



State of Rhode Island  
**Coastal Resources Management Council**  
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

(401) 783-3370  
Fax (401) 783-2069

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

File Number: 2004-05-024 Modification Date: April 13, 2026

This office has under consideration the application of:

**Cedar Island Oyster Co**  
c/o John & Cindy West  
Saunderstown, RI 02874

for a modification of State of Rhode Island Aquaculture Assent to:

add seven horizontal floating lines of five-hundred low-profile baskets (FlipFarm®) for the cultivation of eastern oysters within the three-acre gear area of the existing fifteen-acre lease. Further details and plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice.

Project Location:	State Waters, Point Judith Pond
Adjacent City/Town:	Narragansett

Plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice and can be requested at [Cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov](mailto:Cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov).

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

You are advised that if you have good reason to enter protests against the proposed work it is your privilege to do so. It is expected that objectors will review the application and plans thoroughly, visit site of proposed work if necessary, to familiarize themselves with the conditions and cite what law or laws, if any, would in their opinion be violated by the work proposed.

If you desire to protest, you must attend the scheduled hearing and give sworn testimony. A notice of the time and place of such hearing will be furnished you as soon as possible after receipt of your request for hearing. If you desire to request a hearing, to receive consideration, it should be in writing (**with your correct mailing address, e-mail address and valid contact number**) and be received at this office on or before **May 13, 2026**.

Please email your comments/hearing requests to: [cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov](mailto:cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov); or mail via USPS to: Coastal Resources Management Council; O. S. Government Center, 4808 Tower Hill Road, Rm 116; Wakefield, RI 02879.

/lat

March 23, 2026

**Aquaculture Operations Plan Form  
Lease Modification**

**1. Name and mailing address**

Cedar Island Oyster Company  
owned and operated by Cindy and John West  
[REDACTED]  
Saunderstown, RI 02874

**2. CRMC file number:**

CRMC #B 2004-05-024

**3. DEM Aquaculture License number:**

#00056

**4. Type of facility:**

commercial lease site

**5. Nature of operation:**

Shellfish grown in floating FlipFarm gear.

**6. Location of facility:**

Please let it be known, that due to our wanting to create optimal conditions for both public and private use, that we believe that it would be best to have the floating gear deployed on the coordinates already approved for low profile bottom gear, which is our Northwestern most portion of the existing lease.

Existing modified low profile gear lease:

- a) South Kingston / Narragansett
- b) Point Judith Salt Pond, Area 10PJ
- c) NW 41.40215 -71.50883  
SW 41.40040 -71.50882  
NE 41.40215 -71.50800  
SE 41.40040 -71.50817



- d) 3 acres
  - e) aerial image or chart
- Exhibit: Lease Site on Chart  
Exhibit: Photos from the Middle of the Lease

**7. Species of shellfish**

Eastern American Oyster (*Crassostrea Virginica*)

**8. Acknowledging Biosecurity**

yes, all seed is certified through the Biosecurity board.

**9. Describe structures, gear, method:**

FlipFarm hexcyl baskets 29' by 11" by 6"  
Exhibit: Hexcyl Basket

**a) maximum number of cages proposed:**

7 lines of 600" running North to South, with a maximum of 500 baskets per line.

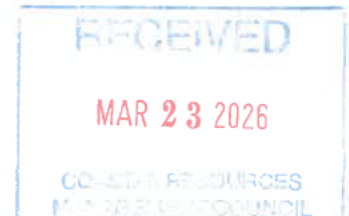
Each basket is aprox 29" by 11" by 6". Each basket having about 4" of space and a rubber dish/washer spacing them apart.

**b) size of cages proposed:**

Each basket is aprox 29" by 11" by 6".

**c) images of site plan**

Exhibit: Site Plan  
Exhibit: Cross Section



**10. Site will be built out, accessed, and maintained:**

We are proposing 7 lines running North to South. Each line will be 600' of 1" diameter line, with a 500 lb mooring on the South and North ends of each line. A 7.5" by 20" Go Deep buoy will be at the beginning and end of each line.

There will be 25' separating each line, in a West to East direction.

There will be 4 500 lb pyramid moorings at each of the corners of the lease as a secondary mooring system as a precautionary measure. The 6" PVC corner markers with reflective tape (which are currently in place) will be attached to these pyramid moorings.

