

In The Matter Of:
Coastal Resources Management Council
Perry Raso

Perry Raso
January 29, 2021

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING

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IN RE:

CRMC File No. 2017-12-086

In the matter of Perry Raso

Public Comment

* * * * *

Date: January 29, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Via Zoom
Rhode Island

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Cervenka, Chair

Raymond C. Coia, Vice Chair

Donald T. Gomez

Patricia Reynolds

STAFF PRESENT

Anthony DeSisto, Esquire, Legal Counsel

Jeff Willis, Executive Director

Lisa Turner, Secretary

Ryan Moore, Moderator

Ben Goetsch, Aquaculture Coordinator

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Also Present.....John Boehnert, Esq.

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1 FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

2 [COMMENCING AT 10:12 A.M.]

3 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Welcome, everyone, to
4 what I hope is close to the last meeting before our
5 workshop in this Subcommittee meeting of the Rhode Island
6 Coastal Resources Management Council.

7 We're here for CRMC File Number 2017-12-086 in the
8 matter of Perry Raso's application to establish a
9 three-acre oyster and scallop farm using floating and
10 suspended gear in Potter Pond, South Kingstown, Rhode
11 Island.

12 We are on January 29, 2021 date. It is 10:09 a.m.,
13 and I'm going to go through the members of the
14 Subcommittee. When I call your name, you can please
15 indicate that you are here. Myself, Jennifer Cervenka,
16 Chair. Raymond Coia, Vice-Chair.

17 MR. COIA: Ray Coia is present.

18 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you. Patricia
19 Reynolds.

20 MS. REYNOLDS: Patricia Reynolds present.

21 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you. Don Gomez.

22 MR. GOMEZ: Don Gomez present.

23 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Finally, Vin Murray, our
24 South Kingstown representative.

1 MR. MURRAY: Vin Murray is present.

2 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you. From staff,
3 we have our executive director Jeffrey Willis.

4 MR. WILLIS: Here, Madam Chair.

5 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Our chief legal counsel
6 Tony DeSisto.

7 MR. DeSISTO: Here, Madam Chair.

8 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Our aquaculture
9 coordinator Ben Goetsch. Ben?

10 MR. GOETSCH: Sorry. I had an issue with my
11 audio.

12 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: If you could just
13 indicate that you're here.

14 MR. GOETSCH: Yes, present, Madam Chair.

15 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you. Ryan Moore,
16 our CRMC moderator.

17 MR. MOORE: Here, Madam Chair.

18 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Lisa Turner, our
19 recording secretary.

20 MS. TURNER: Present, Madam Chair.

21 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Lisa Reis, our court
22 reporter.

23 COURT REPORTER: Present.

24 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: And then we also have

1 visibile counsel for the Applicant, Beth Noonan, Leslie
2 Parker, as well as the Applicant Mr. Perry Raso. And for
3 the objectors we have Christian Capizzo and John Boehnert
4 and Dean Wagner.

5 So we are going to start today with finishing up on
6 our list of members of the public who would like to
7 comment on this application, either for or against. And
8 I have a list from our recording secretary, I believe,
9 that has been shared with those attending so they can see
10 the list.

11 I'll start with Matthew Meyer. Again, please keep
12 your comments to between five and ten minutes so that we
13 can get through the remainder of our list today.

14 Mr. Moore, could you admit Mr. Meyer?

15 MR. MOORE: Mr. Meyer, if you're in attendance,
16 can you please raise your hand and identify yourself. I
17 do not see you on here. Mr. Meyer?

18 Madam Chair, I do not see him on the list, and he
19 has not identified himself on any of the unnamed people
20 in the attendees room.

21 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. Remind me to come
22 back to him if I forget, but we're going to move on to
23 Michael Sassi.

24 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Michael.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Mr. Sassi, I need you to
2 unmute yourself and put on your video.

3 MR. SASSI: Got it. Okay, there I am.

4 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We got you.

5 MR. SASSI: Okay, thank you. I am Michael
6 Sassi, and my wife and family, we've been in the Matunuck
7 Point area for our whole lives. We own a property on
8 Ninigret and we use the pond with the moorings for the
9 beach club and enjoy the pond for many, many years.

10 I'm an environmental biologist by degree. I have a
11 masters in business administration finance. My business
12 is in the energy and sustainability arena, and what we do
13 is help clients reduce their carbon footprint, achieve
14 zero carbon, carbon neutrality, and we're very much into
15 sustainability. And like I said, I'm an environmentalist
16 so I care deeply about the environment.

17 I just wanted to preface that in residing on the
18 pond for all these years, I strongly support the oyster
19 and scallop bed in the location on Segar Cove, and the
20 true reasons, primarily, are the fact from an
21 environmental standpoint. I believe the oyster scallop
22 bed is a positive impact on the environment. So simply,
23 they are filtering the water and that's a very positive
24 thing. They are cleaning the environment as they live

1 and grow.

2 From that standpoint, I am fully supportive and from
3 the recreational standpoint. I've had a 15-foot Whaler
4 with a 70 horsepower motor. I certainly have been
5 through that channel. There is ample room in the channel
6 to waterski and do anything you'd like to do with that
7 size watercraft. It doesn't support anything larger. So
8 from a recreational standpoint, I truly believe it has
9 little or no impact at all. The oyster bed would
10 certainly be well marked, and recreation would just not
11 simply be effected. There is plenty of room to kayak,
12 and the bed itself is tucked into the corner as you enter
13 Segar Cove. It's in a perfect strategic location.

14 With that said, I just want to go on record that I'm
15 a very strong supporter and look forward to the business
16 opportunity that Perry has in front of him, and I'm sure
17 he'll be a very good steward and he has been for many,
18 many years on the pond. Thank you

19 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, Mr. Sassi.
20 Next we have Faye Pantazopoulos.

21 MS. PANTAZOPOULOS: Hello. Good morning.
22 Thank you, everyone, for allowing me to speak. I'm Faye
23 Pantazopoulos. I'm the creative director of the South
24 County Tourism Council, but I'm commenting today not just

1 as an employee, but also as a South County resident. I'm
2 in favor of granting Perry permission for his farm.

3 The last time we did this, I was hearing a lot of
4 testimony opposing the farm from seasonal residents, not
5 visitors, and I can assure you as an employee of the
6 Tourism Council, visitors flock to the farm not just for
7 the restaurant. It's one of our main attractions here in
8 South County, and they all want to know where their food
9 comes from, and there's no better illustration of the
10 farm to table than Matunuck Oyster Bar.

11 South County visitors love the shellfish farm, the
12 tours, and mostly the education that Perry provides where
13 they learn how shellfish farms are good for the
14 environment. This has made South County a leader in
15 ecotourism, and tourism is one of the top three economic
16 engines in our state, but number one in South County.

17 Perry is a great ambassador for the region. His
18 business greatly benefits not only the environment and
19 the tourism in this state, but in turn the local economy.
20 As a South Kingstown resident, I'm in support of Perry
21 being granted permission to have his farm mostly for the
22 benefit the farm brings to the environment and the local
23 economy.

24 There's no doubt that shellfish aquaculture is good

1 for the environment. It's a fact. What is bad for the
2 environment is recreational uses such as jet skiing and
3 waterskiing. Both are noisy, cause a lot of pollution,
4 degrade the shoreline and the flora of the pond; where
5 shellfish clean up much of the pollution that we humans
6 cause and help preserve the environment.

7 Another objection has been that the farm is a safety
8 hazard. The farm would be visible enough for people to
9 steer clear of it, and parents should be cautious of
10 allowing small children unsupervised in the pond whether
11 there's a farm there or not. Any activity out on the
12 water can be dangerous and caution should be executed by
13 anyone engaging in water recreation.

14 Lastly, I'd like to address the concern that Perry
15 somehow selling his seafood nationally is only good for
16 him personally. This past year I was so happy to be able
17 to send my brother and my sister-in-law fresh seafood for
18 Christmas because they moved to Mississippi recently and
19 they miss the shellfish from here. And the first thing
20 they said when they thanked me is that they can't wait to
21 be able to visit and go to the restaurant when the
22 pandemic is over and they can travel again. And I hear
23 that from travel guiders that I work with who send gifts
24 to, and giving people a taste of what can be experienced

1 here only entices them to come visit and that benefits us
2 all.

3 I'd like to conclude by saying allowing Perry to
4 expand his farm benefits everyone by preserving our
5 environment and boosting our economy. I hope my comments
6 will help you approve his application to expand his farm.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you for you
9 comments. Next is Larry Pierce.

10 MR. PIERCE: Hi. I'm Larry Pierce. I own a
11 home on Green Hill Pond. My background, lifelong Rhode
12 Island resident. Is my audio on? Can people hear me?

13 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Yes, we can.

14 MR. PIERCE: Thank you. So I'm a Rhode Island
15 resident my entire life. When I was a child, I went to
16 Camp Fuller on Point Judith Pond and it had a profound
17 impact on me. I went there for 11 summers and
18 established a love for South County and the waterways,
19 Point Judith Pond. I always dreamed of owning a home
20 down here. Now I do. It's on Green Hill Pond. A
21 childhood friend of mine also went to Camp Fuller, shared
22 the same dream. He bought a home on Segar Cove.

