



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

File Number: 2015-01-051

Date: February 2, 2015

This office has under consideration the application of:

Robert Krause
PO Box 1527
Charlestown, RI 02813

for a State of Rhode Island Assent to construct and maintain: an aquaculture farm expansion in Ninigret Pond (please see attached maps)

Project Location:	Ninigret Pond
City/Town:	Charlestown
Plat/Lot:	/
Waterway:	Ninigret 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 March 4, 2015.

LOCUS MAP
MANAGEMENT POND

Proposed Aquaculture
Site Expansion

North West
-71° 39' 7.60"
41° 21' 36.30"

South East
-71° 39' 4.65"
41° 21' 32.05"

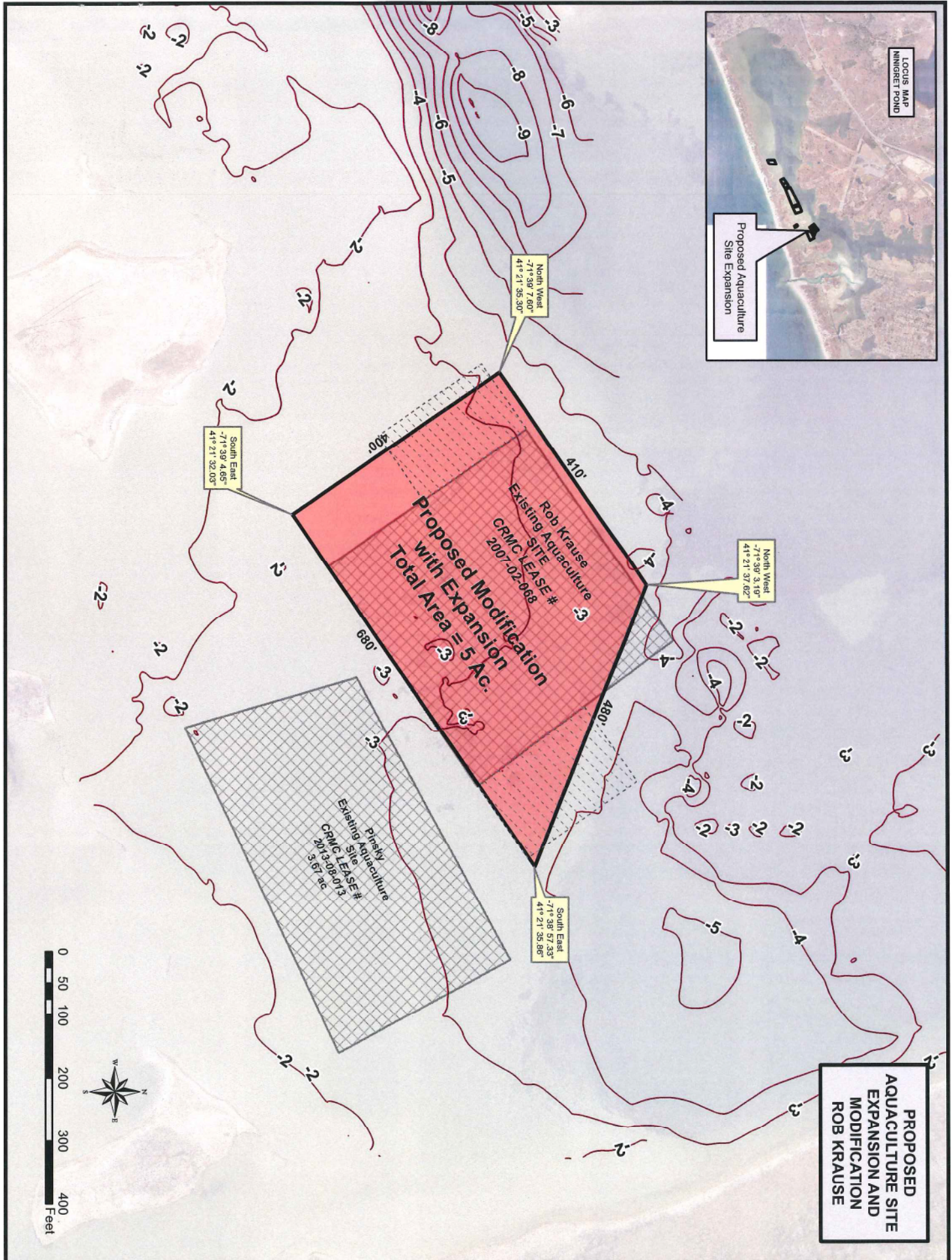
North West
-71° 39' 3.19"
41° 21' 37.62"

