



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: 2017-01-007 Modification Date: December 19, 2023

This office has under consideration the application of:

David Roebuck
221 Broad Hill Way
Wakefield, RI 02879

for a State of Rhode Island Modification of Assent to add and maintain: six submerged bottom trawl lines, each containing 250 oyster bags per line, within a four-acre area of the existing thirty-three and half acre lease. The six trawl lines will be arranged in three pairs running north/south with each pair having one submerged guideline with no additional gear to aid in retrieval and work of the bottom trawls. A single buoy will mark the north and south ends of each trawl line for a total of twelve additional buoys installed over the four-acre area.

Project Location:	Point Judith Pond
City/Town:	Narragansett
Previous File#	2002-10-038

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

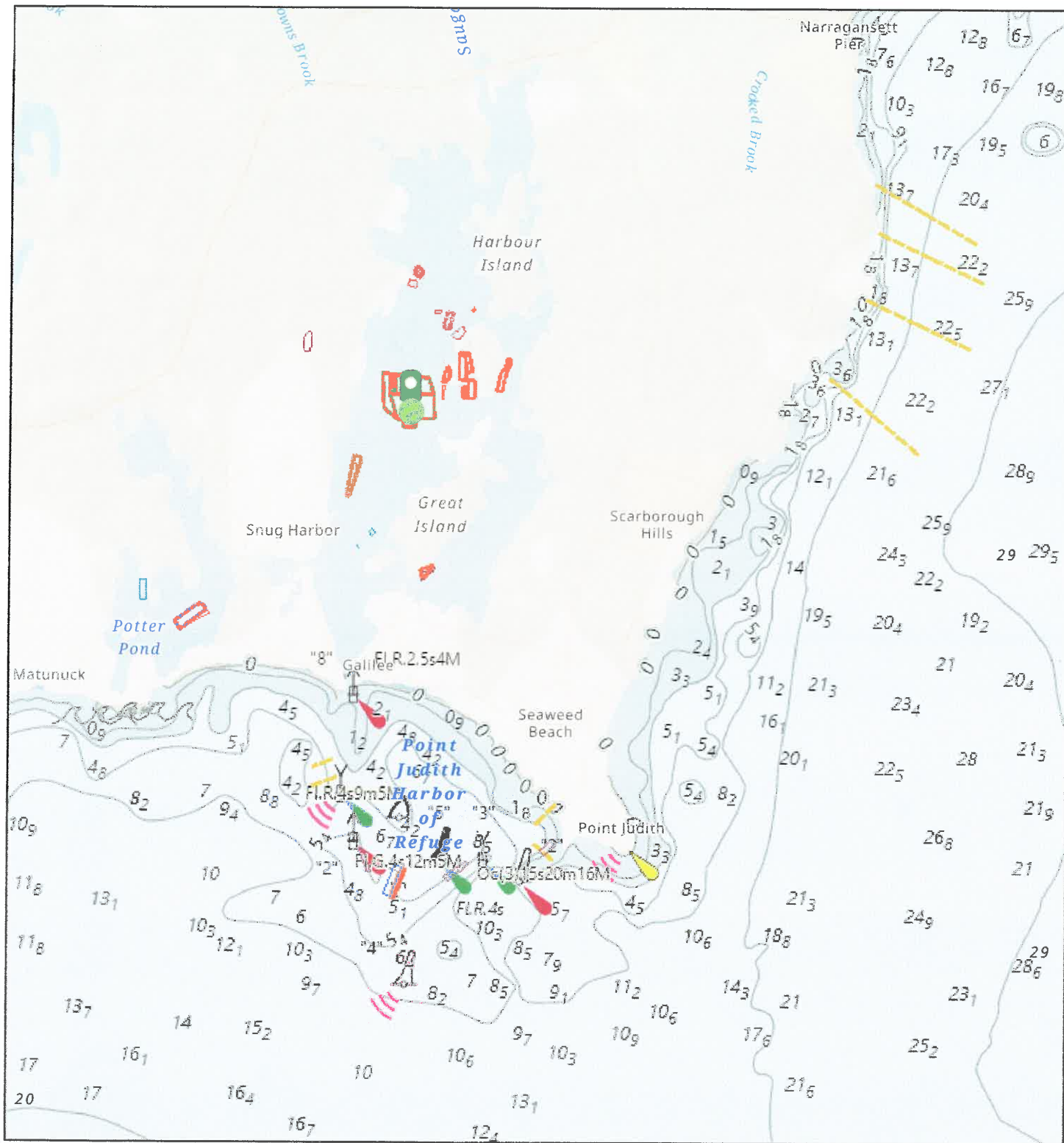
In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws) you may request a hearing on this matter.

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 **January 18, 2024**.

