across the lines.**
- g. Demonstrate that the alteration will not result in significant impacts to water circulation, flushing, turbidity, and sedimentation; The hexcyl baskets allow water circulation through them so no impact.**
- h. Demonstrate that there will be no significant deterioration in the quality of the water in the immediate vicinity as defined by DEM; The oysters filter the water so no deterioration to the water quality, they improve the water quality.**
- i. Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant impacts to areas of historic and archaeological significance; Does not apply.**
- j. Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant conflicts with water dependent uses and activities such as recreational boating, fishing, swimming, navigation, and commerce, and; This site ,is located out of the way of commercial activity, the mooring field can be accessd by navigating to the south, swimming should have little impact with this site as they can navigate between the hexcyl baskets on the floating line, but not across the lines as they are on the surface.**

k. Demonstrate that measures have been taken to minimize any adverse scenic impact (see § 1.3.5 of this Part). The hexcyl baskets are close to a foot out of the water when flipped out to dry and less than 4 inches when submerged in the water.

2. Each topic shall be addressed in writing and include detailed site plans and a locus map for the proposed project.

3. Additional requirements are listed for specific Category B activities and alterations in the sections that follow.

Additional Category B Requirements for Aquaculture applications

a. Applicants proposing to undertake any aquaculture project shall:

(1) Describe the location and size of the area proposed; The site is off Green Point, West Passage of Narragansett Bay. The site is 5.5 acres.

(2) Identify the species to be managed or cultivated within the permitted area and over which the applicant shall have exclusive right; The species cultured is *Crassostrea Virginica*, American oyster.

(3) Describe the method or manner of management or cultivation to be utilized, including whether the activities proposed are experimental, commercial, or for personal use; and

(4) Provide such other information as may be necessary for the Council to determine: This is a commercial operation, the management and cultivation will be done by owners and employees of Rome Point LLC. See attached operation plan.

(AA) The compatibility of the proposal with other existing and potential uses of the area and areas contiguous to it, including navigation, recreation, and fisheries; This area is half a mile away south of Rome Point where commercial oyster farming with Oyster Grow Cages is allowed in 5 other farms of which Rome Point LLC is one of those farms, so compatibility to existing uses will not be impacted.

(BB) The degree of exclusivity required for aquacultural activities on the proposed site; The oyster gear will be on the surface, but spaced out enough so boats and kayaks can maneuver between lines. The farming activities will be conducted with boats and employees of Rome Point LLC.

(CC) The safety and security of equipment, including appropriate marking of the equipment and/or lease area; The corners will be marked with High Flyers on the Eastern corners; along with Polly Balls, and bouys on all 4 corners. The main lines and moorings will have bouys on them. The hexcel baskets will be marked with name tags with contact information for Rome Point LLC in the event they break away from the main line so we can recover them.

(DD) The projected per unit area yield of harvestable product; The projected yield of this area with 14,000 Hexyl Baskets is 1,480,000 of individual oysters.

(EE) The cumulative impact of a particular aquaculture proposal in an area, in addition to other

aquaculture operations already in place;The impact is only possitive in terms of increasing water quality and the creation of jobs, such as aquaculture supplies,marine equipment,employees and distribution of oysters to the consumer.

(FF) The capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed activities; Rome Point LLC has been growing oysters commercially since 2001. Rome Point is a founding member of Ocean State Shellfish Cooperative LLC which buys and sells millions of dollars worth of oysters locally and regionally, so farming and the distribution of our product should not be a problem.

(GG) The impact of the proposed activities on the scenic qualities of the area.The hexcyl baskets are low profile so low impact on the scenic quality of this area.

