

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Oliver Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, RI 02879

PUBLIC NOTICE

File Number: 2011-01-014 Date: January 21, 2011

This office has under consideration the application of:

Gregory Mataronas & Michael Marchetti
265 Long Highway
Little Compton, RI 02837

for a State of Rhode Island Assent to create a 6.0 acre aquaculture farm to grow blue mussels.

Project Location:	Rhode Island Sound
City/Town:	Newport
Plat/Lot:	NA
Waterway:	Rhode Island Sound

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 and **e-mail address**) and be received at this office on or before February 21, 2011.

CRMC Aquaculture Application

Gregory Mataronas and Michael Marchetti

12 December 2010

Operational Plan

A commercial viability permit was obtained to determine the feasibility of open-ocean mussel aquaculture under CRMC FILE No. 2008-11-054. The longlines have been in operation for 12 months and have demonstrated successful results in terms of excellent growth rates, excellent meat yields, and a lack of pea crabs. This potential lease site would be an expansion of the commercial viability site located off Newport.

A Preliminary Determination Application was submitted with a public hearing held in Newport on July 21, 2010. A report from the CRMC Aquaculture Coordinator was received within 10 days with the recommendation that a full Aquaculture Application could be submitted with no major changes.

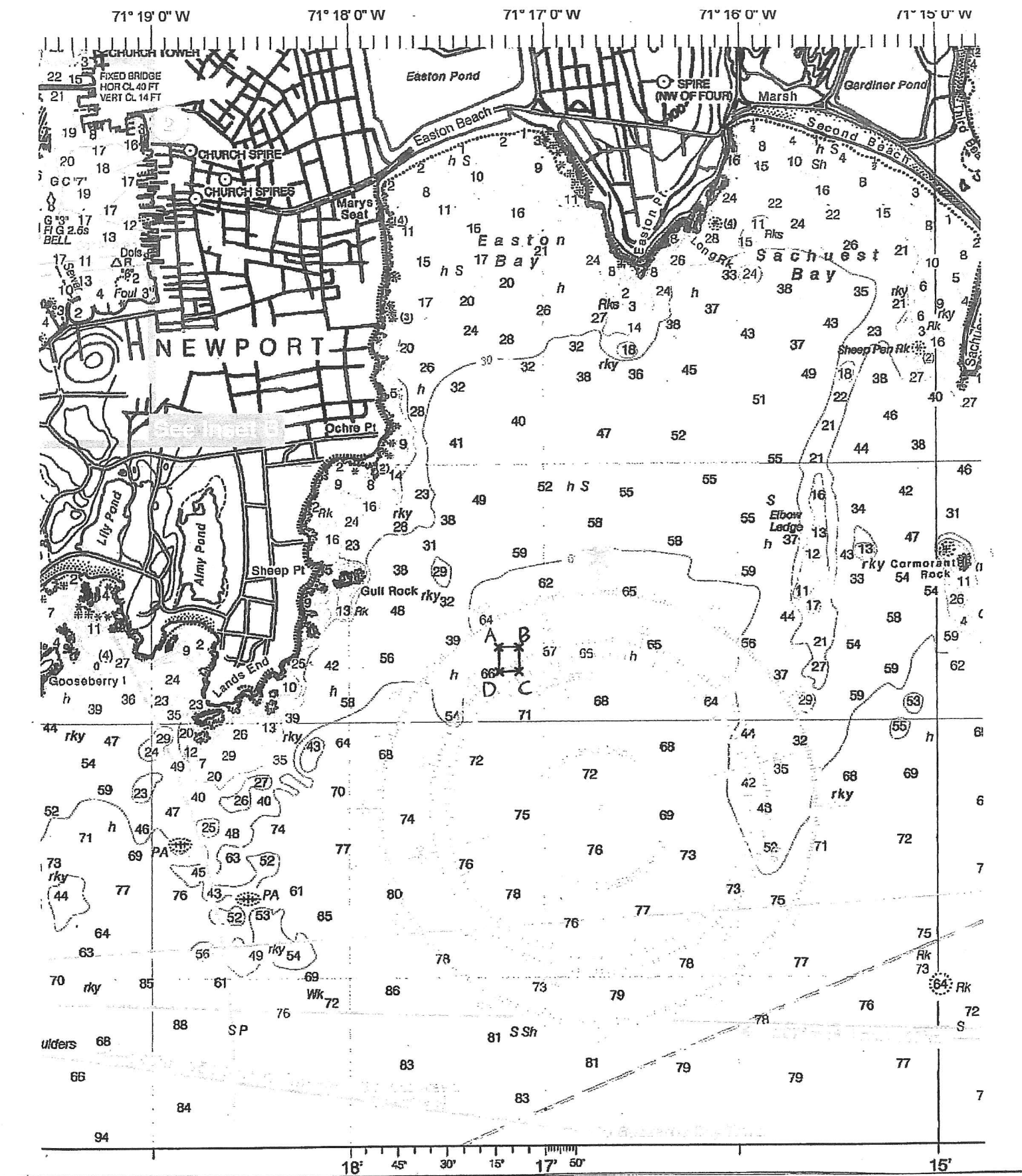
The lease site was chosen because it is (1) out of busy traffic areas; (2) away from benthic transition zones where commercial and recreational fishing activities occur; (3) outside of a fish trap area; and (4) relatively deep while still being protected from Northerly winds (allows for more days that the lines can be tended). Currently, no commercial fishing takes place directly in the potential lease site. Some lobster activity takes place along the benthic transition zone to the west of the site. A fish trap is set to the southwest of the site. These statements regarding traffic, fishing, and other activities are based on 15 years of commercial lobstering experience in the area.