South East
-71° 39' 5.33"
41° 21' 35.98"

Rob Krause
Existing Aquaculture
SITE
CRMC LEASE #
2007-02-068
**Proposed Modification
with Expansion
Total Area = 5 Ac.**

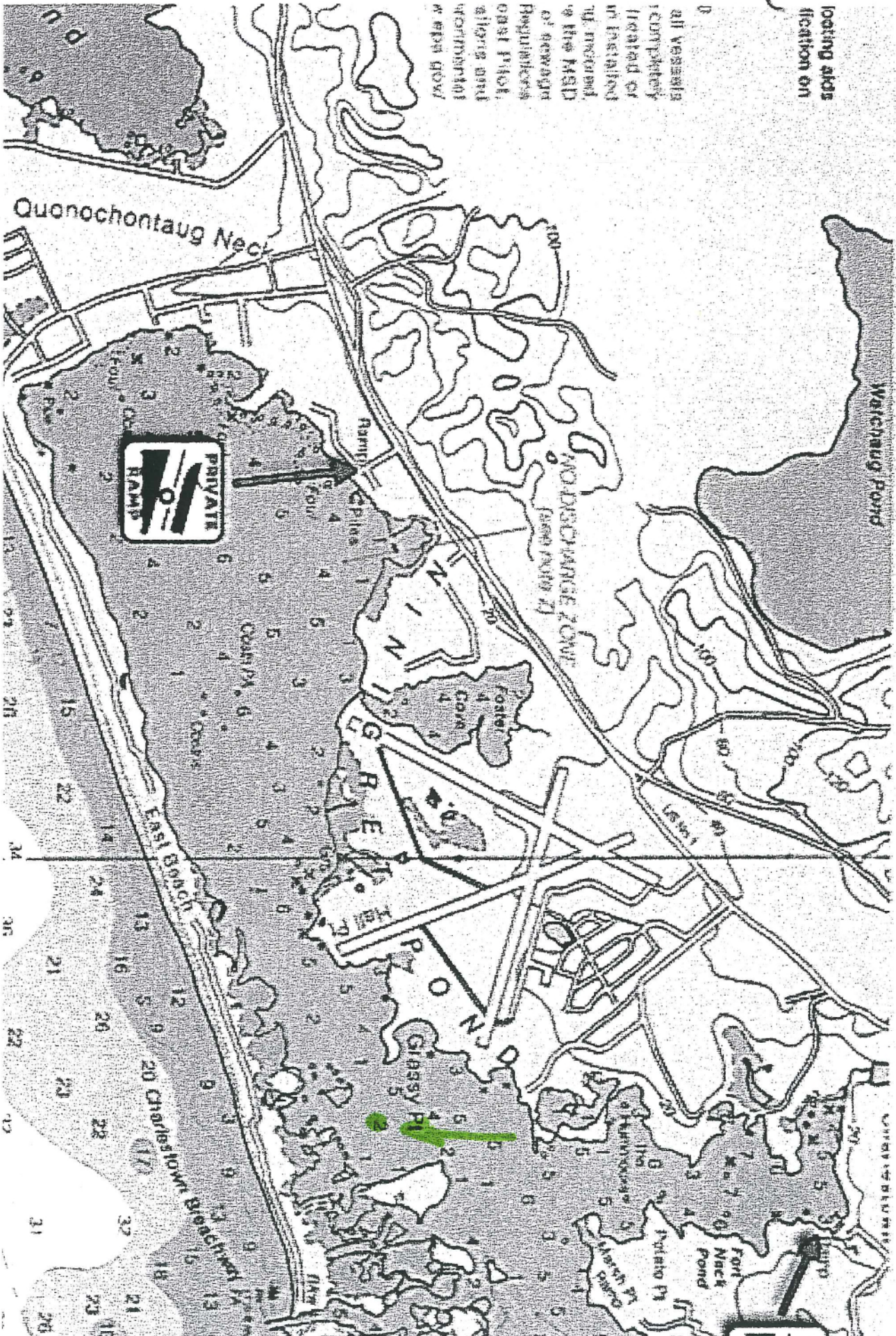
Pinsky
Existing Aquaculture
SITE
CRMC LEASE #
2013-08-013
3.67 ac