Rome Point LLC

516 South County Trail North Kingstown

RHODE island 02852

FEBURARY 2, 2022 Aquaculture License Number 056

Thomas Blank

Russell Blank

100 Emanuel Drive

516 South County Trail

Portsmouth R.I. 02871

North Kingstown, RI 02852

Rome Point LLC

File Number 2009-01-035 License Number 056

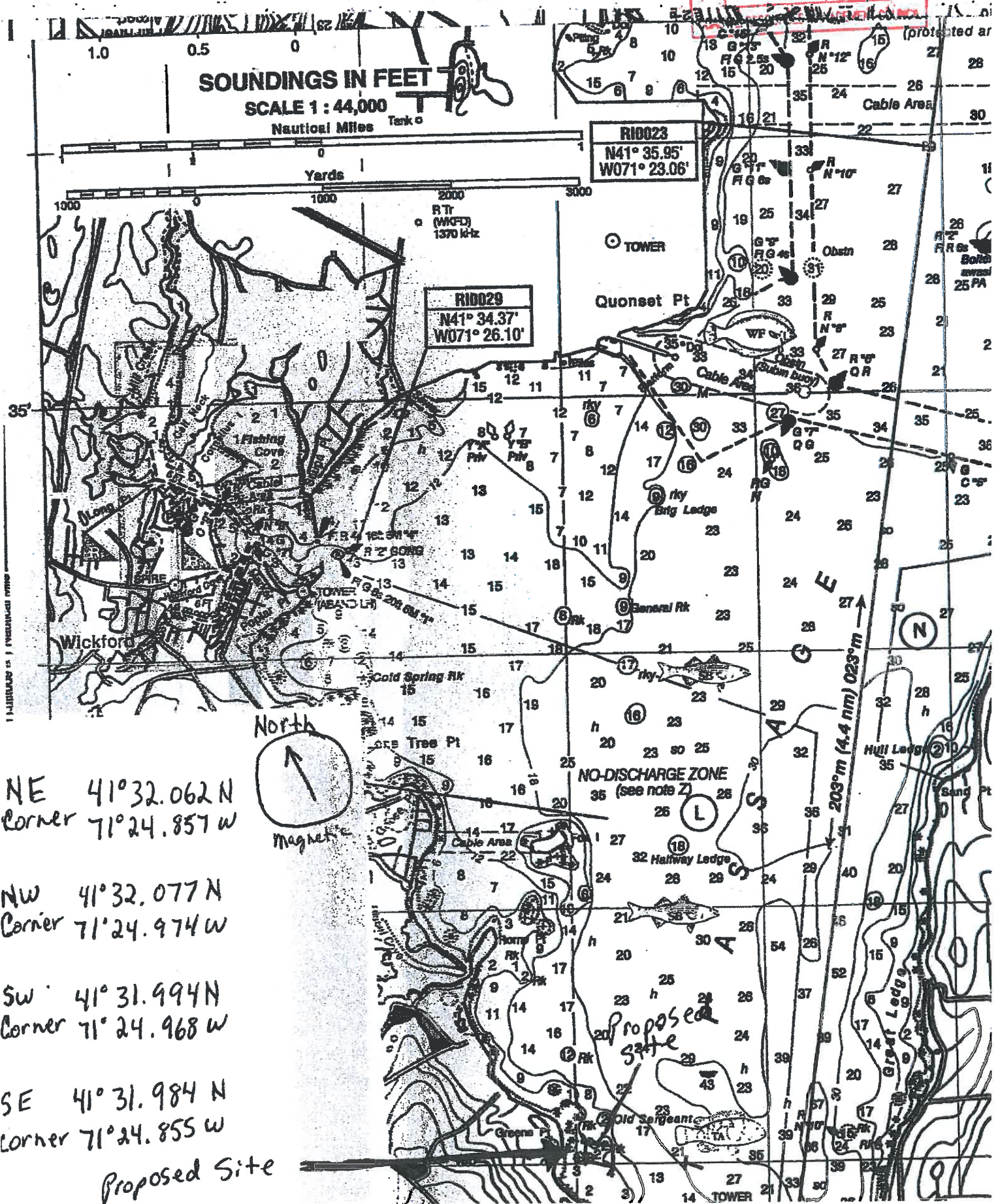
Method of opperation

Rome Point will buy oyster seed from approved hatcherys, notification of size and quantity will be given to the Aquaculture Coordinator atCRMC before arrival to this state accompanied with a pathoogy report. Oyster seed purchased smaller than 20mm will be started in our upwellers located in Wickford harbor. We usually by seed from 2mm to 4mm to start in the upweller at the second week of May.The upwellers are checked daily to make sure that they are running properly,after the first two weeks of arrival we start cleaning the silos and grading the seed to

remove the bigger oysters and place them on bigger mesh screens on the bottom of the silos, this process will take place once a week until the oyster seed reaches a maximum of 32mm. At this size the seed is brought out to our grow out sites, that are located in type 4 waters, they are logged in our record book with date and quantity and location. The ends of our ground lines or main lines have numbered bouys which are recorded in the log book so they can be tracked as we thin down the quantity of oysters and transfer the seed into more gear as they grow, for the 6 month requirement of being in clean water before harvest. We also put the seed in one section of the site to keep away from a different year class. If seed is bought at 20mm or bigger it is brought right out to the grow out sites, they are logged in with the date and quantity and the bouy number in our log book.