Flipfarm lines are deployed by sliding each round axle/basket assembly onto one end of a 1" rope. Drying and harvesting are accomplished with one boat and do not result in any appreciable noise.

We will access the area by boat as we currently do, and will utilize a boat attachment which will be the "flipper", to flip the bags. There will be a "hauler line" under just under each sting of floating baskets to help propel the boat along the line for moving down the trawl line. The Hauler line will be 7/16" esterpro line

Exhibit: Go Deep Buoy and Moorings

Exhibit: Flipper Attachment

While we attend the farm daily, to monitor the baskets, the need for engaging with the gear will be on a biweekly basis, actually flipping them, throughout the year.

**11. Methods and equipment used to identify and mark the site:**

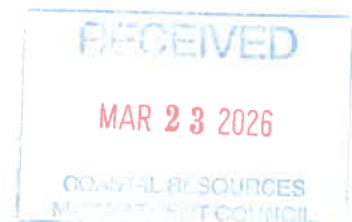
Yellow PVC Spar buoys indicate the corners of the area. These buoys will include our CRMC assent number as well as a message of No Anchoring, No Shellfishing.

**12. Shellfish Harvesting Classification:**

RI 10PJ, a non conditional growing area.

**13. Practices and procedures used:**

Seed may be tumbled on board vessel twice a month, not in winter months. Harvesting performed by hand culling. Seed sources, sizes, and dates are updated daily on waterproof paper. Harvest is transported via refrigeration truck following all applicable Vibrio protocols along with the use of ice. Harvest gets loaded onto the truck at a public landing. The FlipFarm basket are stored in our gear lot, if not in use.



Cedar Island Oyster Company currently retains a Aquaculture lease #B-2004-02-025, which is currently set up with bottom gear. If approval for that lease modification is accepted for floating gear, we have planned to retain a trawl line of over 500' of bottom gear to be used for submersion of market sized oysters for a 2 weeks period prior to sale, to address potential campylobacter contamination.

#### 14. Floating Gear

**a) mitigation / bird deterrent measures:**

In terms of how the floats may attract waterfowl, the previous generation of floating gear, know as "OysterGro" floating cages has tendencies towards attracting birds, as there is more ease in perching. These FlipFarm baskets are low profile enough and small in their size and surface area, that there is a marked decrease in inclination for birds to perch (because they are smaller in size), and the movement is greater, creating less ideal conditions for waterfowl. We are also in communication with other farmers regarding the use of Acoustic Bird Deterrents.

**b) re-submergence prior to harvest:**

Our farm currently has the capability to hold oysters within bottom trays, We would utilize this capacity for all harvest product. All oysters intended for sale are re-submerged for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to harvest, whether or not they have been air-dried, in order to mitigate risks from Campylobacter sp bacteria.

#### 15. Projected per unit area yield and applicants capability:

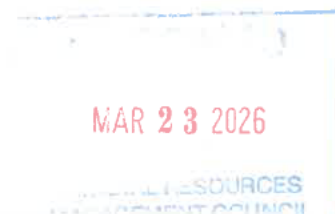
We anticipate an annual yield of 500,000 market pieces from this stated gear proposal.

#### 16. Safety and Security equipment, and storm preparedness:

Our lease area is marked with corner including our lease assent number.

**a) storm measures**

FlipFarm gear is specifically designed to provide less resistance to waves and wind as it is lower profile and moves together as one unit with the waves (i.e. think of an undulating or snake- like motion in response to the waves). FlipFarm gear is designed to move as a single unit in a storm and minimizes chafing points, in contrast to other floating gear types. 500 lb pyramid moorings



anchors on each corner, with the spread of 6 additional 300 lb anchors. Each bridle line is 1" diameter and rated for breaking strength that is greater than the weight of the overall gear on the line.

Also, we will have the ability to manually detach each longline of baskets if needed, and tow them into shore, removing them, if necessary, at the nearby boat access point. We have an industrial trailer with which to transport them. In the event of a hard freeze, we would remove the floating gear from the affected area.

(17?)

**18. Procedures for maintaining records:**

**a) out of state:**

We will continue the thorough record keeping of which we have been accustomed to, detailing our husbandry practices on waterproof paper. Each line will be tagged and documented.

**b) upwellers/ seed growing:**

We are accustomed to keeping detailed records of each year class oysters and their hatchery locations.

**c) seed from prohibited waters**

The seed coming out of prohibited water is far too small for sale. Oysters are grown out in approved waters. After 120 days in approved waters, and greater than 32mm in size, the oysters are able to be sold.