The farm will consist of 4 mussel longlines that are 600 feet long and spaced 100 feet apart. Each longline will have 3 headrope markers and a marker on each anchor. The headrope is the portion of the longline that is suspended in the water column and utilized for actual mussel culture. It will be 25 to 30 feet below the surface. Mussel socks, or mesh tubes filled with mussel seed, will be up to 20 feet long and hang from the headrope. Socks will be placed 2 feet apart. Seed will be from natural mussel sets and obtained from sources such as American Mussel Harvesters (AMH) and seed collection ropes placed at the site. The mussels will be socked on board the vessel or on land using a socking apparatus that utilizes water flow to push the seed into the socks.

Gear maintenance consists of maintaining proper headrope height by adjusting buoyancy as needed. As the mussels grow, flotation will be added. Mussels will be harvested by cutting the socks off the headrope and removing excess buoyancy. Harvested mussels will be sold to mussel processors such as AMH.

Written Responses to items in section 300.1

1. Wild harvest of mussels was once a vibrant fishery in RI state waters. The presence of the pea crabs has since diminished consumer demand for the local product leaving a gap in RI's market for mussels. A research grant has since demonstrated that growing mussels suspended in the water column greatly reduces the incidence of pea crabs and produces a high quality product that is locally cultivated.
2. N/A
3. The adjacent waters are approximately 65 feet in depth and have minimal and occasional fishing activity. This consists of a floating fish trap and lobster traps being set along a benthic transition zone to the northwest, west, and southwest of the site. The Sheep Point Artificial reef is located approximately ½ mile to the north/northeast of the site. Elbow Ledge is located 1 mile to the east.
4. This site has tidal flow and flushing rates comparable to nearby open ocean areas because of its distance from the nearest shoreline. Therefore, there are no anticipated deposits or accumulations of mussel pseudofeces.
5. The mussel farm has the potential to favorably affect aquatic species that may frequent the area by providing structure and shelter similar to a suspended artificial reef.
6. Design of the culture apparatuses keeps the headrope suspended a minimum of 25 feet below the surface with minimal flotation on the surface. This allows traffic germane to the area to safely travel near and over the lease area. Recreational fishing in the area is virtually non-existent due to the lack of structure or proximity to land of the proposed lease site.
7. Any impacts on water circulation and turbidity would be minimal and highly localized around the longlines. Spacing of the lines will be large enough that adjacent areas will likely be unaffected. This area was chosen in part because flushing is not impeded by proximal land mass and therefore sedimentation will be greatly reduced and may even be nonexistent.
8. High water circulation and the fact that mussels are a natural aquatic species found on structures nearby the proposed lease site mean that there will be no deterioration of water quality. Mussels are a natural filter feeder and can function in the removal of excess nutrients.
9. The proposed site is not designated as a historically or archaeologically significant area.
10. See question 6.
11. Flotation is kept to a minimum and all floats are less than 12" from the surface of the water except for 2 "hi-flyers" for each longline. These hi-flyers are 5 to 7 feet high from the surface, very thin (1.25" diameter), and therefore only visible in close range (1/2 mile or less) or by radar.