23 Now, while I was at Camp Fuller I learned two
24 skills. One was waterskiing, where ultimately I became a

1 waterski director after 11 years. So I became proficient
2 in the sport. Also sailing. We learned to sail on that
3 pond and learned to love the water and sailing so much so
4 that I made a career of it and became a licensed U.S.
5 Coast Guard captain. So that gives me a respective on
6 the water from a waterskiing perspective and as a
7 licensed captain and a navigator with over 50,000 sea
8 miles under my belt.

9 So I'd like to dispute the fact, dispute that the
10 farm will not impact recreation, and it will indeed
11 impact recreation, waterskiing in particular. When you
12 enter that Segar Cove, there is a narrow channel that you
13 enter from the east. As you get into the cove, the
14 proposed farm sets to the north or you go in and you go
15 to the south which remains open. There's currently just
16 enough room in there without the farm to waterski, but
17 just enough. One can go the length of the pond, maybe
18 get three turns in, then turn around and go back north,
19 get another three turns in, turn around, go back south.

20 If you put that farm there, you have eliminated the
21 entire north of the cove's navigable waters. It's not
22 just where the farm is, but you need a buffer zone of
23 access for boats to get in and out of there working and
24 otherwise. That will eat up -- not the farm will eat up

1 the entire north, it will eliminate waterskiing in that
2 pond; however, people will still try to do it. They may
3 try tubing.

4 One of the phenomenons in waterskiing is that when
5 you're taking a turn, there's -- it's called cracking the
6 whip. When you turn, the person behind the boat, no
7 matter what they're riding, be it a tube or a ski or a
8 skim board or what have you, will accelerate in that turn
9 two to three times what the boat speed is. If somebody
10 loses it on that turn, they go flying into that -- they
11 go flying right into that oyster farm, scallop farm.
12 There's going to be people who are going to be hurt.

13 Now, experienced people are going to know enough not
14 to do it. It's the inexperienced people who will go in
15 there and make a mess of things. For that reason alone I
16 object to it.

17 As far as -- excuse me one second. I have some
18 notes here I want to refer to.

19 [PAUSE]

20 MR. PIERCE: Sorry. I have to tell you that
21 when I hear environment people saying it's good for the
22 environment, every time that you mess with the
23 environment, any time you alter it, there are always
24 unintended consequences. And as far as tourism goes,

1 there's tourism that are coming to see these farms
2 specifically. Well, there's plenty of farms already
3 around for them to see. They don't need to travel into
4 Segar Cove to see another one. There are farms closer to
5 the restaurant that people can access.

6 Mr. Raso, I respect what he's accomplished. I
7 respect what he's done. I'm in favor of business, but I
8 just simply don't see -- the benefit is largely on
9 Mr. Raso's side. And the residents who have been
10 enjoying Segar Cove for generations, it's getting stolen
11 from them. It's as simple as that. It will not be used
12 for any -- you might get a paddle board in there, you
13 might get a kayak in there, sailing is done, waterskiing,
14 all motorboating is done. It's just not fair. There's
15 not enough room.

16 I question why if Mr. Raso wants this scallop farm,
17 I believe he has a home in, not in Segar Cove, but on the
18 north part of the pond. Why don't you put it -- why
19 doesn't he put it in front of his house instead of
20 somebody else's house? I don't know.

21 My dear friend, childhood friend, bought a home
22 three years ago, four years ago in Segar Cove
23 specifically with the notion to enjoy it recreationally.
24 Now I have joined him. We are out there three mornings a

1 week in the summer waterskiing in our 60s, trying to stay
2 young, enjoying it. And if this gets taken away from us,
3 it's very upsetting. There's a lot of other people who
4 are enjoying that cove. It's just simply going to be
5 taken away from the public use. I don't care what the
6 tourism or the environmentalists say. I can assure you
7 that cove is finished if this farm is allowed.

8 So I've said my peace. Thank you for hearing me.
9 And do what you must. Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, Mr. Pierce.
11 Okay, next we have Thomas Leasca.

12 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Mr. Leasca, you're on
13 mute.

14 MR. LEASCA: Sorry about that. I don't know
15 how I got on mute.

16 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: That's okay. How do you
17 pronounce your last name?

18 MR. LEASCA: Leasca.

19 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Go ahead, Mr. Leasca.

20 MR. LEASCA: I am a resident of East Matunuck.
21 I also have a home in Matunuck. I enjoy my little Boston
22 Whaler to go into boat ponds, especially where Perry is
23 doing the oystering. It's peaceful, it's relaxing, it's
24 very enjoyable.

1 He is doing great progress. I can't say more about
2 how clean the pond is now and how refreshing it is to go
3 in there. I take my grandchild, who is four years old,
4 in my little Whaler and we have the best time ever. I
5 would like to see the yahoos stop because one day I was
6 out there with my grandson and my wife, and some yahoo
7 comes flying up at 40 miles an hour right where Perry is
8 putting that bed and almost rammed my boat. There's
9 plenty of room for people to go on the other side, the
10 Matunuck side, to jet ski, waterski. It's very protected
11 where he is.

12 I cherish having -- I am on the Board of Directors
13 for 15 plus years at Camp Fuller. I never went there,
14 but I just love the place. We're trying to partner up
15 with Perry as well for the students to get that kind of
16 education. And I just think the cleanliness is just on
17 and on and on growing and growing and growing. Having
18 built the NBC's CSO project, working on the EPA projects,
19 I think the Bay is getting cleaner and cleaner, and
20 that's what it's all about.

21 I don't know if there's a negative about it. Some
22 people -- I've heard a lot of people talk about jet
23 skiing, waterskiing in that pond. It's dangerous. It's
24 shallow and you have to be real careful. There was a

1 death many, many years ago by a youngsters waterskiing in
2 that pond.

3 I think it's a great location, it's very protected.
4 There isn't many people impacted in that area as far as
5 the view of where -- it's on the water anyway. It's not
6 that obnoxious. I see other communities, Duxbury, Mass
7 loading up with farms, and it is just helping everybody,
8 helping the environment, helping South Kingstown.

9 I'm sure Perry pays quite a few tax money to the
10 Town of South Kingstown and the State of Rhode Island,
11 and he employes a couple hundred people every year. So I
12 would just like to see it continue to grow and grow and
13 grow.

14 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you for your
15 comments.

16 MR. PIERCE: Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: I appreciate it. Next we
18 will take Mark Cavanagh. Mr. Cavanagh, I can't see you
19 or hear you. You'll have to unmute and turn on your
20 video. Mr. Moore, could you send him something in the
21 chat about how to unmute and turn on his video.

22 [PAUSE]

23 MR. MOORE: I've sent him a request about
24 starting his audio, and I got a response that he said he

1 will start his video later.

2 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We at least would like to
3 hear him if he would like to make comments.

4 [PAUSE]

5 MR. MOORE: Mr. Cavanaugh, if you're having
6 technical issues, can you please use the chat box and
7 relay that to me.

8 [PAUSE]

9 MR. MOORE: Should we come back to him?

10 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: That's probably a good
11 idea. If you can take him off for now, indicate that
12 we'll come back to him once he figures out his
13 technology, if he figures out his technology, and we'll
14 go with William Leddy next.

15 MR. LEDDY: Hello. Can you hear me?

16 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We can.

17 MR. LEDDY: Great. Madam Chair and Members of
18 the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to be
19 heard today. My name is William Leddy and I reside at
20 181 Washington Street in Matunuck. I maintain a power
21 vessel and a mooring in Segar Cove for use in Segar Cove.

22 I'm a retired Coast Guard officer and a licensed
23 captain. In addition to recreational boating, I use
24 Segar Cove for sailing, paddle boarding, kayaking and

1 shellfishing. I believe if this lease is granted in its
2 proposed configuration, it will have a significant impact
3 on the traditional use of Segar Cove by creating an
4 inherent hazard to navigation.

5 Not only would the proposed lease force compression
6 of existing uses of the area, but compress those uses
7 into an area now to be bounded by a serious entanglement
8 hazard. Suppose a child tubing adjacent to the lease is
9 accidentally thrown into this site. If an entanglement
10 incident does occur there, who will respond? Can the
11 Harbormaster or the Coast Guard respond to this site?
12 Can the local volunteer fire department respond? Will
13 any of these agencies be trained for this type of
14 emergency? Furthermore, would the lease be bonded and
15 insured against accidents of this nature being installed
16 so close to these traditionally used activities?

17 I personally believe this is the wrong site for a
18 lease of this type and strongly urge denial of this
19 application. Thank you for your time today

20 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, Mr. Leddy. We
21 have Louis James.

22 MR. JAMES: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I
23 appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts. Given
24 the limited time and my tendency to elaborate too much,

1 I've got some prepared comments, but I'll focus on my
2 personal experience and knowledge of Segar Cove and
3 Potter Pond.

4 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you.

5 MR. JAMES: First of all, my name is Louis
6 James, and my family has lived in Matunuck for nearly a
7 decade now. You know, I've known about the area for
8 decades because my family had a lobster and fishing
9 business in Connecticut and I fished out on Block Island
10 Sound quite a bit. I am an ardent supporter of
11 aquaculture in general, and for purposes of full
12 disclosure, I do have friends who have leases on other
13 ponds.