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



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Floating Fish Trap

Aquaculture Sites

☐ Approved

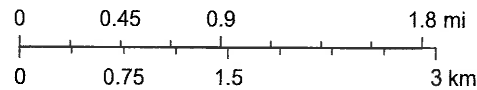
Expanded

 PD App

 PN App

 Proposed

☐ Withdrawn/Expired



Esri, Garmin, NaturalVue, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph,
GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, RI Division of
Fish & Wildlife / Marine Fisheries / Julia Livermore

Lease modification proposal



1. Salt Pond Oyster Company
 - Owned and operated by David Roebuck
 - 221 Broad Hill Way, Wakefield, RI 02879
2. CRMC # *2017-01-007*
3. DEM Aquaculture License #000012
4. Commercial lease site to grow out shellfish via bottom culture and cage culture. Shellfish harvested by means of bull rake, dredge, scuba, and pulling cages via work barge and hydraulic crane.
5. Facility Located:
 - a. 54 Perrywinkle Rd, Wakefield, RI
 - b. Point Judith Pond, Area 10PJ
 - c. 41.412443/71.566642
 - d. All other coordinates on file under lease agreement
6. Growing primarily the Eastern American Oyster (*Crassostrea Virginica*);
7. We use two different methods for growing our oysters.
 - a. Bottom culture. Free planted oysters directly on the mud.
 - b. Cages on the southern most 2 acres of the farm.
 - c. Modification: in addition to these two methods of grow out, I would also like to try growing the oysters in mesh bags on rope trawl lines along the bottom.
8. We use PVC Spar buoys to indicate the corners of the farm. On each corner marker is our CRMC assent # in 3" typing.
9. RI 10PJ
10. Practices & Procedures are as follows:
 - a. Growth
 - i. We start our seed oysters in registered upweller systems which we purchase at 1mm-2mm from hatcheries with approval and notification of the CRMC.
 - ii. Before the seed has reached 32mm in size we move them to our lease in Point Judith Pond (CRMC 02-10-38) and also to the Matunuck Oyster Farm for grow out in the farm practices approved. We keep track of size and volume moved throughout the year.
 - iii. We collect our shellfish after 18-36 months of growing on the bottom and in cages by means of bull-rake, dredge, and scuba diving. Our largest shellfish are culled and consolidated in our sub-tidal bottom cages, where they are tracked and allowed to sit for 7+ days before formally harvested and shipped to consumers around country.
 - b. Harvest
 - i. We pull our harvested oysters from our sub tidal tray stacks after they have been sitting for at least 7+ days in that submerged environment.
 - ii. When necessary, the shellfish are dunked in an ice slurry, and brought down to a temperature below 50F within two hours of being harvested. Oysters are then transported under shade to

Galilee several times a week to be shipped. A refrigerated trucking company based in Galilee then ships them to restaurants and distributors around the country.

iii. All shellfish harvested on site has been submerged for more than 7 days before harvest.

c. Storage

i. We store our oysters in coolers that are sanitized following our Health Dept. Shipper's License protocol. And in our refrigerated trucks.

d. Transportation

i. Oysters are transported on ice in coolers by truck to their destination or in our refrigerated trucks.

e. Sale of Shellfish

i. We sell the shellfish to ourselves with our Dealer License from the Health Department.

11. & 12. All seed acquired from approved hatcheries out of state and also in-state operations. Notifying CRMC Aquaculture Coordinator of acquisitions.

13. Record Keeping

- Harvest records are kept per DEM regs at Salt Pond Oyster Processing facility at 54 Perrywinkle Road, Wakefield, RI. All seed acquired from out of state will be approved by CRMC before import. A disease pathology report will accompany seed purchase. Ice is adequately used per DOH regs.

- All records for seed processing is kept at Salt pond Oyster's upwellers at 54 Perrywinkle Road, Wakefield. This location is in prohibited water however seed is removed no larger than 25mm (well below the required 32mm). Seed is graded from June – September with sieves (2mm-12mm). Seed transferred to my farm in Point Judith Pond will grow on bottom or in cages for at least 18 months before harvest (well longer than the required 12 months). Seed transferred or sold to other farms will be notified that the seed must follow all DEM guidelines for harvesting after spending time in prohibited waters.

Modification and Reasons for Modification

- We are asking for permission to install trawl lines of oyster bags to be implemented on the farm where there was previously only a free planted bottom culture method used. The lines will run north to south in a fashion displayed on attached documents. All bags will rise no higher than 6 inches off the bottom (after settling in sediment) adding no hazard for continued recreational navigation of the waterway. Five-foot auger anchors will hold the trawl lines in place ensuring no gear will leave the lease from any storm activity. They will also be used as an anchor for the barge to work off. The idea is that the trawl lines of bags will be hauled with a side working pontoon platform attached to our aluminum work barge weekly throughout the year. There will be a hydraulic conveyor mounted in the middle of the work platform in order to move the bags along as we empty them. We will be emptying the oysters out and switching the bags occasionally with clean bags to eliminate the biofouling that typically impedes the growth of our shellfish. The lines will be set up grid style to minimize the amount of buoys. The bags will be attached to a wire rack that will hold the bag up off

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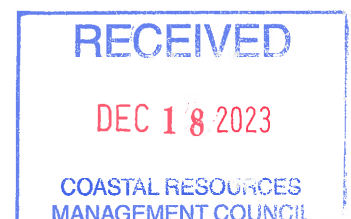
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MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

the bottom and the wire racks will be attached to each other with rope. There's will be 250 bags per line.