With the Hexcyl Baskets, we plan on starting the oyster seed off in 3mm to 5mm size baskets in the first two main lines. The rest of the main lines will range from 10mm to 40mm. There will be a maximum of 33 lines, the space between will be 20 feet and 5 feet, see attached drawing. There will be 400 baskets to a line. Boats and Kayaks can egress and ingress between the rows of baskets going North to South. The baskets will be flipped once a week or every other week to dry, the growth of the oysters will be checked at this time and logged in our log book for record keeping, and will determine when its time to be thinned down and graded. The work will be logged in daily as to which line was worked on and when the bigger oysters were retained and transferred to Bigger size Hexcyl Baskets, the 10mm through 40mm, the smaller oysters will go back in the same line. The work will be performed by Rome Point owners and employees, year round. When the gear has been flipped back into the water we wait two weeks or longer before grading to allow the fouling organisms to fall off. At this point if marketable oysters are harvested they will be placed in the bottom cages for the 7 day protocol set forth by DEM. Oysters to be sold are processed on the boat and brought into Wickford Harbor to our boat slips, unloaded and follow DEM protocol for Safe Shellfish Handling while on the boat and during transportation to Ocean State Shellfish Cooperative, where they are sold. If oysters are transferred from this site to another site they are logged in to which site they went, the date, the number on the bouy of the ground line for bottom cages and main line on floating cages, number of bags placed in the cages. They are logged in every time they are culled for market and the density returned, until emptied out and the process starts over the same way the following year.

JAN 20 2000




HEXCYL BASKET SPECIFICATIONS


HEXCYL SHELLFISH BASKETS

	Hexcyl Pro 0304	Hexcyl Pro 0507	Hexcyl Pro 1014	Hexcyl Pro 1521	Hexcyl Pro 2028	Hexcyl HD 1521
FIVE SIZES Click on images						
Mesh Size	3mm (1/8")	5mm (3/16")	10mm (7/16")	15mm (5/8")	20mm (3/4")	15mm (5/8")
Shellfish Size	5mm (3/16") minimum	10mm (7/16") minimum	20mm(3/4") minimum	40mm(1-1/2") minimum	70mm(2 3/4") minimum	40mm(1-1/2") minimum
Volume	25 litres (6.6 gallons)					31 litres(8.3 gall)
Dimensions	732mm (29") long 270mm (10 5/8") wide 140mm (5-7/16") high					800mm(31-1/2") 280mm (11") 180mm(7")

MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

Our baskets and clips will outperform other plastic baskets because we use a specially developed Ultra High Impact Resistant materials known for sub zero temperature performance. All materials have the highest possible Ultra Violet resistance. We have had product in the field for over 10 years.