14 We don't live on the pond. We live within a mile,
15 we are on the pond frequently, we kayak an awful lot and
16 paddle board, do a lot of clamming and fishing, of
17 course, just like a lot of other folks. We do this all
18 hours in a day during the summer and off season, even
19 though it's cold. We're out there with frozen hands and
20 feet, you know, but it's worth it of course.

21 As mentioned by others, we've clammed very often.
22 We get tons of clams near that proposed leased area. I
23 guess we're a bit better clammers than Perry, I guess,
24 but as my towering clam shell pile will attest to, we're

1 pretty productive. And because it's in that area, we're
2 very concerned about the site that's being proposed, the
3 productive clamming area.

4 Over the years, again, we spent a lot of time in the
5 cove and in Potter Pond in general, with all the
6 different coves east and to the west, and I want to
7 explore that further with you because it might help
8 people see -- and myself it helped to see the forest for
9 the trees, with so many details that are out there on
10 this site.

11 What I want you to appreciate is the fact that Segar
12 Cove is a small and sheltered and isolated cove, and it's
13 got a very narrow channel. I heard it described as wide.
14 It's a very narrow channel that is connecting with the
15 larger pond. The water current and the exchange is
16 relatively low from what I can notice. This is my
17 personal experience again.

18 I want you to appreciate that Segar Cove also, it's
19 really unique. It's not like others in the pond system.
20 It's a sheltered cove, it's relatively narrow east and
21 west, and then long north and south, but it's protected
22 by land in the west so the leeward area stays really calm
23 even during windy days. So that's an ideal spot for
24 families to play most of the time, most of the day, on or

1 off season, and there really is no substitute within
2 close proximity for folks, particularly young and the
3 older ones among us.

4 When you paddle around the whole area, you will
5 notice that Potter Pond is a series of interconnected
6 coves. It's almost like a cluster of grapes. It's not
7 like these larger ponds, you know, that are host to other
8 leases, you know, where there are open waterways, high
9 flow, and predominated by a large body of water. That's
10 not the case with Segar Cove. It's very isolated and,
11 again, has a very low flow from what I can tell.

12 Nonetheless, I heard comments from witnesses, you
13 know, where there's no data, very limited data for Segar
14 Cove, that they think that information on the larger
15 coves can be relied upon in discussing ecological
16 capacity, carrying capacity, and to some extent the
17 social capacity, carrying capacity of Segar Cove.

18 I have to completely disagree that, you know, you
19 can't apply the data about these large bodies of water,
20 you know, with high water flow like Potter, Ninigret and
21 Narragansett. You know, most of us have been on all
22 those. You can't apply those to Segar Cove with any
23 confidence. That analysis and conclusions, based on that
24 approach are questionable at best, I would say.

1 The second point I'd make is with regard to the
2 environmental condition of Segar Cove. We just heard
3 some comments just today. It's my personal experience
4 that the pond, that that cove area in particular is a
5 very clear and thriving environment as well as a delicate
6 one. That's the status right now. The osprey nests --
7 there are osprey nests on the shoreline to the east of
8 that project, there's Kingfishers, weasels, all manner of
9 wildlife on the land, and they are there today. In the
10 water there are plenty of fish, all types of fish,
11 stripers, there is healthy flora in the water, and that's
12 today. I'll note that the shellfishing in that area
13 hasn't been closed any time over the past ten years that
14 I've been clamming there. This is not a hypothetical.
15 Those are the conditions today.

16 Again, I've heard the Applicant's team suggest that
17 the project, it's not only environmentally benign, that
18 they can go further and say that the project could very
19 well environmentally enhance Segar Cove. I would suggest
20 that this really is a red herring, and it's a false
21 narrative and misleading. It's fabricating a problem
22 that does not exist to support the position that the
23 project is environmentally benign.

24 So the bottom line is that I think that the Board

1 should really ignore any suggestion that the project
2 offers environmental benefits to Segar Cove. It's
3 perfectly fine today. At best, the project does nothing
4 but create uncertainty.

5 Just a couple of outstanding questions I have today
6 is, what are the impacts of the cormorants and the gulls,
7 and the nesting ospreys and the wildlife there today?
8 There are hundreds of cormorants and gulls that are
9 attracted to the Applicant's current lease, you know,
10 sitting on the floating -- the buoys that are used on the
11 floating oyster gear. And what's the impact really of
12 their defecation on the shellfish and the fishing
13 environment there, particularly in this concentrated,
14 small concentrated area. I mean, these are just two
15 immediate questions that I have, and you got to consider
16 what other -- I worry about what other unintended
17 consequences there would be and that we'd have to deal
18 with if this project goes forward.

19 Another issue that was just brought up, and it's a
20 deep-seeded and genuine concern, is safety. I can't
21 believe and understand how someone could say that it
22 wouldn't have an impact on the safety of people who are
23 active in that area, and there's lots of activity. Many
24 times there's multiple uses simultaneously, you know, by

1 young and old alike. We're all watching out for each
2 other, we're all out there, and we need to keep everyone
3 safe.

4 I'll note that those U.S.G.S. maps that have been
5 referred to overstate the usable portion of the cove.
6 This has been demonstrated by the opposition team. But
7 it's worth reemphasizing because I don't think it's
8 appreciated, and it's mischaracterized. Really, we don't
9 kayak and ski in two inches of water, and we don't kayak
10 or ski or be active around the docks that are jutting out
11 from the shore or around the dozens of moorings that are
12 in the southern part of the cove. We all stay toward the
13 main body of the cove using the all available area as we
14 can in that limited space, especially with multiple
15 users, and that is very often.

16 So the point is, there's no doubt that if you
17 eliminate a portion of that Segar Cove and you reduce the
18 size of that usable waterway there, and given that folks
19 will continue to use the water way, as they have for
20 decades, that you know, there's going to be the higher
21 risk and God forbid a result of physical harm to us.
22 People will be out there, there's no doubt about it.

23 I highlight this because I respectfully note some
24 skepticism from the Board members about this real and

1 serious issue. I'll also mention that the Board should
2 recognize that there's potential safety issues created
3 when there's more traffic that is forced out to the
4 Potter Pond area in that channel that's north of the
5 existing lease. As you force people out of Segar Cove,
6 they are going to go to other areas looking for some more
7 space, and as the work boats come in and to Segar Cove.
8 And I recognize, and I'm not exaggerating about the
9 number of work boats, yes, they are limited. But there
10 is already a lot of traffic in that narrow channel where
11 all the boats and the kayaks and, you know, others are
12 forced into that and funneled into that channel just
13 north to the lease. So at the end of the day you're
14 basically causing even more traffic in that area, both
15 from Segar Cove and from that western part of Potter
16 Pond.

17 Just in general, I don't want to get too technical
18 on this, it's not in my realm of expertise, but I
19 understand the cost benefit analysis is accepted as a
20 tried and true litmus test for evaluating these projects.
21 And with regarding this project, this application, it
22 seems to me that it's pretty evident that the costs are
23 quite evident. There really is a risk of deterioration
24 of safety and health and security of individuals. There

1 really is a loss of quiet enjoyment, quiet enjoyment of a
2 public space by this community. There's a risk of
3 environmental consequences that we don't know about, some
4 unintended consequences and negative impact on plant and
5 animal life on land and in the water. I'm serious about
6 these concerns. I just don't throw them out there willy
7 nilly.

8 Regarding the benefits, all projects have got
9 supposed benefits, and I appreciate what Perry has done.
10 We all applaud him. We see his project in this site in
11 particular is just not appropriate. What I can say about
12 individual proposed benefits is that any macroeconomic
13 benefits that might be stated, direct wages, employment,
14 secondary commercial impacts, they are always overstated.
15 The environmental benefits I think are questionable, they
16 are misplaced, they are self-serving, and they are
17 overstated.

18 And with regard to the idea that these projects
19 support the state's aquaculture program, I believe that
20 to a certain extent, but I think that's highly
21 questionable. This kind of project, and if it's
22 approved, I think it does jeopardize the continued
23 support by the public. And notwithstanding, as you know
24 and heard from others, most that are making comments

1 against this project have been long supporters of the
2 aquaculture initiatives. But I believe, as well as it's
3 been voiced, that we believe that enough is enough and
4 that this application is the wrong project in the wrong
5 place.

6 So in closing, and I know I'm running against my
7 time here, but in general as the Board is being stewards
8 of public land and waterways, you shouldn't accept any
9 project proposed in Segar Cove, this one or any in the
10 future, that's nothing less than absolute and has
11 overwhelming and an unequivocal net benefit. We are
12 really relying on you using your commonsense to assess
13 the many issues that are associated with this
14 application.

15 The unfortunate thing about it is the Applicant has
16 nothing to lose and all to gain, and the public is put in
17 a defensive position to kind of defend what we have and
18 basically with no upside. In this case, I'm sorry to
19 say, but the only one definable and most certain benefit,
20 and being really critical about whether or not there are
21 any, is going to accrue to the community of one, and I'm
22 sorry to say it's the Applicant itself. It will be at
23 the expense of the community and the public and who have
24 been exemplary stewards of the cove and of the pond for

1 so many years.