No additional acreage is being requested.

This idea was inspired by the current flip farm model in order to increase production and lower employee overhead cost, however these lines will not be floating and will not have any visual impact or encroach on any navigation. A single buoy will indicate the end of the trawl line on the south end of the trawl line.

- Our reason for applying for this modification is to improve the overall commercial viability of our operation.
1. Adding bags on trawl lines will require less labor hours per oyster harvested. The different method will be easier to automate using a hydraulic conveyor system, hydraulic tumblers and shellfish laser counter.
 2. Increase survival rate of our crop. We have found the methods we've been using for nearly 20 years are no longer sufficient to keep up with the demand of RI shellfish.
 3. We are having difficulty finding reliable employees since Covid.
 4. We are losing valuable product due to suffocation in the sediment if they are not harvested within a certain time period. Having our shellfish in bags slightly raised off the bottom will prevent suffocation in the mud.
 5. Having the oysters in bags will protect them against several predators in point Judith pond such as green crabs, blue crabs, starfish, drills, and Asian fiddler crabs.
 6. The farm will require less employees to harvest and tend to the shellfish needed for our weekly harvests. The amount of oysters harvested using this method is expected to dramatically increase compared to our current production.
 7. Over the years we have caught several people stealing the oysters in the evening and at night and even had two people arrested. The free plant method is too tempting for human theft and securing them in bags should do away with this.
 8. We are seeking permission to install 6 lines of bags as a test sample and if successful, install more lines of bags in the future.
 9. There is an area on the southwest corner where eelgrass exists. Bags will not be put in this area.



Category B Requirements:

1. Demonstrate the need for the proposed activity or alteration.

The need for the proposed modification to the Oyster Farm is described in previous page.

2. 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; local approvals are required for activities as specifically prescribed for nontidal portions of a project in Sections 1.3.1 (B), 1.3.1(C), 1.3.1 (F), 1.3.1 (H), 1.3.1 (I), 1.3.1 (K), 1.3.1 (M), 1.3.1(O) and 1.3.1 (Q) of this part; for projects on state land, the state building official,
This question does not apply to this application modification.

3. Describe the boundaries of the coastal waters and land area that is anticipated to be affected.

—

Lat/long coordinates and size of farm: 34 acres

41°24°08.080"N; 71°30°36.900°W 41°24°08.150"N; 71°30°32.630°W

41°24°01.501°N; 71°30°32.411°W 41°23°59.820°N; 71°30°19.140°W

41°23°57.240°N; 71°30°19.140°W 41°23°53.711°N; 71°30°22.900°W

41°23°51.261°N; 71°30°22.943°W 41°23°51.239°N; 71°30°28.126°W

41°23°53.648°N; 71°30°28.113°W 41°23°53.657°N; 71°30°30.613°W

41°23°57.200°N; 71°30°36.200°W

The four corners that would have bags on the bottom would be as shown on attached chart.

41° 24' 1.3"N 071° 30' 27.5"W (NE Corner)

41° 23' 54.0"N 071° 30' 27.5"W (SE Corner)

41° 23' 54.0"N 071° 30' 30.5"W (SW Corner)

41° 24' 1.3"N 071° 30' 30.5"W (NW corner)

A total of 4 acres.



4. 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.

Shellfish Aquaculture has never shown any evidence of an impact on erosion or disposition in tidal waters.

5. Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant impacts on the abundance and diversity of plant and animal life.

It has been well documented that selfish aquaculture , especially oyster bags and cages, provide fish habitat. Also, there is a small area of eelgrass that will be not used for oyster bags. There will only be a positive impact on plant and animal life.

6. 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 shellfish bags only being 6 inches maximum off the bottom will not impact any navigation or use of title waters. There will still be at least 4 to 6 feet of water above the oyster bags for boats to travel over.

7. Demonstrate that the alteration will not result in significant impacts to water circulation, flushing, turbidity, and sedimentation.

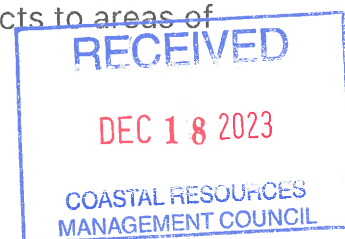
The low profile bags on the bottom will not significantly impact any water, circulation, flushing, or sedimentation.