**i. detailed record keeping practices.**

We have decades of past logs and records of our practices.

**ii. protocols and associated record keeping:**

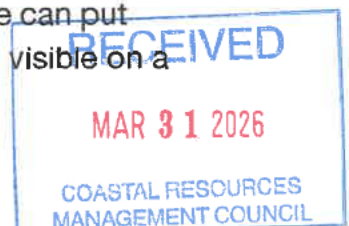
We have our record keeping logbook with us each day we are working on the farm.

**iii. notifying 3rd party of origin of seed.**

CRMC receives notification of any seed coming to our farm.

**d) The safety and security of equipment, including appropriate marking of the equipment and/or lease area:**

Lease corners are marked with 6" PVC spar bouys with the CRMC assent number as well as a 4" strip of reflective tape at the top. If able, we can put radar reflectors on the corner bouys. Generally our spar bouys are visible on a



radar. Each Flipfarm bridal line will be constructed with 1" polysteel rope and 500 lb pyramid moorings.

**e) The projected per unit area yield of harvestable product:**

Oysters on a annual basis from the floating gear proposed is 500,000 oysters.

**f) The cumulative impact of a particular aquaculture proposal in an area, in addition to other aquaculture operations already in place. (at minimum, applicants should consider the impact of any other aquaculture operation within 1000'):**

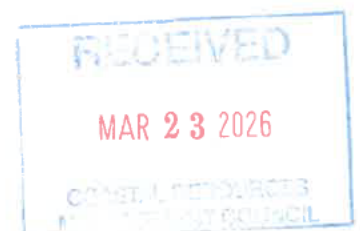
The proposed modification does not increase the size of the leased area or vessel traffic related to aquaculture in the area. The footprint of the floating gear requested would amount to 3 acres.

**g) The capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed activities:**

Cedar Island Oyster Company currently has 3 leases in Point Judith Pond for a total of approximately 18 acres. We have 3 full time employees tending to the area on a year round business and 2-3 additional part time employees during the growing season. In the event of an unforeseen issue, we have the vessels and labor force to respond quickly. We are also founding members of the OceanState Shellfish Cooperative where if needed we have support.

**h) The impact of the proposed activities on the scenic quality of the area:**

Being low profile floating gear, as opposed to previous generations of floating gear, it is less visual overall. The nature of the Flipfarm gear is such that it moves in the water in a natural motion and the gear lines are orderly. Depending on the weather and / or time of year, there may be a reduced number of gear in the water.



## Category B Tidal Aquaculture Form

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

The proposed gear modification is sought to primarily improve efficiency and economic viability of the farm. As a founding oyster farm in RI (since 1991), using an antiquated grow out system of bottom planting, we are being drastically outcompeted by the farms with floating gear, rendering our farm unsustainable.

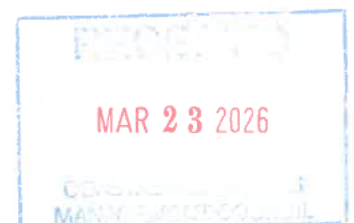
Low - profile floating FlipFarm baskets will have the ability to be frequently dried out to eliminate fouling organisms without significant labor involved to load the gear out of the water onto the rafts and boats. FlipFarm baskets also lend themselves to a more sustainable operation as they produce a superior quality oyster with a minimum of mechanical tumbling and gear hauling, have a long service life, and are recyclable. In moving from bottom gear grow out system to the FlipFarm lines (because they are low profile), we will reduce the visual impact of oyster gear on the lease.

**2. Demonstrate that all applicable local zoning ordinances, building codes, flood hazards, and all safety codes, fire codes, and environmental requirements have or will be met; local approvals are required for activities as specifically prescribed for non tidal portions of a project in Sections 1.3.1(B), 1.3.1(C), 1.3.1(F), 1.3.1(H), 1.3.1(I), 1.3.1(K), 1.3.1(M), 1.3.1(O), and 1.3.1(Q) of this part; for projects on state land, the state building official, for the purposes of this section, is the building official.**

If the gear needs to be removed for whatever reason, it will be stored in the same location where we are currently storing our farm equipment, including boats, rafts, bottom cages, etc. There will be no other land based activities as a result of the proposed modification. We will continue ship our oysters through the current facility, the licensed dealer of Ocean State Shellfish Cooperative.