2 So that's what I have to say. I really appreciate
3 the time to share my thoughts with you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, Mr. James.
5 Next is Beverly Hodgson.

6 MS. HODGSON: Hello. My name is Beverly
7 Hodgson, and my backyard on Ocean Avenue on Matunuck
8 Point slopes down to Potter Pond. For 35 years my family
9 and I have lived on Matunuck Point on the ocean side of
10 the pond, and from our windows and deck we look directly
11 across to the cove at issue. So we see every day what
12 the recreational use is at all hours.

13 We are big users of small boats on the pond. We
14 used to be able to sail a Sunfish out to the pond, but
15 Mr. Raso's present operation takes up so much area that
16 it's become impossible to tack out into the pond without
17 getting into the channel that's used by speedboats. So
18 we had to give up that use of the pond for the sake of
19 Mr. Raso's business.

20 For 18 years, we have enjoyed rowing single skulls
21 which sit very low in the water. We have oars with a
22 15-foot spread. Mr. Raso, who does not live within view
23 of this cove, said that he looked at the use at noon,
24 which is the least likely time for recreation.

1 I row my skull early in the morning or near sunset
2 when the wind is down, and I do it almost daily in the
3 summertime. The safest, most protected route is directly
4 from our backyard north into Segar Cove.

5 As others have told you repeatedly, the mouth of the
6 cove is narrow, and there is a shallow rocky part on the
7 east side so speedboats have to make wide turns. I have
8 counted up to 25 speedboats moored or docked in the cove,
9 so there is considerable traffic.

10 The way to stay safe for those of us in skulls or
11 kayaks and paddle boards is to hug the shoreline that
12 Mr. Raso wants to block off. I've often had to row like
13 mad to get out of the way of waterskiing or tubing in
14 this area so that I'm not hit or swamped by close wake.

15 If you allow Mr. Raso to monopolize the area for his
16 exclusive use, that recreation is going to be gone, as it
17 won't be safe to enter the cove for fear of being hit or
18 swamped by a speedboat, so we will effectively lose the
19 use of that cove.

20 Ours is not the only skull on the pond. This past
21 summer more skulls have used the cove along with
22 increased numbers of the kayaks and paddle boards which
23 likewise need to stay in areas away from the route of
24 speedboats. It's really strange that Mr. Raso says the

1 area is not used to recreation. I very often wave from
2 my skull to his employees at 8:00 a.m. as they arrive in
3 a motorboat to tend the oyster farm. It's totally false
4 to suggest that small boats can pass between rows of
5 oyster floats.

6 I think you've seen the photos that I took and sent
7 in. I took them from my skull at water level, and they
8 show that the rows are completely impassable. They are a
9 total barrier to use, and boaters must keep their
10 distance from them reducing the area of the pond by more
11 than the deeded acreage.

12 Denying the application doesn't cripple aquaculture.
13 There are other suitable venues. The upper pond, which
14 is wide and less populated, provides a more suitable
15 location for expansion. I skull in that area regularly,
16 and I have seen there is room there for motorboats and
17 other craft to keep their distance in a way that isn't
18 possible in Segar Cove.

19 I note that you have heard from a few people who
20 support the dedication of Segar Cove to Mr. Raso's
21 business, and some have not mentioned that they are
22 business colleagues, or others have admitted that they
23 live no where near Segar Cove so they don't care about
24 limitations on our recreation there.

1 The existing farm will continue to answer the
2 tourism interest that you heard about this morning.
3 Nobody is proposing removing that.

4 As a lawyer, I know that your job is to apply the
5 standards of the applicable regulations. You're not
6 deciding whether aquaculture is good, or whether Perry
7 Raso's restaurant is good, or whether he had difficulties
8 in his youth, but only whether the particular location
9 would have an adverse impact on recreational and other
10 uses that are important to Rhode Islanders and to our
11 coastal resources. You have overwhelming evidence that
12 the expansion would limit recreational use and present a
13 safety hazard, and the inescapable conclusion that you
14 should reach is recommending a denial of his application.

15 Thank you very much for the attention and all the
16 time that you are devoting to this

17 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, Ms. Hodgson.
18 Now, Karl Wadenstein.

19 MR. WADENSTEIN: Good morning.

20 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Good morning.

21 MR. WADENSTEIN: Good morning, members of CRMC
22 and the Commission. I'm going to tell you a little bit
23 of a story about living on Potter Pond. First off, my
24 name is Karl Wadenstein. I've been a resident of Potter

1 Pond since 1974, and I think I'm in the small percentage
2 of the youngest, longest residing resident on the pond.
3 I have four children, and we have a new grandchild. I'm
4 also president of a manufacturing company in Rhode
5 Island. We were founded in 1962 and we moved to Rhode
6 Island in 1973. So I can sympathize with Perry as an
7 owner and trying to be a manufacturing company in Rhode
8 Island, the challenges and the things that we face.

9 I also sit on the Commerce Board of Rhode Island and
10 have sat there for three decades. Today I'm not here as
11 a board member of the Commerce Board. I'm here today as
12 Karl, the resident and friend of Potter Pond. As a
13 business owner, I truly understand the fine line that we
14 walk on the growth and the ability to expand and thrive
15 our businesses. We have organizations, facilities in
16 Canada, and I have facilities in the UK and Australia,
17 and these things become real big challenges on what is
18 the highest and best use for the facilities and the
19 places we need to go as a manufacturer. Not much unlike
20 Perry, and trying to find the highest and best use to
21 places that he can farm.

22 Being a business owner, we are both held by
23 legislation and the rules of our community as well as our
24 personal responsibility to the community to grow

1 equitably and try to figure out what the balance is.
2 There is always a balance between business and the
3 environment and the community and legislation, and
4 finding the right site can be very, very challenging. So
5 I recognize that challenge, and I'm concerned for what is
6 the highest and best use for Segar Cove.

7 I have some photos here as well that I'd like to
8 bring up in just a moment. I'd like to say this, though.
9 I am extremely proud of Perry, maybe even more so than
10 anybody that's spoken this morning. As a Rhode Islander,
11 and as a business owner, the challenges in Rhode
12 Island -- and we all know the ranking of the business
13 climate in Rhode Island -- we are at the bottom of the
14 rough. And to do that and to navigate and employ people
15 in this state is becoming ever more challenging than ever
16 before. So I understand that.

17 Perry has passion beyond what I see most leaders of
18 organizations have. He has innovation and creativity and
19 he loves aquaculture, but Perry also loves his community.
20 So my plea is really for Perry to think about and to
21 charge this Board with finding and helping to find Perry
22 sites that have higher and better use.

23 In discussions with Perry, and I'm not an
24 aquaculturist, I'm a manufacturer, we make vibration

1 equipment. You know, I've been on the pond and I've
2 explored every inch of that pond, but in discussions with
3 Perry as deep water and moving water are the quick
4 essential things to raise oysters quickly to get the
5 right shapes, consistency and flavor.

6 Now, that pond is shallower and shallower and
7 shallower every year. So I'm going to urge that the
8 Board here and the Commission try and help him find
9 places that are more suitable where instead of impeding
10 on the recreationalization (sic) of the pond, which is
11 extensive and you heard everybody say that, that we look
12 at how do we commercialize a resource that we have in
13 Rhode Island, a resource of aquaculture. We have the
14 largest amount of seafront per capita I think in our
15 state than any other state. So how do we maximize on
16 that to employ people and get the Rhode Island name out
17 there? And this is a problem. It's a real, real problem
18 because now you have the sentiment of people that live on
19 the pond and the sentiment of people that want to grow
20 their businesses and grow Rhode Island. I got that
21 basis. This is a conundrum here.

22 I would like to show my first picture if I could.
23 Could I share screen?

24 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: You may, if you're

1 authorized by our moderator.

2 MR. WADENSTEIN: Moderator, do I have
3 permission to do that?

4 MR. MOORE: Yes, you do.

5 MR. WADENSTEIN: I have my IT guy here so let
6 me put my mask on for a second so I can get that picture.
7 The picture I'm about to show you, I am an avid
8 photographer and I've been taking pictures on this pond
9 since the 70s. This is a picture from 1993. Can
10 everyone see this picture?

11 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We can see a series of
12 pictures. Maybe if you click on it, it will expand.

13 MR. WADENSTEIN: Can you see one picture?

14 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: What I see are five
15 pictures, small pictures, across the screen.

16 MR. WADENSTEIN: How about now?

17 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Not different.

18 MR. WADENSTEIN: This picture right here, can
19 you see the photo now?

20 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: I still see a lighthouse
21 now.

22 MR. WADENSTEIN: No, not this screen.

23 [PAUSE]

24 MR. WADENSTEIN: The picture I'm going to show

1 shows the vast area parallel to the barrier beach in the
2 foreground, that the entire space now is consistent of
3 the oyster farm. This is a pre-picture of the oyster
4 farm area, and that's what we'll play with. And this is
5 why I asked IT to come in here.

6 Do you see the picture now?

7 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: I don't see any picture.