8. Demonstrate that there will be no significant deterioration in the quality of the water in the immediate vicinity as defined by DEM.

It has been documented that one individual oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day. Oysters are believed to increase water quality.

9. Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant impacts to areas of historic and archaeological significance.

There is no archaeological significance to this area.



10. 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.

Again, the oyster bags will be raised just off the bottom, and will not change any navigation, swimming, boating, or fishing activities.

11.. Demonstrate that measures have been taken to minimize any adverse scenic impact.

Ever since the start of the Oyster Farm in 2002, it was a priority to Not interfere with any other

competing uses of the pond. I believe that we can still maintain that relationship with boating, navigation, and fishing, and improve the overall production of the farm at the same time. And doing so there will be no adverse impact, and we will even be minimizing the amount of buoys being used to accomplish the same result.

Add requirements:

1. Describe location and size.

Location has been identified in previous pages.

2. Identify the species to be managed or cultivated within the permitted area and over which the applicant shall have exclusive, right.

Eastern oysters. *Crassostrea Virginica*

3. Describe the method or manner of management, or cultivation to be utilized, including whether the activities proposed are experimental, commercial, or personal use.

The commercial Oyster Farm has been commercially harvesting oysters since 2002. However, the proposed modification is an experiment to try to increase production.

4. . Provides such other information as may be necessary for the council to determine.

A. The compatibility of the proposal with other existing and potential uses of the area and areas, including navigation, recreation, and fishing.

Already answered in previous questions.

B. The degree of exclusivity required for aquaculture activities on the proposed site.

The established oyster farm is not exclusive to Aquaculture as described in previous questions.

C. The safety and security of equipment, including appropriate, marking of the equipment and or lease area.

As described in previous questions, the lease is marked with PVC spar buoys to indicate the farms corners

D. The projected per unit area yield of harvestable product.

This is currently an unknown. However, the anticipated production is expected to increase dramatically based on the increased survival.

E. The cumulative impact of a particularly Aquaculture proposal in an area, in addition to other agriculture operations already in place.

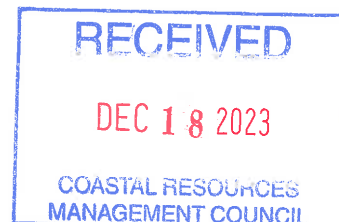
There will be no cumulative impact on the area or any other agriculture operations nearby.

F. The capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed activities.

The owner/operator has been the owner operator for the last 22 years, and this is his main source of income, and has every desire, and need to improve the overall production of the farm.

G. The impact of the proposed activities on the scenic qualities of the area.

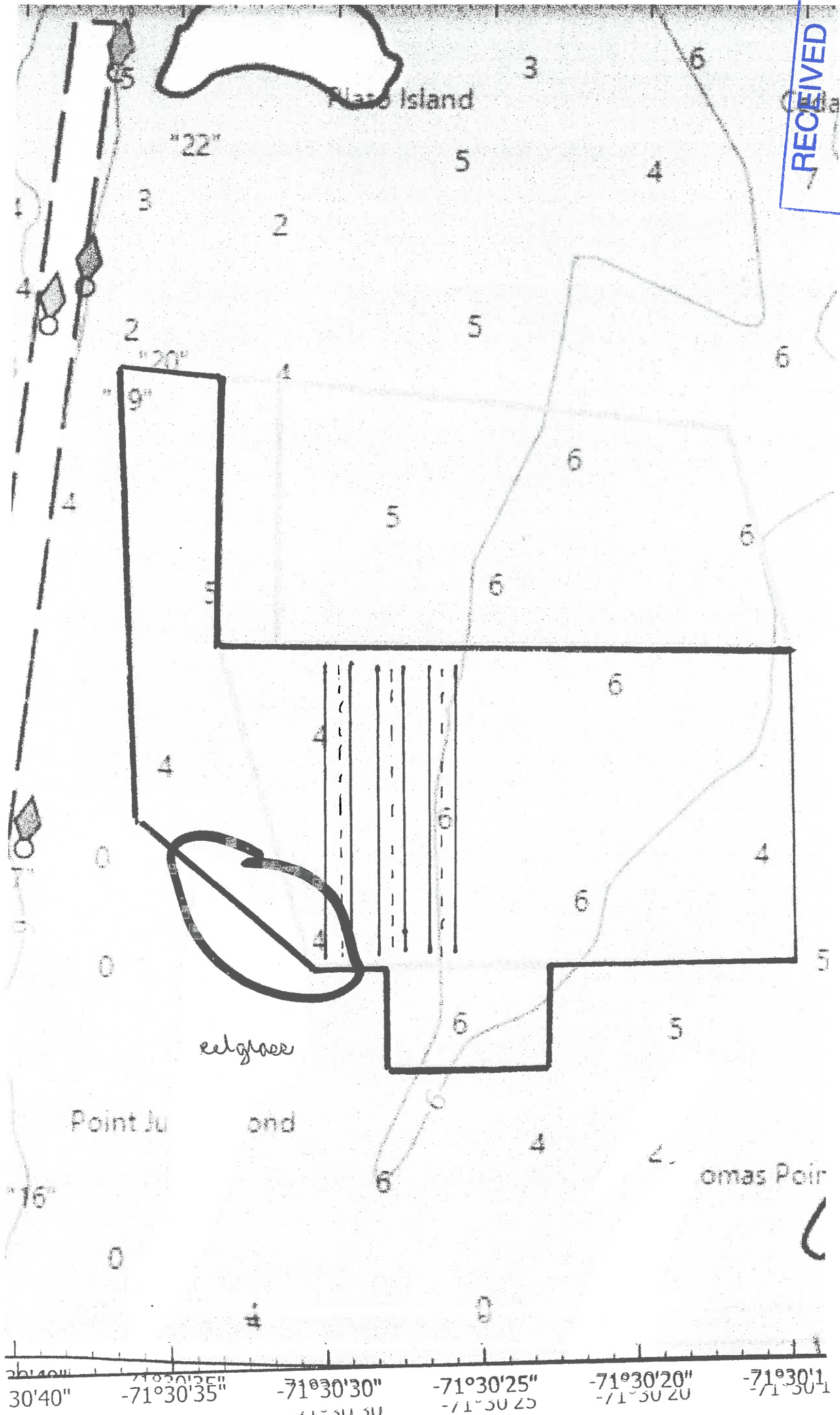
There will be no impact on the scenic qualities, except for a few small buoys added that will not be visible from shore.



