

CRMC in the News

RI aquaculture in the spotlight: CRMC Ninigret tours a success

V.2 Iss.6 June 2016

Wind whips over the waters on Ninigret Pond, but the sun is warm and it's just another day at the office for oyster farmer Nick Papa and his crew.

Papa, the owner of East Beach Farms, has been working on the pond since 2004, and sells his oysters to restaurants nationwide, in addition to a number of eateries in Newport. Papa also has the largest of the oyster farms on this pond; he and his three-person crew work his 6-acre lease from spring until winter. He utilizes an additional 10.95 acres for winter storage, using a bottom plant method (oysters rest on the pond bottom) in deeper pond waters.

"With bottom plant, the challenges are almost non-existent," said David Beutel, aquaculture coordinator for the R. I. Coastal Resources Management Council, which took members of the public, CRMC staff and Council members, as well as a few reporters, out on a pontoon boat on June 2 to visit a few of the leases on Ninigret. According to Beutel, most of the aquaculture here is on the washover fan, in two to three feet of water (on the eastern side). The rest of the pond doesn't get much deeper than six feet.

[Learn more](#)



Nick Papa, owner of East Beach Farms, talks about growing and farming his oysters during tours on Ninigret Pond on June 2.

Upcoming Events

- **New England Quahog Festival;** 6/25/16, 10-5 p.m.; Wickford (NK town beach)
- **Northeast Regional Ocean Plan public meeting,** 6/29/16, 6-8:30 p.m.; URI Coastal Institute
- **Shellfish Research Tour;** 8/15/16, 10-12:30 p.m.; Melrose Avenue School lot, 76 Melrose Ave., Jamestown (*see info at bottom*)

RI's first kelp farm permitted by Council

The first exclusive kelp farm in Rhode Island, to be located within the Point Judith Harbor of Refuge, was recently approved by the R.I. CRMC.

The Council unanimously approved the application for the 2.75-acre farm at its May 24, 2016 semi-monthly meeting. According to CRMC Aquaculture Coordinator David Beutel, the permitting process took a year to complete.

Though kelp farming is new to Rhode Island, there are a number of successful farms in operation in Maine. Kelp is grown in a suspended method, with a series of lines and anchors, the uppermost ends of which are submerged seven to eight feet below the surface. As the kelp grows, weights may be added to ensure the kelp stays submerged. Applicant David Blaney will be growing sugar kelp on his farm. According to Beutel, kelp is a winter crop, and would be harvested when there is little activity on the pond.

[Learn More](#)

Summer aquaculture tour information

What is a "shellfish restoration lease" and how does it work? Explore the answers to these questions and more this summer on a free public tour! Hear from experts, including the CRMC's aquaculture coordinator David Beutel, and the head of the [Jamestown Aquaculture Movement](#). Learn the value of shellfish restoration for water quality and marine critters. Join us and shellfish experts to learn and discuss all aspects of shellfish farming in the Ocean State.

Shellfish Research in Jamestown—Monday, August 15, 2016; 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The tour will meet in the parking lot of the [Melrose Avenue School](#), [76 Melrose Ave. Jamestown, RI 02835](#).

[Learn More](#)

CRMC holds logo contest for 45th

In celebration of the CRMC's 45th anniversary, we are looking for a special logo design that will be used to represent the CRMC in all of its public, management, permitting, and other efforts in Rhode Island during the remainder of this year (with the option to use it again as desired). Art students (current and graduated) and others from or residing in the state are invited to submit designs, on disc or USB, or via email, by **July 15, 2016**.

The winner will receive a \$500 VISA Gift Card and special merchandise displaying the logo.

[Learn more](#)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at ldwyer@crmc.ri.gov or call 401-783-7886.