8 MR. WADENSTEIN: He'll monkey around with that.

9 Besides living on the pond for a long time, I am
10 second generation American. Doesn't have much to do with
11 this conversation today, but it does -- in Sweeden they
12 have a notion that's called all man's right. I think
13 that what people have been pleading for, and the
14 ambassadors of the pond, is all man's right is when we
15 have natural resources, that the recreational aspect of
16 those resources trump the commercialization of resources.
17 And when this happens, the pond becomes a place that it
18 is currently and has been for a long time, a place that
19 people can come from all over, for tourists, for people
20 that live on the pond, and friends and family.

21 I've been using the pond and waterskiing on the pond
22 since 1974. My children have learned how to boat on this
23 pond. Those things are so critical because Rhode Island
24 is the Ocean State, and the Ocean State, I think, is at

1 the essence of what we're all trying to do here is figure
2 out how does the Ocean State look in the years to come?
3 How do we grow? How do we grow both our businesses? How
4 do we grow our experiences for people and do them both
5 cautiously?

6 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: I have seen a couple of
7 pictures close up now.

8 MR. WADENSTEIN: Which one are you seeing now?

9 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: With a few kids in a
10 small boat.

11 MR. WADENSTEIN: Yes, so these are my four
12 children in a small boat going out to the pond. They've
13 grown up on the pond and continue to use the pond almost
14 every day of every time.

15 Next picture. Can you see this one now?

16 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: So you're at about ten
17 minutes. We want to see your pictures, but we need to be
18 efficient.

19 MR. WADENSTEIN: Can you see the picture now of
20 the barrier reef and the barrier island?

21 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Yes. I mean, I see a
22 picture, yes.

23 MR. WADENSTEIN: I'm sorry, guys. Trying to do
24 this and navigate and speak is very disconcerting, so I

1 have to apologize for trying to doing this.

2 This is a picture from 1993 looking out, and there's
3 no obstructions to the pond. You can go and pass where
4 ever you'd like in the pond. I understand, you know,
5 what Perry is trying to do, and I really want to see him
6 succeed. I want to see Rhode Island succeed. I really
7 want to see Rhode Island succeed. But there have been to
8 be higher and better use places for this.

9 In the early to mid 90s the University of Rhode
10 Island had the research project that they had at the head
11 of the pond called Skiers Pond, and they had buoys there.
12 It caused more mayhem than you can imagine in an area
13 that's heavily trafficked and heavily populated. It was
14 just an obstruction to everything that we were doing.

15 So in conclusion here, I'd really urge that this
16 Commission use the power and the depth and breath that
17 you people have to help Perry find a site that he has
18 deep water, that he has moving water, and to support this
19 aquaculture business and have citizens and have business
20 work together in unison. Right now everybody is at odds.
21 It really, really hurts me as a friend of Perry's and a
22 person that's lived on the pond for a long time, and as a
23 Rhode Islander that -- I fight every day on the Commerce
24 Commission to get more businesses here and to do more

1 things in Rhode Island.

2 Rhode Island does not have unlimited resources. We
3 have to do more with less, and we have to really think
4 about how do we get both competing urgencies to work
5 together and get the best.

6 So thank you for the time, and I'm really, really
7 sorry for the pictures. But that's my story. And God
8 bless you all, and let's hope that we make good decisions
9 for South County, for Perry, and for all of us.

10 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you very much.
11 Next we have Ed Stapans.

12 MR. MOORE: Madam Chair, I do not see that
13 individual in the attendees room. Oh, someone just
14 raised their hand.

15 MR. STAPANS: Good morning. Am I heard?

16 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: You're heard. Is this
17 Mr. Stapans?

18 MR. STAPANS: Yes.

19 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We can hear you. We
20 can't see you.

21 MR. STAPANS: That's probably good for you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: You can do whatever you
23 want, video on or off, as long as we can hear you.

24 MR. STAPANS: Okay. My name is Ed Stapans. My

1 family owned property on Segar Cove for most if not all
2 of my nearly 63 years of life. As a matter of fact, the
3 Applicant rented a room from my parents for a number of
4 years, many years, and I had conversations years ago with
5 Perry when he was first starting I believe in this
6 business about the ability to really make a business out
7 of sending away for seeds in the mail and then the whole
8 process of turning them into I guess now inventory for
9 his restaurant. Again, you know, the part that he didn't
10 tell me about and that has affected me was that he
11 planned to do it over in the flats. I know that's a done
12 deal. He has his lease over in the flats.

13 I have a disability. The first part of my life I
14 enjoyed the recreational gem of Segar Cove that it is as
15 an able-bodied person waterskiing and sailing and
16 snorkeling, fishing, quahogging, all of the above. Then
17 in 1991 I was paralyzed, and I thought that my days of
18 enjoying Segar Cove were over. But over time I found out
19 that I was able to get myself, with help, into a raft and
20 paddle myself over to the flats where the current lease
21 is. And because of the nature of the water over there
22 where it's shallow and sandy and safe, because I can't
23 feel anything from the chest down, I was concerned of
24 other spots where there's rocks and barnacles of getting

1 cut and not knowing it. But over in the flats, I was
2 able to use that and bring my kids and grand kids over
3 and spend hours quohagging with my hands and using that
4 part of the pond. And it was liberating for me. I
5 didn't have to fight gravity, I could float around in the
6 pristine water. It was wonderful.

7 Then I slowly started to see activity over there,
8 and I wasn't sure, it was unfamiliar activity, and then
9 eventually we see what it looks like now. It's turned
10 into -- I don't know how to even describe what it looks
11 like now. It is certainly -- all the contraptions, I
12 don't venture over there any longer.

13 I'm just hoping that the same thing doesn't happen
14 inside the pond over here in the cove where the proposed
15 spot is because, you know, simply put, I just don't
16 understand how towed water sports and the proposed lease
17 can safely coexist. Pretty much, to me, it's one or the
18 other. We're either going to have the Applicant's farm
19 there, or we're going to have people safely utilizing the
20 pond like we have for generations. You know, the pond
21 is, like many people have said, it's not big enough to
22 have both. Older people like me that are experienced
23 boaters, I wouldn't risk towing any loved one or friend
24 around the pond knowing that should they wipe out over in

1 that area that they can get hurt or injured or killed.

2 You know, I have a spinal cord injury, and in my
3 family one spinal cord injury is enough. I wouldn't risk
4 it. I know there's been a lot of talk about one less
5 skier if this happens. Well, that one less skier is
6 going to definitely be me. I'm not going to use my
7 15-foot Whaler with a 70 and try to make it around the
8 loop with that thing in the way. It's just not going to
9 happen safely.

10 You know, like I said, I have a 15-foot boat. Can
11 you imagine, there are many other boats that are much
12 bigger in the pond, and I don't know how in the world
13 they would try to make the turn around with that, with
14 the three acres taken away at the north end like that.
15 It's just not going to happen.

16 So I strongly oppose, and I urge the Board, the CRMC
17 members here, to take into account the fact that this
18 pond has been used for generations, and I just don't
19 understand how one person can swoop in and take that away
20 from us all. I don't understand how also -- you know,
21 years ago my neighbor was admonished by CRMC for putting
22 grass clippings next to the side of the pond and, you
23 know, because I guess part of what the CRMC does is to
24 preserve the coastal feature. But, you know, if you take

1 a look at what's happened to the flats, it was once a
2 beautiful pristine, just a gorgeous postcard of a place.
3 And what it looks like now, I don't know if people have
4 seen the pictures of what -- it's like a wasteland with
5 all these contraptions over there, and it's just ugly. I
6 don't understand how that is preserving the coastal
7 feature by allowing this to go through.

8 I've said my peace, and thanks for listening.

9 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We will now take Becky
10 Durkin.

11 MR. MOORE: Becky, I don't see your name. If
12 you're here or on the phone, please press star 9 or raise
13 your hand.

14 [PAUSE]

15 MR. MOORE: She has not come forward.

16 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We can call for her at
17 the end like Mr. Meyer.

18 Now we are going to go to our list of people that
19 we've called in previous meetings but were not available,
20 some of which I understand have confirmed that they will
21 speak today, but I'll start with Chris Roebuck.

22 MR. ROEBUCK: Good morning.

23 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We hear you, Mr. Roebuck,
24 but cannot see you.

1 MR. ROEBUCK: Okay.

2 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: You can proceed without
3 it, but I just wanted you to know that.

4 MR. ROEBUCK: My name is Chris Roebuck. I am a
5 commercial fisherman and a lifelong resident of Rhode
6 Island for almost five decades. I grew up on Point
7 Judith Pond. I live in Snug Harbor. I have my whole
8 life. I've been a commercial and recreational fisherman
9 my whole life, and I've spent over 40 years on Potter and
10 Point Judith Ponds. Growing up, I've commercially fished
11 for steamers and quahogs, green crabs, blue shell crabs,
12 eels and stripers and fluke in the ponds and
13 recreationally those same things as well, as well as I
14 started waterskiing when I was six, and have for the last
15 four decades waterskied, wake boarded and knee boarded
16 over the years almost exclusively in Potter Pond.