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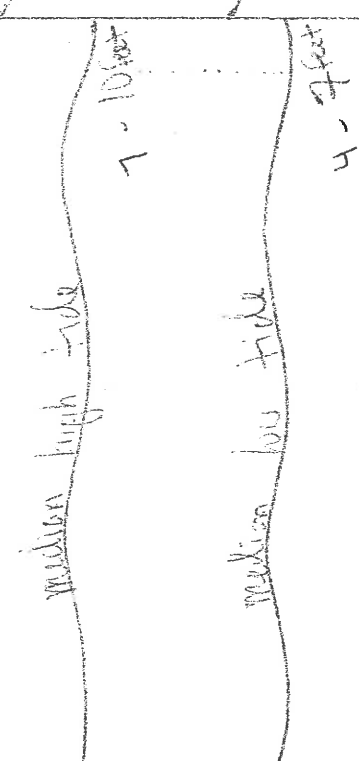
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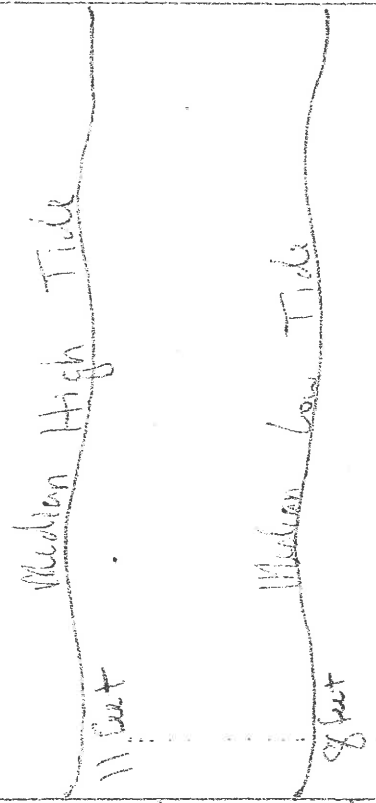