Gregory Mataronas

A) 41°27.294N, 71°17.230W

EAST↔WEST = 440 ft

Nearest Inhabited Land = 0.88 miles

Michael Marchetti

B) 41°27.294N, 71°17.132W

NORTH↔SOUTH = 600 ft

Nearest Rock/Land = 0.70 miles

12/12/2010

C) 41°27.197N, 71°17.132W

AREA = 6.0 Acres

D) 41°27.197N, 71°17.230W

Ⓐ 41° 27.294'N
71° 17.230'W

Gregory J. Mataronas
Michael L. Marchetti

12/15/10

41° 27.294'N Ⓑ
71° 17.132'W

■ = HI FLYER

● = HEADROPE
MARKER
(FLOAT)

← 100 ft →

↑ Z
MAGNETIC

↑ 600 ft
↓

Ⓒ 41° 27.197'N

← 440 ft →

41° 27.197'N Ⓒ
71° 17.132'W

Ⓔ

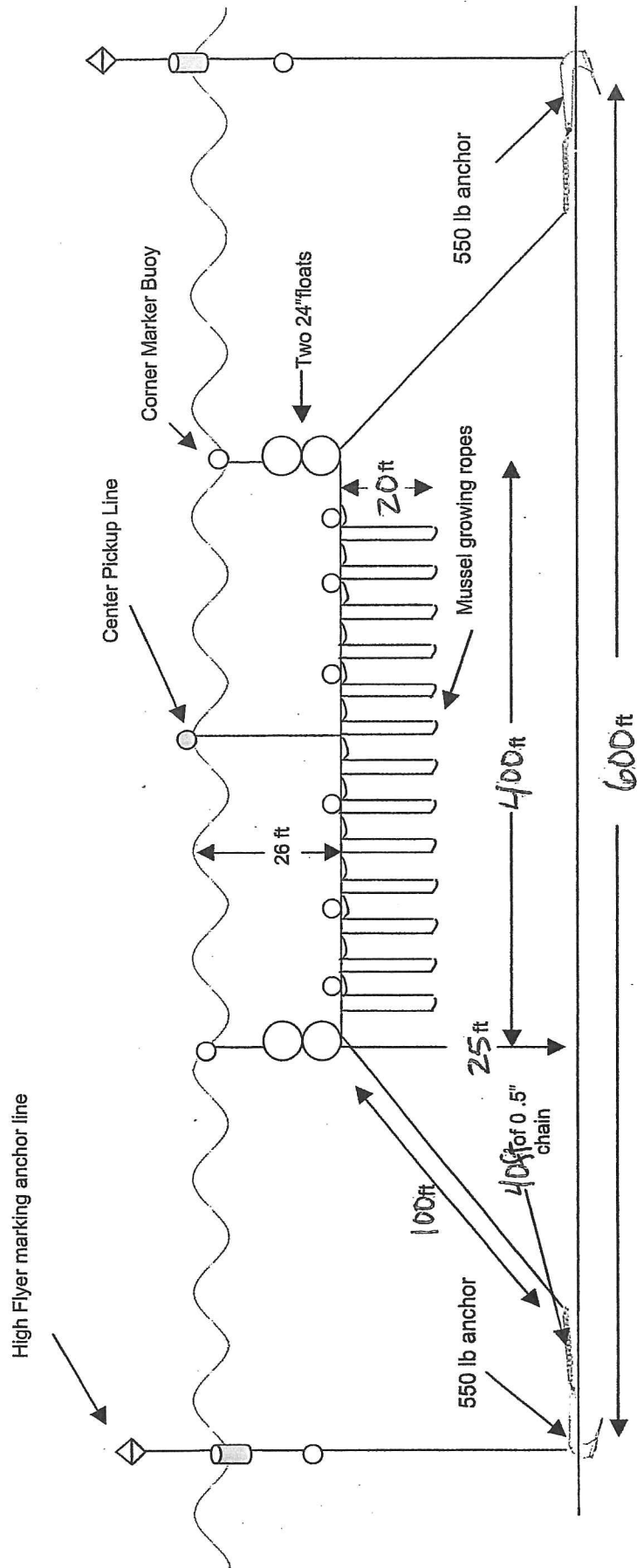


Figure 1. Schematic of a submerged longline with dimensions for deployment in water depths of approximately 70 ft (22 meters)