17 I just wanted to call to speak in favor of Perry's
18 lease because I think this particular area will have the
19 least impact on any human activities on the pond. Not
20 only am I a proponent of any aquaculture that Rhode
21 Island can allow, but this particular spot will have the
22 least impact.

23 I've been waterskiing and knee boarding for 40 years
24 on that pond, and I've almost hardly ever seen a person

1 in that particular spot that all these people say that is
2 their favorite recreational area. I've been waterskiing
3 for 40 years, and everybody who waterskis goes to the
4 north end of the pond. There is a lot of other
5 recreational activities, kayaking as well, but never have
6 I seen the amount of activity in that area that this
7 lease would prohibit.

8 So I'm in favor a hundred percent of aquaculture
9 expansion anyway, but this particular spot is absolutely
10 the best spot in that pond that would have the least
11 impact on any human recreational or commercial activity.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, Mr. Roebuck.
14 Now I'll call Nessa Richman.

15 MS. RICHMAN: Hello.

16 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We can hear you, not see
17 you.

18 MS. RICHMAN: Great. Give me five seconds to
19 ask the electrician to stop hammering in the basement.

20 [PAUSE]

21 MS. RICHMAN: Sorry about that. I've been
22 waiting for the electrician for a number of weeks and
23 didn't want to reschedule again today.

24 So thanks for the opportunity to speak today. I'm

1 the network director of the Rhode Island Food Policy
2 Council. I'm also a South County resident, and I am
3 speaking in support of the application for the proposed
4 aquaculture area in Segar Cove on behalf of myself as
5 network director and as a resident.

6 So the Council was established about ten years ago,
7 and our job is to work to create an accessible
8 economically vibrant and environmentally sustainable food
9 system in the State of Rhode Island, and we work with a
10 large statewide collaboration of diverse stakeholders
11 from all sectors of the food system, and we do all of our
12 work through developing partnerships and programs and
13 working for good food policy designed to improve the
14 state's food system.

15 Today I simply want to say that the proposed area
16 is aligned with the Food Policy Council's mission to
17 promote a healthy food system in the state and an
18 economically vibrant food system in the state. It's also
19 aligned with the Rhode Island Strategic Plan for
20 marketing of Rhode Island seafood, and for the state to
21 over -- food strategy which has been designed to create a
22 resilient food system for our state that takes the
23 environment into account as well as economic vitality for
24 that food system.

1 Madam Chair.

2 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: I think we saw some chat
3 by Deborah Garber. So hopefully she's here.

4 MR. MOORE: She's here.

5 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Ms. Garber, I can see
6 your screen with your name. I can't hear you.

7 MS. GARBER: Good morning.

8 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Good morning.

9 MS. GARBER: My name is Deborah Grossman
10 Garber, and I'm a longtime resident of South Kingstown.
11 I retired six years ago as the Associate Commissioner for
12 Higher Education for the State of Rhode Island. Prior to
13 that role, I worked for 18 years at the University of
14 Rhode Island with Sea Grant and later with the College of
15 the Environment and Life Sciences where I taught and
16 mentored students in their undergraduate research
17 programs.

18 In 2001, I served as the co-convener of the URI
19 Honors colloquium on sustainability in the environment.
20 I'm familiar with many of the issues that are being
21 raised in this application, very familiar.

22 I first met and began mentoring Perry Raso in 2001
23 when he was serving as a coastal undergraduate research
24 fellow at URI, and he was under the direction of the

1 professor Michael Rice. You won't be surprised Perry was
2 studying the effects of shellfish aquaculture on total
3 organic nitrogen load around shellfish farms in Rhode
4 Island. His passion is long-seeded.

5 Perry has been remarkable among his peers always.
6 When I knew him, he put himself through undergraduate and
7 his graduate programs by waking up year round at dawn to
8 dig wild quahogs and littlenecks before his classes, just
9 as a means of eating and paying for his tuition. He's
10 been wild harvesting in the pond since the age of 12, and
11 he's deeply knowledgeable about Rhode Island coastal pond
12 environment, and as such, he's been a real asset to his
13 professors and to his community for many years.

14 I would venture that Perry is among the most
15 knowledgeable individuals in Rhode Island about the
16 biology, the stratigraphy, the geology, the history and
17 usage of Potter Pond. He's lived it, he has breathed it,
18 and he has studied it. He knows every square inch from
19 the pond's bottom layers to the shore and beyond. You
20 can say that the pond is his life blood. Perry has
21 always impressed me over the years in many different
22 situations as a man who is deeply humble, ethical, and
23 collaborative.

24 For these reasons, and for others, I'm here today to

1 register strong unequivocal support for the proposed
2 three-acre shellfish farm in Segar Cove. I have read the
3 lease application and other associated documents. I have
4 listened to the testimony of expert witnesses over the
5 past meetings. I have toured and personally observed the
6 geography of the pond on several occasions.

7 There's several reasons for my advocacy. Shellfish
8 aquaculture in the way that Perry conducts his operations
9 will not degrade the water quality of Potter Pond or
10 Segar Cove and is likely to improve it. This controversy
11 has been well studied and documented by notable
12 scientists, and this topic should be put to rest.

13 The present application for three acres fully
14 respects CRMC's permitting guidelines as expert witnesses
15 have previously testified. Total aquaculture activity
16 will not exceed the mandated three percent on the pond.
17 There is no encroachment here on Mr. Raso's part as
18 alleged by others.

19 Segar Cove is a suitable choice for the lease for
20 several reasons. The deep water there is essential for
21 the successful culture of scallops, and it is relatively
22 out of the way of most of the Potter Pond traffic. There
23 does seem to be adequate acreage in the cove as others
24 have attested for the pursuit of waterskiing, albeit the

1 activity may have to be reduced from three boats to two
2 boats. I don't think that is much of a sacrifice.

3 As for safety concerns, when I hear about safety I
4 think about speed, and perhaps a solution could be that
5 all people on the pond slow down. There's a lot of quick
6 traffic that needs to slow down for everybody's safety.

7 Segar Cove, as a part of Potter Pond, is a multi-use
8 public state resource which should reflect public benefit
9 in the many, many ways that it can be used to help move
10 Rhode Island forward into the future.

11 With this lease, Perry is addressing clean
12 sustainable food production systems which is critical for
13 our nation's future and for the planet. We just heard
14 that testimony from a previous commenter. I believe that
15 his efforts will continue to maintain jobs and economic
16 viability for Rhode Island workers and their families,
17 particularly in South County, and that recreation and
18 leisure will continue to thrive in the pond. We are only
19 speaking about a small amount of space. All activities
20 can and should continue to coexist even in Potter Pond.
21 The solution will be to require an adaptation by all
22 users.

23 There's a sensitive aspect to this conflict as I
24 listen, particularly at this point in our nation's

1 history. I have to point out, because no one else has,
2 that there's a strong thread in many, many of the
3 arguments that we've been hearing that we must honor past
4 privilege and usage exclusivity for those who live along
5 the pond and can afford to live along the pond.

6 I don't believe that this should be used as a means
7 of deciding what is most important activity on the pond.
8 The pond must be retained as a public resource for all
9 citizens of Rhode Island, whether they be entrepreneurs,
10 or waterskiers, or boaters, or fishermen.

11 We can all coexist. We can unite. That is a
12 present theme in our society. I urge you to act in favor
13 of promoting Rhode Island's sustainable future by
14 approving this three-acre lease and marching into the
15 future boldly and inclusively.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you for you
18 comments.

19 MS. GARBER: Thank you for listening.

20 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Now on to John Krekorian.

21 MR. MOORE: John, I do not see your name. Can
22 you please raise your hand.

23 [NO RESPONSE]

24 MR. MOORE: I'm not seeing a hand up.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. We'll take David
2 Stine.

3 MR. STINE: Hello. Can you hear me?

4 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We can, but we can't see
5 you.

6 MR. STINE: You can't see me? Hold on. How is
7 that?

8 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Yes, we can see you.

9 MR. STINE: Okay. I appreciate the opportunity
10 to be heard today.

11 I have two houses on Gale Drive. My family and I
12 use Potter Pond for recreation. For me, this is all
13 about water quality. My houses have septic systems, as I
14 believe all other houses in the area also have septic
15 systems, and of course over the years we've had a lot of
16 development along the pond and in the area. This all
17 affects the quality of the water.

18 Oysters are a proven way of improving the water
19 quality. To be honest with you, I'm a bit surprised to
20 hear all these complaints about safety in the pond. As I
21 understand it, this lease is less than three percent of
22 the total pond acreage. Given my experience, I really
23 don't see the amount of boating that I'm hearing during
24 this hearing from people. I definitely don't see it in

1 the area of the proposed lease.

2 As far as safety, the issue that I see, there are
3 reckless operators of jet skis and boats. Again, they
4 are not anywhere near this lease from my experience.

5 So I guess I believe the potential improvement of
6 water quality outweighs the exceptional small effect it
7 may have on the recreation for me and for others;
8 therefore, I'm strongly in favor of granting this lease.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, Mr. Stine.
11 That takes us to the end of our list, but I'm just going
12 to go back and call out those who weren't available when
13 we called them out to see if they are present now. And I
14 may not have everyone, so Mr. Willis or Mr. Moore,
15 correct me if I don't have them all.