**PROPOSED
AQUACULTURE SITE
EXPANSION AND
MODIFICATION
ROB KRAUSE**



floating aids
location on

all vessels
completely
loaded or
in partial
of the MSLD
of seawater
Regulator's
orst Pilot,
aligning and
horizontal
a wps gov/



Full Aquaculture Lease Expansion

2015-01-051
CRMC FILE # A 2014-10-145

Robert Krause - Ninigret Oyster Farm
P.O. 1527
Charlestown, RI 02813
1/12/2015

Introduction:

My name is Robert Krause, owner and operator of Ninigret Oyster Farm. We have been growing oysters for 16 years in the State of Rhode Island. This proposal is to expand, and overlap on an existing 2 acre lease in Charlestown Pond up to an area of 4.95 acres in size. The lease number is 2007-01-032. The added space will allow for the spreading out of current gear, and add additional gear to the site.

The layout of the proposed site will follow the concept as we demonstrated during the preliminary determination hearing. The western side of the lease will be used for our stackable 1" wire trays. A diagram is attached. The eastern edge of the lease will be used for the bag and cage culture coming off the upweller site. A diagram of the cage's are attached. The flow of the crops work their way from east to west over the course of 2 to 3 years.

The added space will allow our farm to continue growing. We wish to add 240 sets of new stackable 2' x 3' x 18" grow out trays, and 80 new cages to the site.

CRMC Section 300.11 Written Responses

1) Demonstrate the need for the proposed activity or alteration:

We have been farming oysters and clams on this existing site for 7 years and have met the maximum carrying capacity for the site. In order to meet the current demands from our customers, we need to plant more product. More space and gear will be necessary for the growth of our business.

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:

There are no local zoning ordinances, building codes, flood hazard standards, or safety codes, fire codes, and environmental requirements to be met in order to operate this farm.

3) Describe the boundaries of the coastal waters and land area that are anticipated to be affected:

We are asking to lease an area that has no recreational or commercial activity. Typically, our operation is working in the close proximity to the proposed expansion 6 days per week when weather permits. The oysters and clams that are planted on the current site have a positive impact to the environment. Oysters filter and remove nitrogen and carbon. The cages provide an oasis for juvenile fish. Dozens of varieties of fish can be seen inhabiting this area that 10 years ago weren't present. Ninigret Oyster Farm staff pride themselves on being good stewards to the environment.

- 4) Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant impacts on erosion and/or deposition processes along the shore and tidal waters:

After 7 years of intensive oyster culture in this location we have not seen any signs of erosion from our practices. There has been very little deposits noticed from waste.

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

The addition of cages and trays will only allow more hiding spots for juvenile fish. We would anticipate more small fish, and game fish to occupy this area. Plants and animals tend to grow on oyster gear as well. We should only enhance the bio diversity on this site.

- 6) Demonstrate that the alteration will not unreasonably interfere with, impair, or significantly impact public access to, or use of, tidal waters and/or the shore:

This site will allow most boat traffic to pass over without any incidents. Kayaks and sport fisherman tend to frequent this area. The current lease tends to have fish patrolling the area that anglers tend to target. Kayakers are welcome to pass over and see what we are doing. We will usually take 5 minutes for a quick lesson and possibly a free oyster if they are polite. It is our personal feeling that we are privileged to work in this salt pond, and we should take the time to explain to the public what is going on out here.

Unfortunately, there can be a negative side to being out here as well. Our vessels tend to give the illusion that it is deep water. Even though we may be standing in waist high water, a 32 foot boat with twin 350 horse power engines may hit the sand bar at full throttle near us. This is more of an operator error, combined with an oversized vessel issue in the shallow salt pond.

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

Aquaculture gear is designed specifically to promote water circulation and flushing since oysters are filter feeders and need large amounts of water in order to grow and survive.

Oysters will have a positive impact on the turbidity of the water in which they grow. Oysters will filter out particles in the water column which will cause the water to be clearer. This will decrease the turbidity in the water.