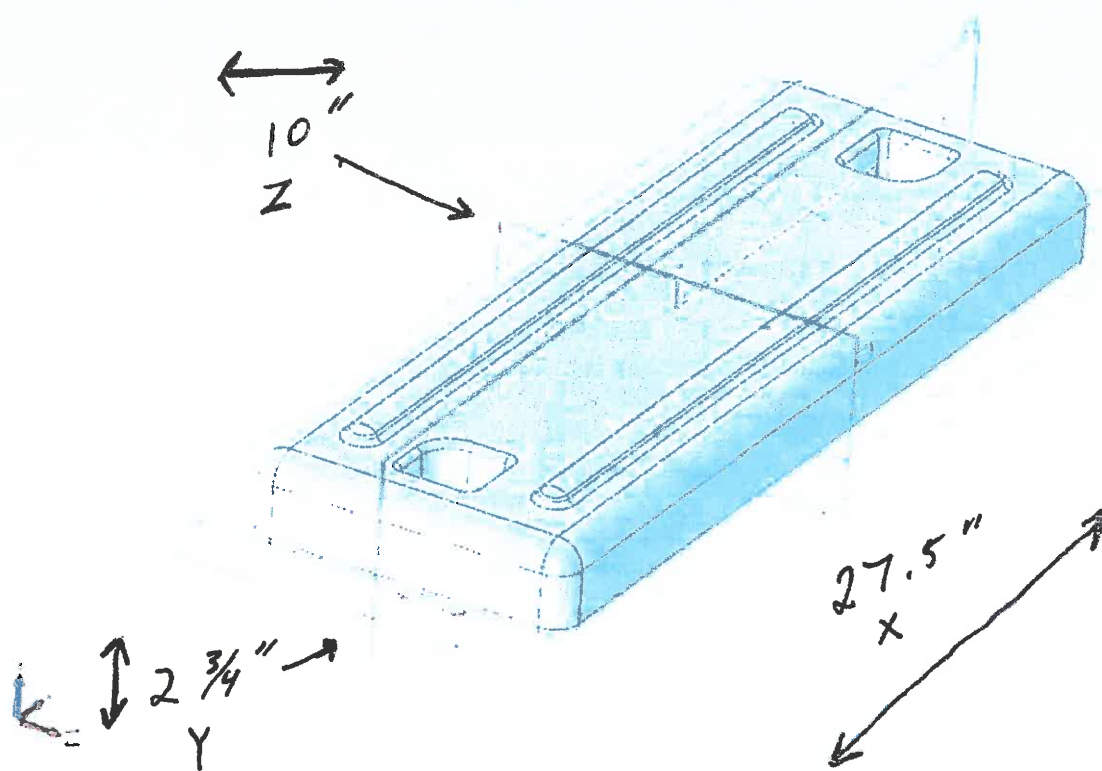
HEXCYL Basket/Lid 	Ultra high Impact grade Material Food Grade - When used in accordance with FDA application guidelines, this product meets the requirements of FDA 21 CFR 177.1520 (c) 3.1a and AS2070-1999 section 4.1.1(a). Flamability - DIN 4102 B2: normal combustibility similar to wooden pallets.
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HEXCYL Clips 	Ultra high impact grade, UV Stable material
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PACKING and TRANSPORT

Adelaide Shipping Port is 13 km(13 minutes) from our manufacturing and container loading site at Wingfield, South Australia, 5014