16 So the first one is Matthew Meyer. Mr. Meyer, if
17 you're here, please raise your hand as has been
18 instructed by Mr. Moore.

19 Mr. Moore, can you explain for those who may not
20 know how you raise your hand.

21 MR. MOORE: There are two ways you can raise
22 your hand. You can click on the screen and it should
23 prompt you. Or if you open up the attendees list on the
24 right-hand side, and halfway down the screen on the right

1 you should see a raise hand button. If you cannot find
2 either one of those, just simply put a comment in the
3 chat box just to identify yourself, and I can do it that
4 way as well.

5 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Are you seeing any raised
6 hand from Mr. Meyer?

7 MR. MOORE: I have not.

8 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Moving on to Mark
9 Cavanagh. We did see his screen. We just couldn't hear
10 him.

11 Mr. Cavanagh, if you would like to try again now is
12 your time. I see you. You're on mute. You just need to
13 hover at the bottom of the screen.

14 [PAUSE]

15 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: If we can't get you
16 working, then you can provide your comments in the chat
17 box. I'm going to wait until 11:40, and if we don't have
18 you, you can add your comments in the chat box.

19 [PAUSE]

20 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: It's 11:40. I'm going to
21 call someone else, and you can put your comments in the
22 chat box.

23 The next is Becky Durkin. Any hand, Mr. Moore?

24 MR. MOORE: I'm not seeing one, Madam Chair.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Ben Wilkes?

2 MR. MOORE: I'm not seeing anything, Madam
3 Chair.

4 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Malissa Buonaiuto?

5 MR. MOORE: Her name is not listed here.

6 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Are there any hands up
7 that are not associated with the names of the people who
8 were --

9 MR. MOORE: No, there isn't.

10 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: What about Frank Mazza?

11 MR. MOORE: I do not see that name either.

12 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: And finally John
13 Krekorian?

14 MR. MOORE: I'm not seeing that name either,
15 and there are no hands up.

16 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. Can you take
17 Mr. Cavanagh off. I don't believe he can get his
18 technology working.

19 MR. MOORE: Everybody is back in the attendee
20 room.

21 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: I still see Mark's
22 screen. Okay, great.

23 So we've gone through our list of public speakers.
24 We heard from people, we received additional written

1 comment, we've looked at what's been submitted in the
2 chat feature. Mr. DeSisto, unless you tell me otherwise,
3 I'm going to close the public hearing portion of this
4 Subcommittee meeting.

5 MR. DeSISTO: That's in order, Madam Chair.

6 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay, thank you. And as
7 I indicated, at this time we're going to give the
8 Applicant the ability to rebut anything that they heard
9 during the public comment portion.

10 Ms. Noonan, how much time do you think you'll need
11 for that?

12 MS. NOONAN: I don't anticipate probably more
13 than 10 or 15 minutes at max.

14 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. So I'm going to
15 take a break then because people have been drinking
16 coffee and we've been going at it for a while. So I
17 will -- let's come back at noon, and then we'll have a
18 full hour.

19 MS. NOONAN: Perfect, thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. Thank you,
21 everyone.

22 [RECESS WAS TAKEN OFF THE RECORD FROM 11:47 TO 12:04]

23 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: I believe we have
24 everyone back. Mr. Capizzo, you had a question?

1 MR. CAPIZZO: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 Before we start the rebuttal, I would just -- my
3 understanding is the rebuttal is an opportunity for the
4 Applicant to address I believe you said what was
5 testified to during the public comment.

6 I would object, for the record, to the DiPrete
7 Engineering report coming in. I don't believe there was
8 any engineering testimony during the public -- I know
9 there wasn't any engineering testimony. All the
10 engineering testimony was in the Applicant's presentation
11 as well as the intervenors' presentation, including the
12 ESS report which was provided to Ms. Noonan prior to the
13 hearing, and there was no new information that was
14 presented during the public testimony.

15 So I would object to that as well as the two other
16 documents that were provided by Ms. Noonan from DEM. I
17 just wanted that noted for the objection recognizing that
18 the Commission may take the testimony and the additional
19 evidence.

20 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay, Mr. Capizzo.
21 Ms. Noonan, would you like to respond?

22 MS. NOONAN: For clarification, yes. Thank
23 you, Madam Chair.

24 It's my understanding rebuttal is not limited to

1 just the public comments, but also to the objectors'
2 case. That is the point of rebuttal traditionally.

3 The two issues we're going to address are safety and
4 confusion over the amount of acreage in Segar Cove, both
5 of which arose, I believe, during objectors' case as well
6 as the public comment. These are very narrowly focused
7 issues that I believe are appropriate for rebuttal.

8 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: That's correct. Will you
9 remind me, did you reserve your right to rebut after the
10 objectors' case?

11 MS. NOONAN: Yes.

12 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. If you reserved
13 your right, then you would have the opportunity for both
14 responding to objectors' case as well as public comments.

15 Mr. DeSisto, do you have any issue --

16 MR. DESISTO: I do not.

17 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: All right. Mr. Capizzo,
18 your objection is overruled. It's noted for the record.

19 MR. CAPIZZO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The only
20 other request, inquiry I should say, I have is in regards
21 to the rebuttal testimony. It's my understanding that
22 there will be no cross-examination of this witness; is
23 that correct?

24 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Correct.

1 MR. CAPIZZO: If you would just note my
2 objection to that for the record.

3 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: I will. Thank you.
4 We'll address that. At the end of this I'm going to ask
5 for post-hearing briefs, and any comment, argument,
6 affidavit you want to supply with that post-hearing brief
7 I think would serve to respond to any testimony that's
8 presented in rebuttal by Ms. Noonan.

9 MR. CAPIZZO: There is one other item, Madam
10 Chair, that I had submitted late yesterday. I have
11 requested that if the Commission is going to entertain or
12 accept two documents provided by Ms. Noonan, DEM access
13 to public record requests that she's intending to enter
14 into evidence, I would request that I be allowed to
15 introduce what is entitled the 2019 Recreational Boating
16 Statistics, which is a public document published by the
17 United States Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast
18 Guard and that Commission take judicial notice of that.

19 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Well, I don't think I
20 have a problem with that. Mr. DeSisto?

21 MR. DESISTO: Neither do I. I think it's
22 appropriate.

23 MS. NOONAN: I would like to raise my objection
24 for the record. I don't believe that the objectors have

1 a right to rebut our rebuttal, which is exactly what this
2 document is for. He had the right and opportunity to do
3 it during his case in chief when safety was one of the
4 major concerns that he raised. So I don't think
5 procedurally it's correct to allow surrebuttal on a case
6 I haven't even put in yet.

7 Finally, it's also I believe fairly irrelevant and
8 not of assistance to this Board, which I think is the
9 question, as it is just a national document without
10 anyone assisting them going through it.

11 So on those grounds I object to the admission of
12 that procedurally and substantively.

13 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. I think I'd still
14 like to allow it to come in as a reference and for us to
15 take notice of it. I'll overrule the objection and it's
16 noted for the record.

17 MR. CAPIZZO: Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 [EXHIBIT #8 MARKED FULL]

19 MS. NOONAN: Shall I start?

20 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Yes.

21 MS. NOONAN: Thank you. The first two exhibits
22 that I would like entered, picking up from where we left
23 off, are Exhibits 18 and 19. These are both responses
24 from APR requests, which are the Access to Public Records

1 Requests pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 38-2-1.
2 Exhibit 18 pertains only specifically to Potter Pond.
3 Exhibit 19 expands out to Point Judith Pond, Potter Pond,
4 Green Hill Pond, Ninigret Pond, also known as Charlestown
5 Pond, and Quonochontaug Pond.

6 The purpose we put forward these records is a
7 request -- we had asked for any and all accident data
8 relating to aquaculture sites. Both of these requests
9 were denied because such records did not exist.

10 I move 18 and 19 as full exhibits and there will be
11 no testimony on those.

12 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Mr. DeSisto, do we -- I
13 can just accept those, correct? We already had objection
14 on that.

15 MR. DESISTO: That is correct, yes.

16 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: All right.

17 [EXHIBITS 18 AND 19 MARKED FULL]

18 MS. NOONAN: Thank you. Then the last piece of
19 evidence in this hearing -- and again thank you to all
20 the Committee members for their time and patience during
21 this hearing -- is a letter dated January 2, 2023. I
22 would like that marked as Exhibit 20 for identification.

23 [EXHIBIT #20 MARKED FOR ID]

24 MS. NOONAN: Mr. Osgood is here. I don't know

1 if he needs to be re-sworn or reminded that he is under
2 oath, but he will testify to this document.

3 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Mr. DeSisto?