This operation will not have an impact to the sedimentation in the pond. We have not noticed a change to the sediments, other than what Hurricane Sandy did to the bottom of our existing site.

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

Oysters are filter feeders and improve the water quality of the pond.

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

There are no areas of historic or archaeological significance on the proposed lease site.

- 10) Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant conflicts with user dependent activities such as recreational boating, fishing, swimming, navigation, and commerce:

We will encourage recreational activity of fishing for finfish, swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, and bird watching on this site. The Town of Charlestown is working on navigation aids to boaters, and signage to keep vessels out of the existing aquaculture leases. We will continue to work with the Town and community to educate the general public about safety on all the existing aquaculture leases.

Our goal is to increase commerce with this project. The more we make, the more we spend. Aquaculture adds to the localized economic activity.

- 11) Demonstrate that measures have been taken to minimize any adverse scenic impact:

The proposed operation will not disturb the aesthetics of the pond. Besides the buoys marking the site and a few buoys attached to cages that is about all you see out there.

Ninigret Oyster Farm Operation Plan

P.O. 1527
Charlestown, RI 02813
401-529-3519
contact: RobKrause

SHL # 476
A # 56
SDL # 24
MP # 514

Ninigret Oyster Farm consists of 2 lease's in Charlestown Pond that are marked with 4 buoys and the CRMC assent number at each corner. Both sites are in open waters, there are no issues with polution. Both lease sites are permitted to grow the eastern oyster, bay scallop, and quahog (little neck clam).

Lease # 1 is CRMC 1977-6-03, a one acre site in the north end of the pond. This site has 2 purposes. Purpose 1; is to grow oyster seed during the summer months on our solar powered upweller system. This cutting edge technology has the capabilities of growing up to 10,000,000 oyster seed from 1 mm to 1/2" during the summer months. The raft is where our markets are stored for harvest, and light gear storage. Purpose 2; during the Fall and Winter the raft turns into market product storage. This allows our farm to have a solid grasp on market inventory.

Lease # 2 is CRMC 2007-01-032 is a 2 acre lease used for cage growth for 1 year in bags, and final grow out in a stackable tray system. 1/2" oysters are transferred to this site from the raft site. The oysters are cared for in a bag and cage system for approximately 1 year until they reach 1.75" and are transferred into our final grow out gear. We use a 2' X 3' X 18" tall set of trays made of vinyl coated 1" wire. This site has 150 cages with 6 bags per cage, and 300 sets of 1" wire trays. Also, oysters are spread on the bottom for grow out as well. Bottom culture tends to be hit or miss with survival. The crab population seems to appreciate an ample supply of food. Bottom planting of oysters should only occur when all gear is full at maximum capacity.

Harvesting of product generally is conducted at least 3 days per week. Our gear is either hauled into a boat for handling, or by working in the water. The markets are typically scraped and brushed while being sorted. The smaller pieces tend to go back into the stackable 2'X3' trays and re deployed to be picked another day. The separated markets are placed in stackable gear inside the rafts cage system. The standard procedure is to sell all picked product one week after sorted. This provides an opportunity for the animal to repair any chipped shells, and to be packed directly on ice during the summer months.

During the critical harvest times of year for bacteria concerns. We are capable of packing our orders and icing the product within 15 minutes. All of our packing and shipping of our markets are coordinated with the refrigerated truck that our wholesale business own. We are part owners of the Ocean State Shellfish Cooperative.