WATER COLUMN OVERVIEW FOR WASTE MINUTATION

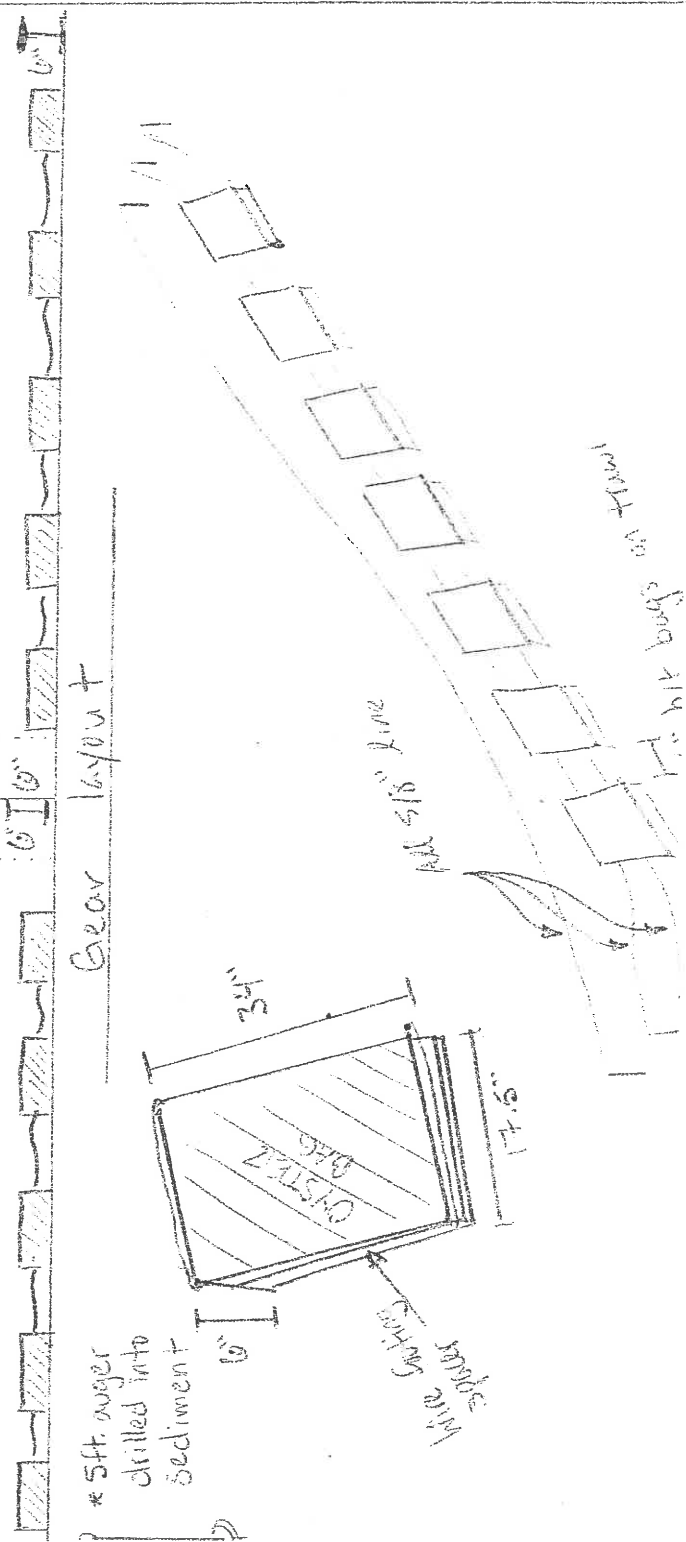
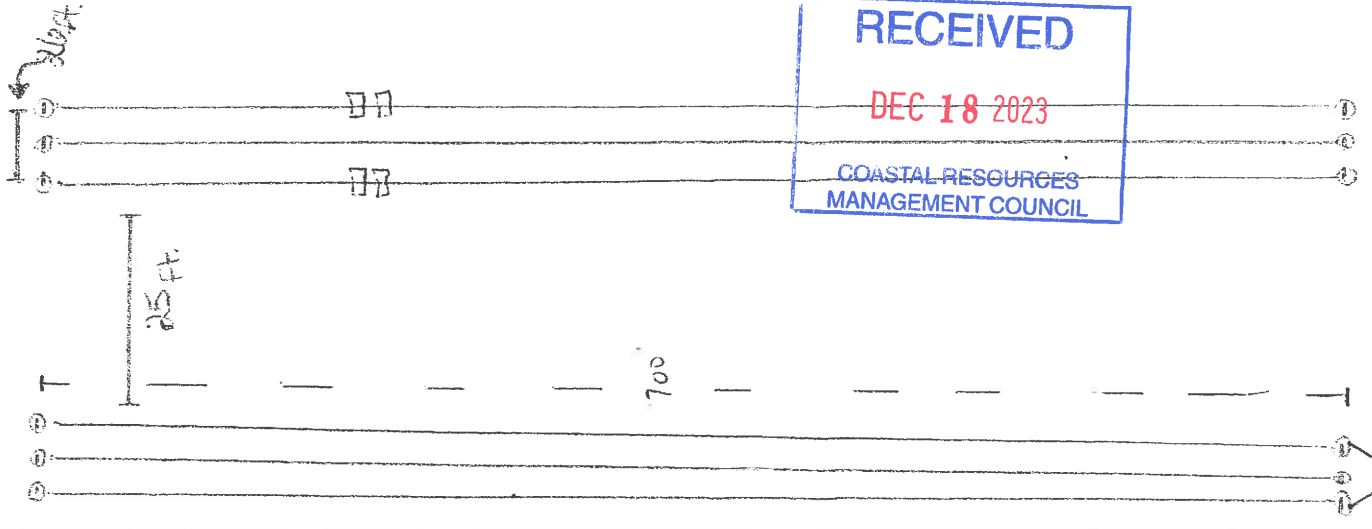
Western Section View



