



CRMC Aquaculture Policy

The RI Coastal Resources Management Council

David Alves

Aquaculture Coordinator

CRMC Aquaculture Policy

- Aquaculture is defined as the culture of aquatic species under natural or artificial conditions.
- CRMC is lead agency for all aquaculture permitting in Rhode Island

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- **B. Policies**

- 1. The CRMC recognizes that commercial aquaculture is a viable means for supplementing the yields of marine fish and shellfish food products, and shall support commercial aquaculture in those locations where it can be accommodated among other uses of Rhode Island waters.

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- Council grants permits for aquaculture activity.
 - May grant exclusive use of area for culture
 - Not usually granted
 - May require removal of facility
 - Temporary removal for research
 - If site has become a navigation or safety hazard
 - If site is not actively farmed

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- Preliminary Determination
 - Staff meeting with federal, state, local officials and NGO's to review application,
 - Federal agencies: NMFS, EPA, USFWS, CG,
 - State agencies: RI DEM F&W and Water Quality, RI DOH,
 - NGO: RISA, RISWAA, OSFA,
 - Town officials: Harbor master, conservation commission, planner, town manager, etc.

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- Preliminary Determination meetings have been successful in weeding out or modifying inappropriate applications before they go further,

Examples of process working: Rocky Pt. application, RISA worked to move and decrease proposed site, this was done. Usher's Cove application, OSFA notified us that this was an area that was fished, application denied. Pt. Judith application, F&W notified us that Eel grass was in proposed site, application denied.

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- Commercial aquaculture application:
 - 30 day public comment period
 - Notice is sent to towns, PD participants,
 - Application is forwarded on to the Shellfish Advisory panel of the RI Marine Fisheries Council

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- Prerequisites for permitting:
 - Prior to issuing a permit for marine aquaculture within tidal waters, the Council shall obtain and give appropriate consideration to written recommendations from the Director or his or her designee of the Department of Environmental Management and the chairman of the Marine Fisheries Council.

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- Freshwater aquaculture applications are sent to DEM Division of Agriculture
 - RIPDES permit, F&W consultation, local zoning rules,



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- Upwellers are permitted in marinas and private docks



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- CRMC BioSecurity Board
 - A board of experts that advises Council on aquaculture disease issues and species introductions.
 - Have also advised DEM director on species introduction; “Black Salty”
 - No non-indigenous species allowed with out BioSecurity Board approval

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- Policy prohibitions:
 - Fish pens in Coastal ponds
 - Shellfish leases in uncertified waters
 - Upwellers at existing docks in Type 1 waters
 - Introduction of non-indigenous species W/O Biosecurity board approval

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- Lease requirements:
 - Performance Bond, minimum \$5,000.00
 - Yearly lease, signed and notarized
 - Lease fee, one of the highest fees in country

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- Other types of in water permits:
 - Commercial Viability,
 - Research/Educational,
 - Experimental,

All are very restrictive: 1,000 square foot limit, limited or no sale of product, limited time period. Same notification as other applications.

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- Restrictions on leases:
 - If not farmed for one year lease is revoked.
 - If bond isn't maintained lease is revoked.
 - Lease holder does not have exclusive use of lease area.