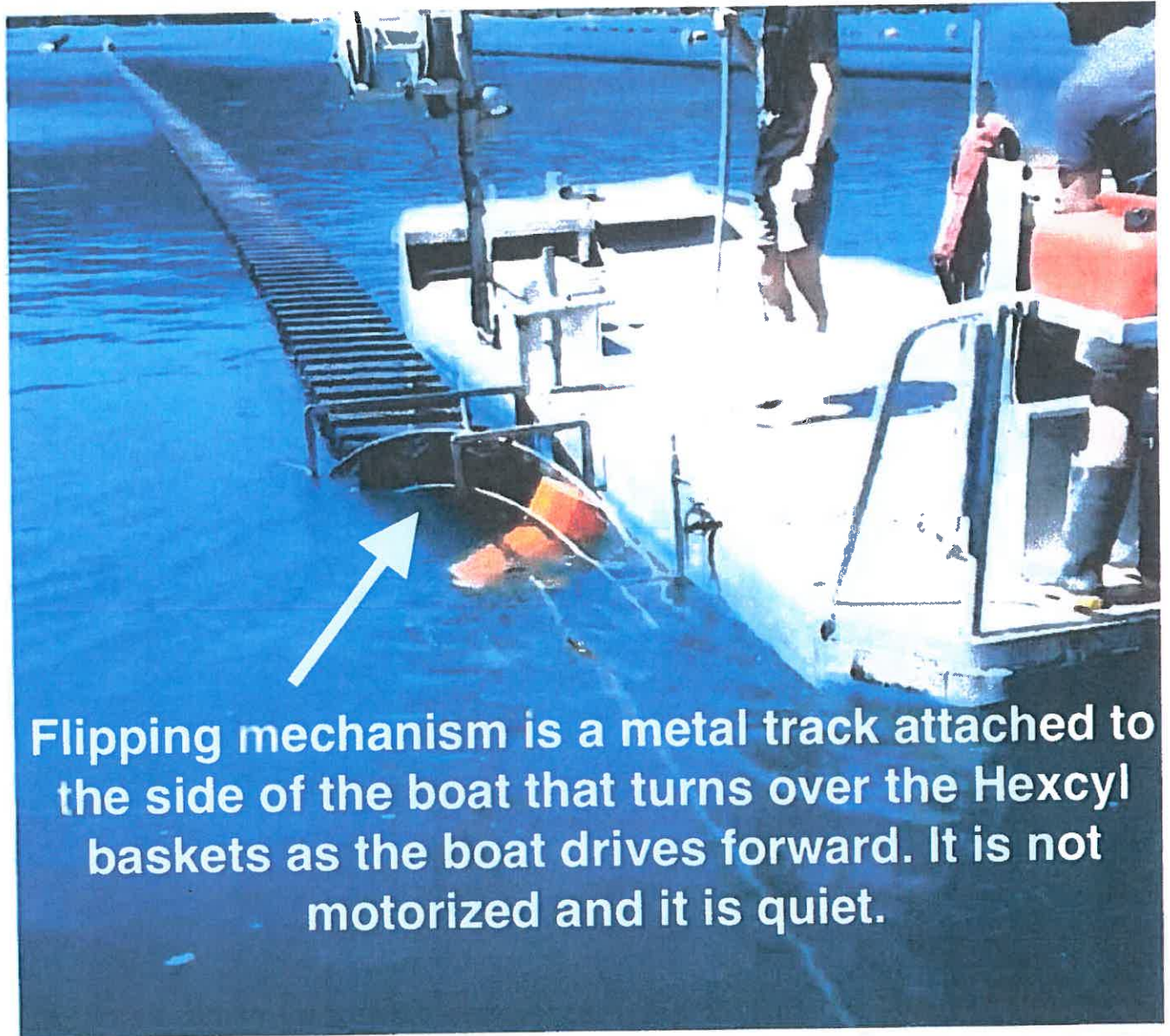
Hex cyl Basket Float





HEXCYL BASKETS IN THE WATER

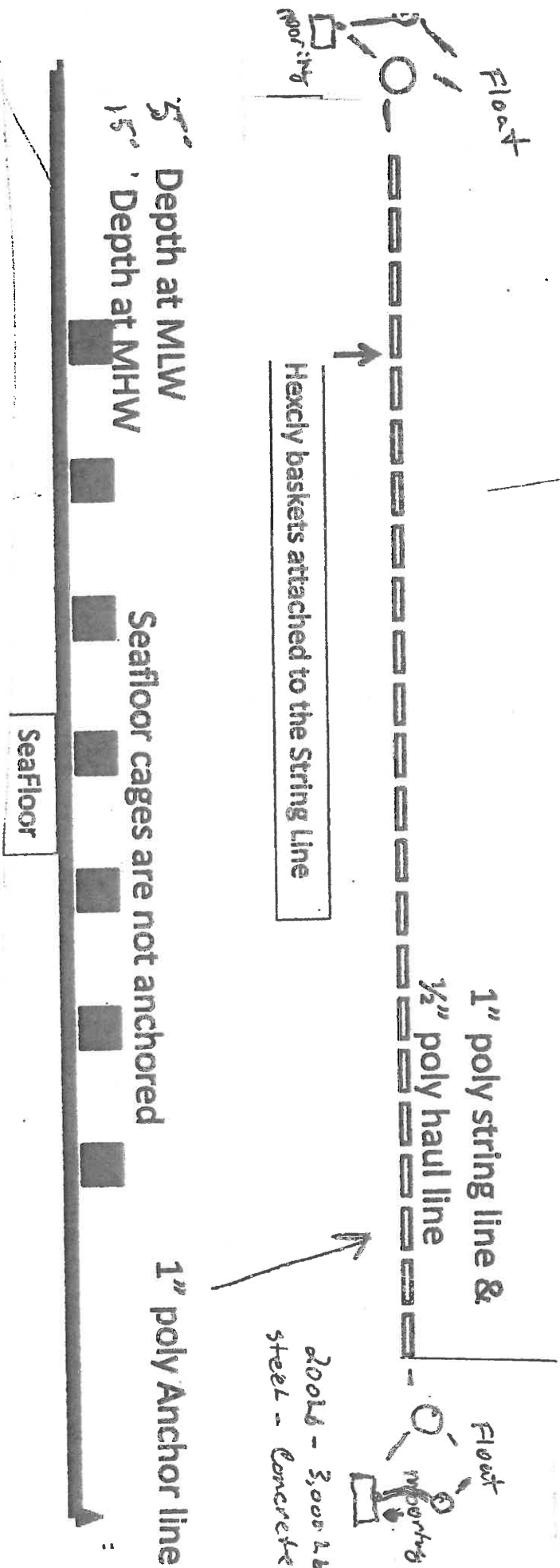




Flipping mechanism is a metal track attached to the side of the boat that turns over the Hexacyl baskets as the boat drives forward. It is not motorized and it is quiet.

Cross Section View

Size is 500' x 500'



Rome Point LLC

516 South County Trail

North Kings town, R.I.

02852

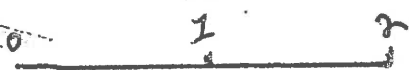
01/03/2022

North
Magnetic



Rome Point LLC
516 South County Trail
North Kingstown, R.I.
02882

1/23/22



Scale