Eastern Section View



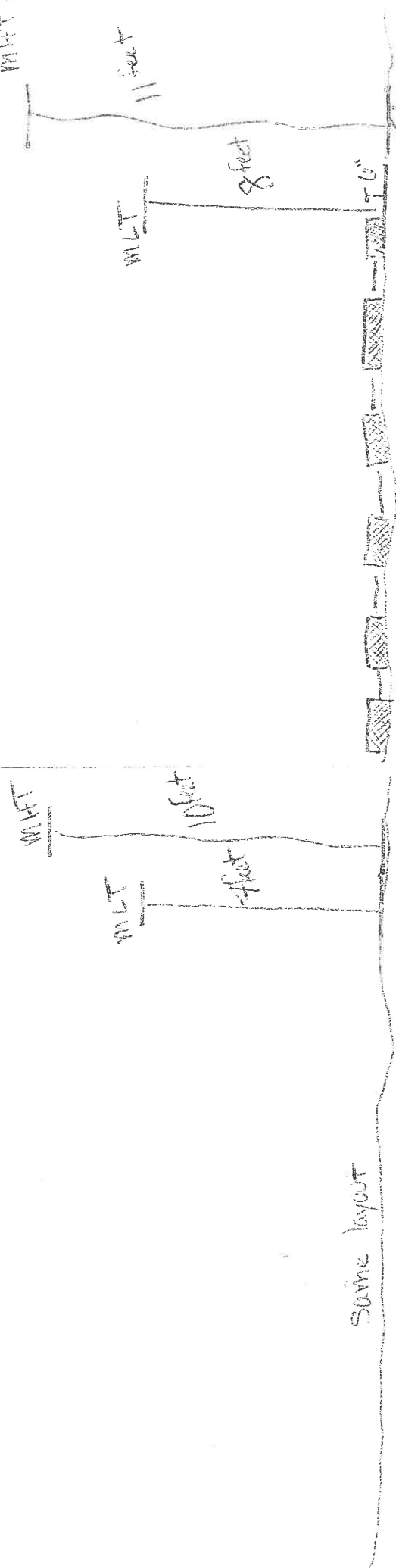
Overhead view



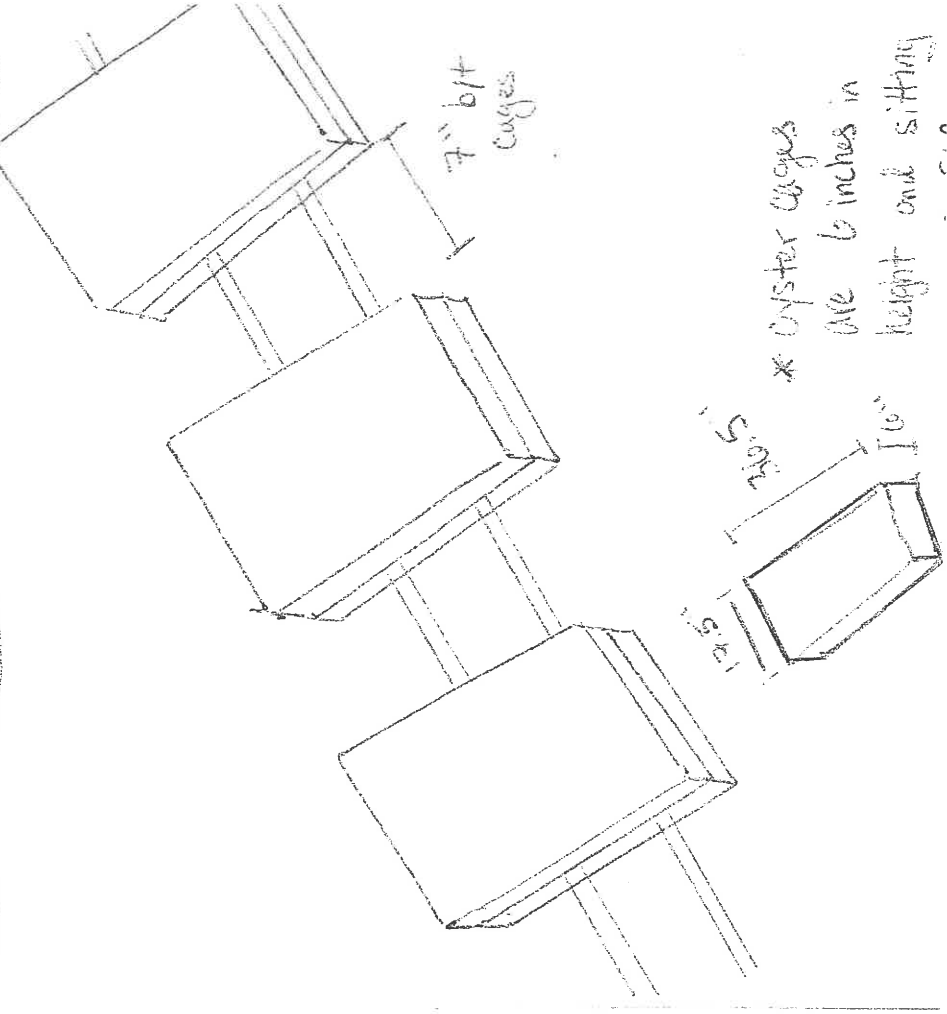
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BACKS ON BOTH
OUTTER LINES