4 MR. DESISTO: I would like to re-swear him.
5 Mr. Osgood, please raise your right hand.

6 AUDIE OSGOOD,

7 Being duly sworn testifies as follows:

8 MR. DESISTO: Please restate your name and
9 spell it for the record.

10 MR. OSGOOD: Audie, A-u-d-i-e, Osgood,
11 O-S-G-O-O-D.

12 MR. DESISTO: Thank you.

13 EXAMINATION BY MS. NOONAN

14 Q. Thank you, Mr. Osgood. How are you this afternoon?

15 A. I'm doing well, thank you.

16 Q. Great. In regards to your testimony that you gave before
17 this Subcommittee, did you also have an opportunity to
18 observe the testimony of the objectors' witness, Payson
19 Whitney?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. I think as we know, when we were dealing with the
22 application and the five percent rule, that's applied
23 just to Potter Pond. And I think even the point was made
24 today that total aquaculture will only be three percent

1 of Potter Pond, leaving 90 percent available. But during
2 the hearings, there was much discussion of the Segar Cove
3 acreage, Segar Cove being a subset of Potter Pond.

4 So if you could tell the Committee what I asked you
5 to do following the conclusion of the objectors' case and
6 much of the public testimony.

7 A. Certainly. I was asked to go back and just take a closer
8 look at the numbers and provide a table sort of combining
9 everything and summarize what the restrictions were to
10 the cove, Segar Cove, based on the 200-foot buffer from
11 the stationary objects, in this case being the shoreline
12 and docks.

13 MS. NOONAN: Could we screen share Exhibit 20,
14 please? I think Leslie was going to do that for me.

15 Can everyone see the January 22, 2021 letter from
16 DiPrete Engineering?

17 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Yes. I can't see the
18 full letter. Okay, now I see the letter.

19 MS. NOONAN: Thank you so much.

20 Q. Mr. Osgood, can you please tell the Subcommittee what
21 this document is?

22 A. Sure. This is the table of those areas that I was just
23 explaining. So we noted that the total area of Segar
24 Cove is 53.5 acres, approximately, that we apply the

1 buffer, the 200-foot restriction buffer, off of the
2 shoreline and the docks. We end up with approximately
3 36.8 acres remaining available. I'm sorry, that's what
4 is restricted by the buffer.

5 So taking that away from the 53.5, there are 16.7
6 acres available for towed water sports where they are
7 permitted by ordinance.

8 Then we looked at the proposed conditions of the
9 rectangular three-acre farm, and obviously the same
10 36.8 acres is restricted. There's a portion of the farm
11 outside of the 200-foot buffer and a portion inside. The
12 portion outside, when encroached on that 60.7 acres is
13 0.8 acres. That is of the farm area itself. Once we
14 applied the 200-foot offset from that, that area
15 encompasses 4.1 acres. So the total restriction then is
16 41.7, or reduces the area for towed water sports to
17 11.8 acres.

18 Q. Just to be clear, that proposed condition is for the
19 original rectangular Plan A, if you will, correct?

20 A. Yes, correct.

21 Q. Thank you.

22 A. Then the third column to the right is the layout B
23 conditions which is I think what is called the polygon
24 farm configuration which has more area within the

1 existing 200-foot buffer area. So only 0.3 acres of that
2 configuration would occupy the unrestricted portion of
3 Segar Cove. That 200-foot buffer beyond that occupies
4 another 3.5. So for a total of 3.8 acres that would be
5 restricted by the pond, or by the farm where the net area
6 then of 12.9 acres where towed water sports are
7 permitted.

8 Q. Just to be clear, as you set forth in your first
9 paragraph, this is applying those 200-foot buffers from
10 the Town of South Kingstown's ordinance, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. All right. Anything further to state on this,
13 Mr. Osgood?

14 A. No, I don't believe so.

15 Q. And that's your stamp that you affixed to this document?

16 A. Yes, it is.

17 MS. NOONAN: I would move Exhibit 20 full, and
18 we can take it off the screen share.

19 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: As discussed earlier,
20 that's submitted in full.

21 [EXHIBIT #20 MARKED FULL]

22 MS. NOONAN: I have no further questions for
23 Mr. Osgood.

24 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. Do you have any

1 more on your rebuttal?

2 MS. NOONAN: No. That is it, Madam Chair. I
3 am done.

4 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. Because we have a
5 little more time until 1 o'clock, I would offer to
6 counsel if they want to make closing arguments. Before
7 we do that, I think we have put out a request that we
8 would like post-hearing memos or briefs. I'd like to see
9 those submitted to the CRMC by no later than next Friday,
10 which is the fifth, but you can submit it as early as you
11 want to. I just ask if you can keep them fairly concise
12 so we can get through the entire briefs.

13 MS. NOONAN: Madam Chair, we're prepared to
14 submit by that date.

15 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: We have a workshop on the
16 10th. So that would give Subcommittee members five days
17 or so to review those. But obviously if you can get them
18 in sooner, we'll have a longer period of time.

19 Ms. Noonan?

20 MS. NOONAN: My feeling is the post-hearing
21 briefs speak for themselves. We've been at this a long
22 time. You know, if my colleagues Mr. Capizzo and
23 Mr. Wagner want to do oral argument, I suppose they can.
24 I just think at this point the written briefs would be

1 far more productive use of time. I think we know where
2 everybody stands on the issues, but I will argue if they
3 want to argue. Otherwise, I think I would rather rest on
4 other briefs.

5 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. I'll start with
6 you, Mr. Capizzo. Do you want to make any closing
7 argument?

8 MR. CAPIZZO: No. We will rest on our memo and
9 brief.

10 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Mr. Wagner?

11 MR. WAGNER: I will as well.

12 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. I guess we've been
13 going at this a while because three attorneys passing up
14 closing arguments is a --

15 MS. NOONAN: We grab that opportunity.

16 MR. WAGNER: We're going to the closing in the
17 briefs though.

18 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Yeah, okay. From
19 Subcommittee members, does anyone have any questions or
20 comments before we adjourn? Mr. Gomez.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Just, I've got lots and lots of
22 notes here. I was wondering if maybe Ms. Noonan could
23 refresh me on what the restrictions of the South
24 Kingstown ordinance, what that restriction applies to.

1 Is it just motorboats or is it kayaks and numerous other
2 craft?

3 MS. NOONAN: Mr. Gomez, I think primarily what
4 they go to are watercraft and towed water sports. So
5 they don't apply to -- they apply to motorized uses, not
6 paddle boats and kayaks.

7 MR. GOMEZ: I just needed to get that
8 clarified. I know we went through this weeks ago it
9 seems. Thank you.

10 MS. NOONAN: And I am sure you'll see it in
11 writing soon.

12 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: And we have that as an
13 exhibit, correct?

14 MS. NOONAN: That is correct. I believe
15 Christian submitted the South Kingstown Harbor Management
16 Plan. Those ordinances are contained within there as
17 well as separate exhibits also, if I'm correct.

18 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Anything else from
19 Subcommittee members?

20 [NO RESPONSE]

21 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Mr. DeSisto, do we need
22 to do anything else before we move to adjourn?

23 MR. DESISTO: No, just a motion to adjourn.

24 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Okay. Mr. Willis, do you

1 want to say anything from an administrative standpoint
2 before we adjourn?

3 MR. WILLIS: No, Madam Chair, other than the
4 workshop will occur on February 10th. We have the same
5 time frame set up for everybody, and it will still be
6 held on a Zoom webinar platform similar to this for the
7 Council members, the Subcommittee members deliberations.

8 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, Mr. Willis.
9 With that I'll move to adjourn, and I think I'll just do
10 a voice call. I won't call everyone's name. If you can
11 unmute, and if I can get a second to my motion to
12 adjourn.

13 MR. COIA: Madam Chair, Ray Coia seconds.

14 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, Mr. Coia. All
15 those in favor please say aye.

16 [UNANIMOUS VOTE TAKEN]

17 CHAIRWOMAN CERVENKA: Thank you, everyone, for
18 your time and we'll see you back here in a little bit.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. NOONAN: Thank you so much for your time.

21 MR. CAPIZZO: Thank you.

22 [ADJOURNED AT 12:23 p.m.]
23
24

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Lisa M Reis, hereby certify that the foregoing Pages 895 through 966, inclusive, are a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes of the proceedings, via Zoom, which occurred on the above-entitled dates, to the best of my ability.

LISA M. REIS, RPR
Court Reporter/Notary Public
My Commission expires on 7/27/24

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
This 3rd day of February, 2021

	914:15	advocacy (1)	899:2	948:14
#	accomplished (1)	946:7	ambassador (1)	approximately (2)
	909:6	affected (1)	904:17	960:24;961:2
#20 (2)	account (2)	936:10	ambassadors (1)	APR (1)
958:23;962:21	938:17;942:23	affects (1)	932:14	957:24
#8 (1)	accrue (1)	949:17	American (1)	aquaculture (18)
957:18	923:21	affidavit (1)	932:10	900:8;904:24;
	achieve (1)	956:6	among (3)	915:11;922:19;923:2;
[902:13	affixed (1)	917:3;945:5,14	926:12;927:6;929:19;
	acreage (5)	962:15	amount (5)	930:13;934:19;
[ADJOURNED (1)	926:11;946:23;	afford (1)	930:14;941:6;	940:20;941:8;942:4;
966:22	949:22;955:4;960:3	948:5	947:19;949:23;955:4	945:2;946:8,15;
[COMMENCING (1)	acres (13)	afternoon (1)	ample (1)	958:8;959:24
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