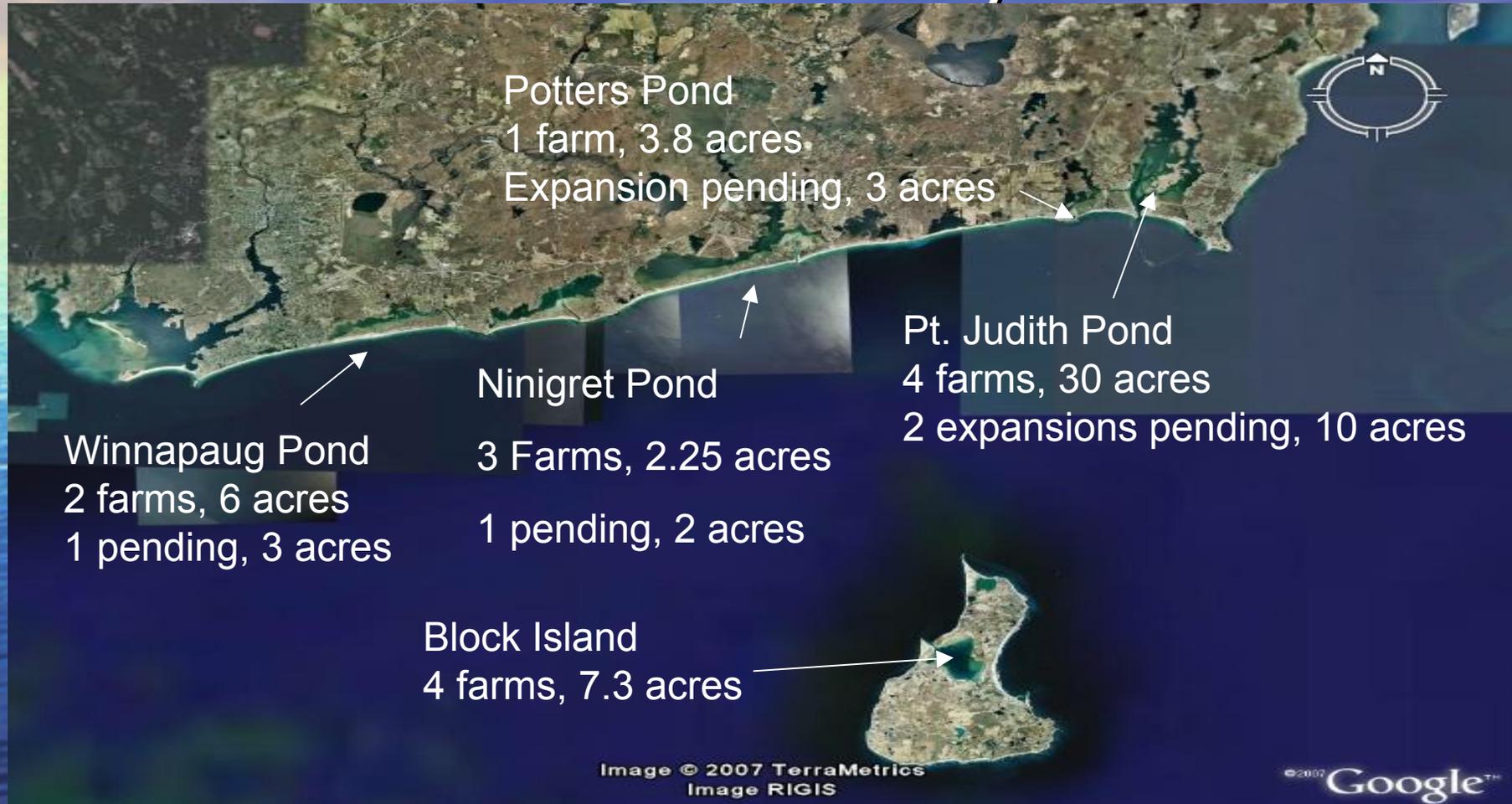
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Where are they?



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Where are they?



Pointer 41°17'18.83" N 71°39'04.72" W

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CRMC Aquaculture Policy

- Future issues facing CRMC aquaculture policy
 - CRMC strives to be proactive and to include all stakeholders in the process,
 - CRMC works with recognized experts from URI and RWU,
 - Supports research into sustainable aquaculture,
 - Works with fishing industry to utilize aquaculture for stock enhancement,

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- Aquaculture industry growth increases possible user conflict,
- CRMC Working Group on Aquaculture Regulations
 - 1st met from 1999 to 2001
 - Just began a new series of meetings as a result of questions from DEM F&W and MFC on lack of a aquaculture development plan.

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- Conclusions:
- Aquaculture in RI is subject to many restrictions and requirement to ensure rights of other users.
- The CRMC is dedicated to maintaining balance between public's rights and aquaculture development.