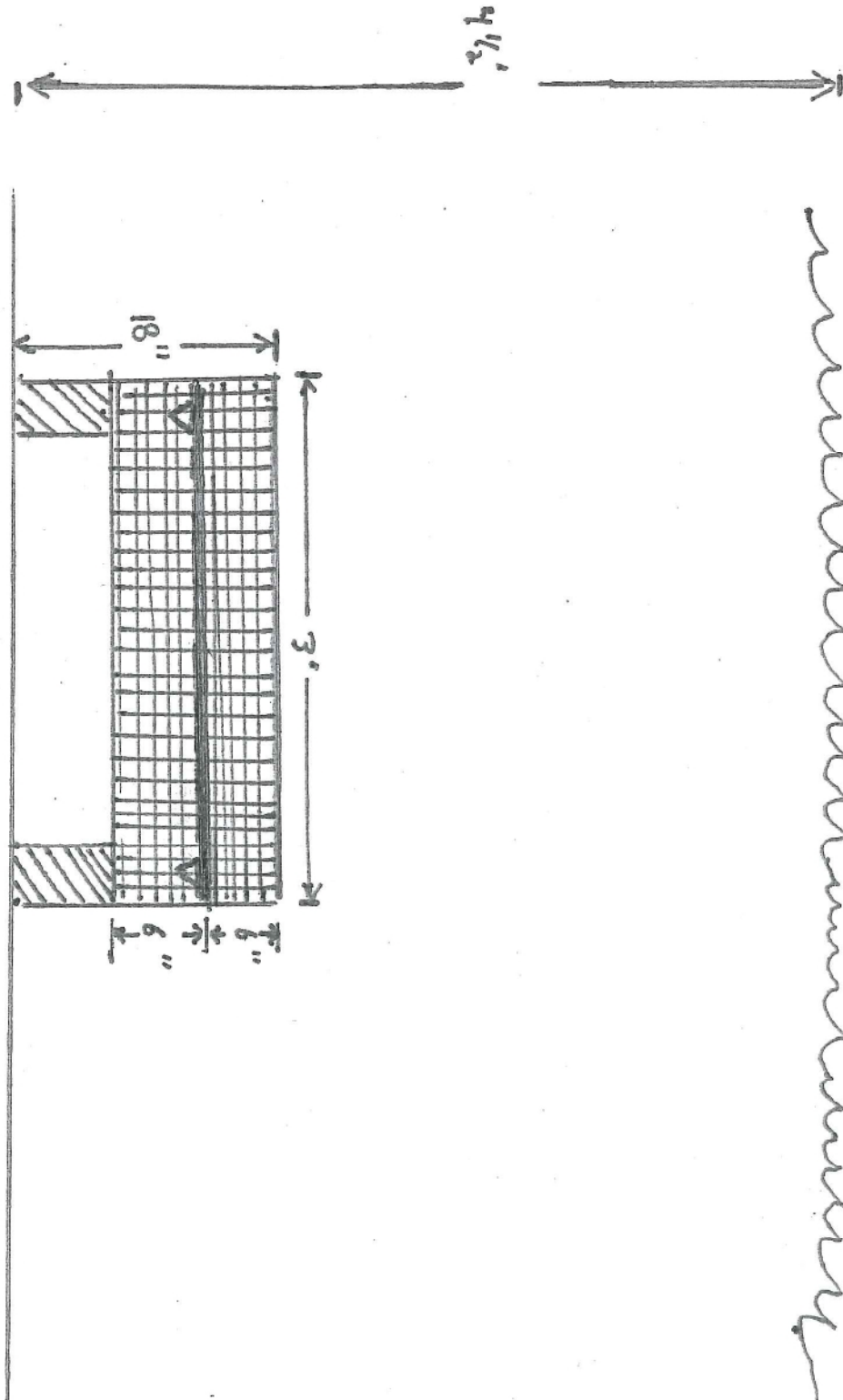
Seed Source:

Our seed tends to be ordered from a variety of hatcheries that provide the proper pathology reports to the State of Rhode Island, and we follow the State's biosecurity boards protocol. We try to order seed from at least 2 or 3 hatcheries: Mook Sea Farms, ME; ARC, MA; Fisher's Island, NY; Oyster Seed Holdings, VA.