1" = 100 Feet

NW Corner
41° 32.077' N
71° 24.974' W

NE Corner
41° 32.062' N
71° 24.897' W

11.5' @ MLW

7' @ MLW

500'

20' Between
lines

5' Between
lines

50'
Flood

400'

400 Baskets per line
Main line with Hexyl Baskets

Floods

50'

Floods

300 yards
from shore



41° 31.994' N
71° 24.968' W
SW Corner
4.7' @ MLW

Maximum number
of Hexyl Baskets
14,800

moorings

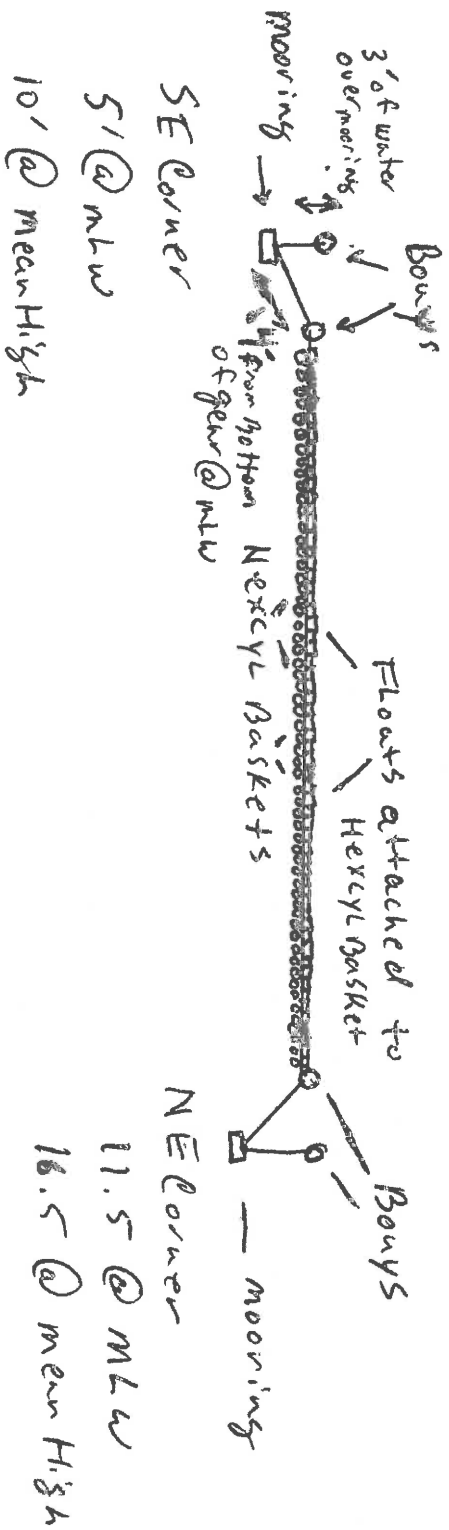
SE Corner
41° 31.984' N
71° 24.855' W
5' @ MLW

Depth Taken 11/4/08

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 516 South County Trail
 North Kingstown, R.I.
 02852