Western Section Eastern Section



Same dimensions



ANCHORS

Approx 260 BAGS/LINE

10 BAGS OR 16' 3"

NO
BAGS
ON
MIDDLE
LINE

700'

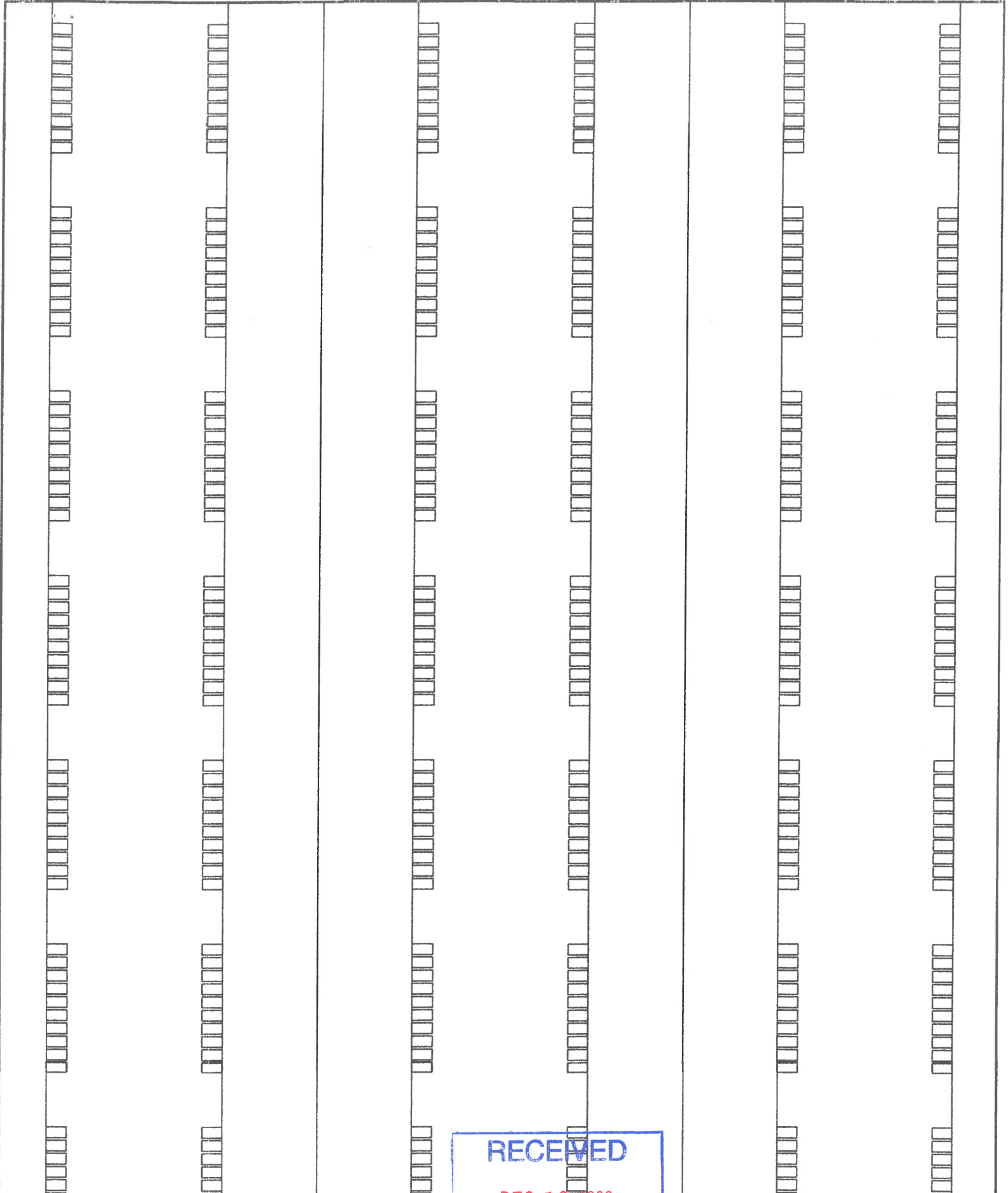
26'

Tension (Guide)
LINE

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Site Location:
SALT POND OYSTERS
PT. JUDITH POND
WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

Prepared For:
Salt Pond Oysters

DWG: SK-1
TITLE: TRAWL LINE LAYOUT
DATE: JUN 14, 2023
SCALE: 1" = 200'