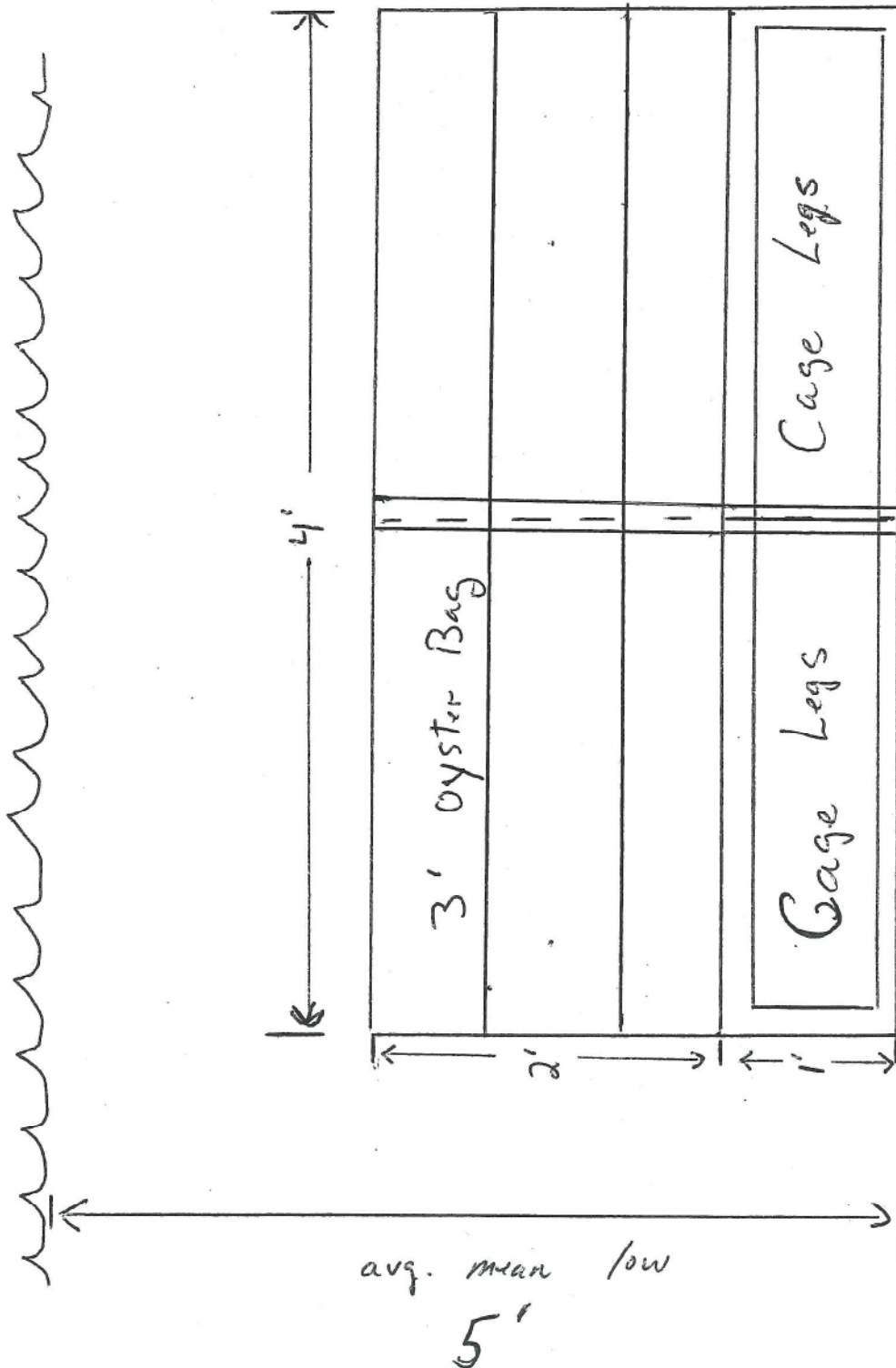
Intended Recipients:

All of our product is sold through the Ocean State Shellfish Cooperative. This is a partnership of 6 existing farms in Rhode Island. The OSSC has developed a strong list of wholesale and retail customers throughout the USA.

Ninigret Oyster Farm's proposed lease expansion for the North West corner
This section will be used for final grow out for oysters greater than 2"
The tray dimension will be 2' wide X 3' long X 18" tall



Ninigret Oyster Farm's proposed lease expansion for the South East corner
This section will be used for seed growth until oysters reach 1 1/2"
The cage dimension will be 4' X 3' X 2' tall



RECEIVED
JAN 29 2015
COASTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

North West
-71° 38' 7.60"
41° 21' 35.50"

South East
-71° 38' 4.65"
41° 21' 32.03"

North West
-71° 38' 3.19"
41° 21' 37.62"

South East
-71° 38' 57.33"
41° 21' 35.86"

PROPOSED
AQUACULTURE SITE
EXPANSION AND
MODIFICATION
ROB KRAUSE

(3 Rows)

Contract Area

ROW 3

400'

410'

480'

680'