1/23/22

Cross Section



0 1 2
 Scale
 1" = 100 Feet

North
↑

Rome Point LLC
516 South County Trail
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02852

1/23/22

Bottom Substrate

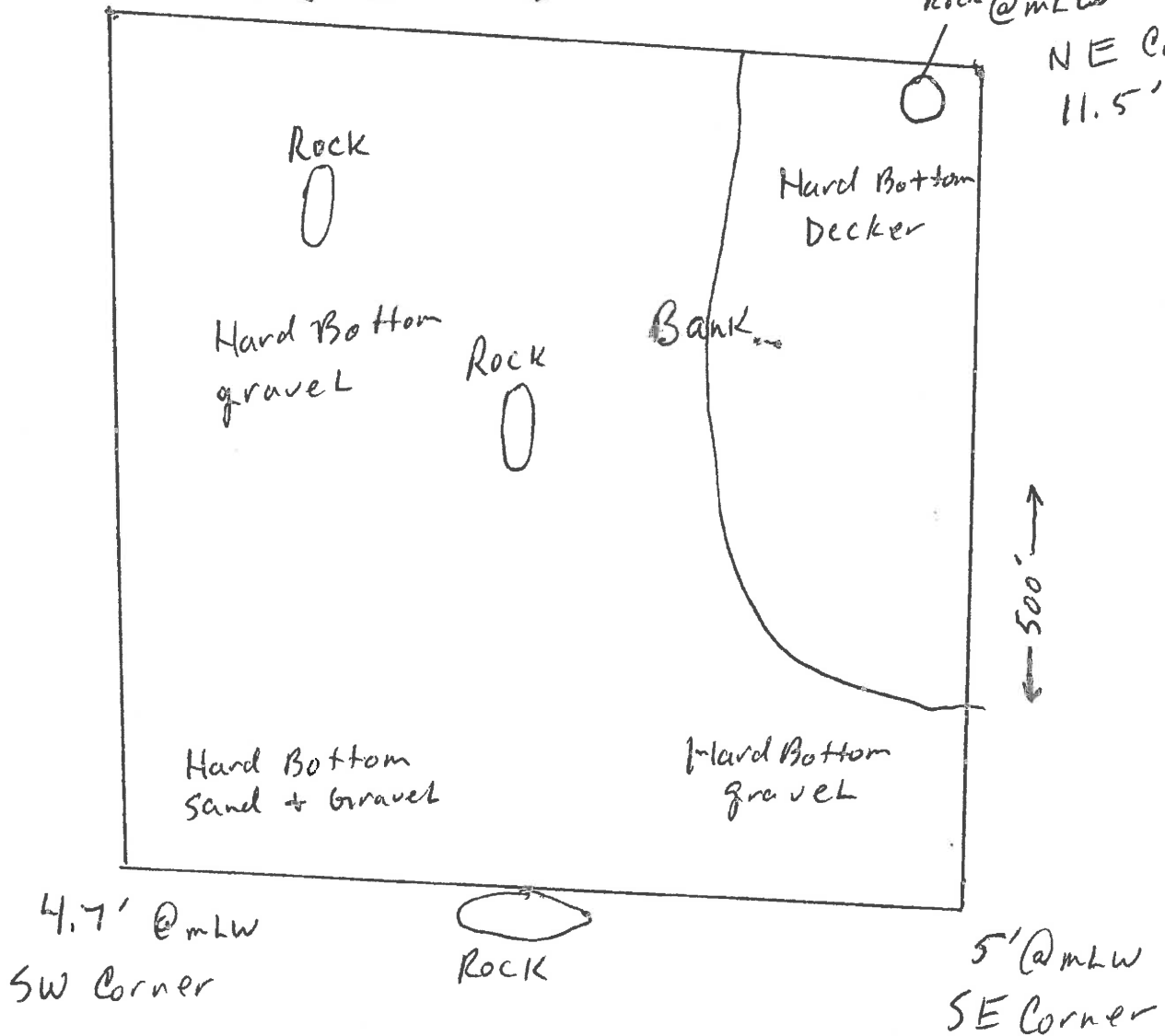
Scale
0 1 2
1" = 200 Feet

NW corner
7' @ mltw

← 500' →

Rock 2' @ mltw

NE corner
11.5' mltw



Depth Taken
11/04/08