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

The requested area is:



NW	41.40215	-71.50883
SW	41.40040	-71.50882
NE	41.40215	-71.50800
SE	41.40040	-71.50817

This area is located within our exiting 15.5 acre lease on the far Western boundary. On the western side of said boundary is another oyster farm operated by Dave Roebuck. No land area will be affected as we are well away from all coastal shoreline.

**4. Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant impacts on erosion and/or deposition processes along the shore and in tidal areas.**

The floating cages are connected, forming an undulating line, while being securely moored. They will move slightly according to wave and tidal action and will not have any impacts upon the shoreline.

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

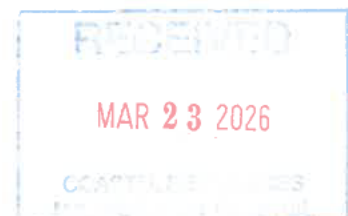
*The floating gear will serve as shelter and habitat for juvenile finfish and crabs.* Saltwater Aquatic Vegetation is not located in this area. Low profile floating gear is far less conducive to having birds perch upon them.

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

The requested alteration will not unreasonably interfere with use, as the lease area already granted, is located near a sand bar, in which general passage is usually avoided. The 3 acre parcel, located within the already leased 15.5 acre parcel allows ample space for any marine activity to take place. Of the 15.5 acre lease, the chosen area, at the western boundary of the lease sees the least amount of activity.

Given the size of the Point Judith Salt Pond, there is ample space for recreational use.

Gear is laid out in a lineal manner to allow paddle craft and other non motorized users to traverse through the site if desired.



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

The proposed gear is designed to allow for the greatest flow of water to promote feeding, filtering, and growth of oysters which will enhance the water quality of the area. The lines will be arranged in a North to South orientation in rows for predominant wind and tide movement to flow unimpeded throughout the site.

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

Shellfish aquaculture has been proven to increase water quality due to the filtering action of shellfish. The site will be accessed using the same 25' vessel which is currently working the area.

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

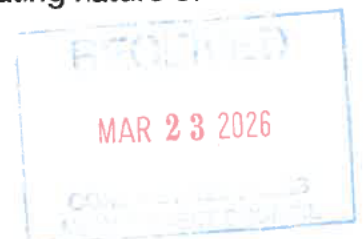
There are no know historical nor archaeological resources within the proposed site. If any such sites were discovered, the location of aquaculture gear will not impact their existence, as the the gear can be shifted as needed.

**10. Demonstrate that the alteration or activity will not result in significant conflicts with water dependent uses and activities such as recreational boating, fishing, swimming, navigation and commerce.**

The requested modification site sits near to a shallow sandy area, which generally discourages boating activity. There is ample top water space around the requested modification that would allow recreational activities. The predominate vessel traffic is done in the channel which lies to the west of the requested site, or, at the far eastern boundary of the lease which is often used as an alternative route for passage.

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

The FlipFarm baskets were chosen over other types of floating gear due to the lower profile of the floatation, with 6" of the baskets exposed above the waterline versus 18" or more for OysterGro Floating cages. FlipFarm floats also provide an improved visual due to the linear, organized and undulating nature of the strings of floats.



## Additional Category B Requirements

### 1. Describe the location and size of the area proposed.

The requested area is:

NW	41.40215	-71.50883
SW	41.40040	-71.50882
NE	41.40215	-71.50800
SE	41.40040	-71.50817

This site is a 3 acre parcel located on the western boundary of our existing 15.5 acre parcel.

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

Crassostrea Virginica      American Eastern Oyster

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

Commercial lease utilizing floating gear.

While we are on site at the farm daily, the management of the FlipFarm gear would be tended to weekly, or as needed if necessary. It is the action of movement from the waves which is instrumental in the grow out practice. The area of proposed gear would mean that we were not spending as much time motoring around, dredging, as is our current practice.

### 4. Provide such other information as may be necessary for the Council to determine

#### a) The compatibility of the proposal with other existing and potential uses of the area and areas contiguous to it, including navigation, recreation, and fisheries.

There is currently no shellfishing permitted in this area. Having been working within the proposed area for the past 22 years, we are aware that very little water craft activity would be constrained by the change of usage. There is ample open and navigable water surrounding each side.

**b) In addition, please provide the following necessary information as required in the 1000' Contiguous Area Map:**

\* **list of all property owners within 1000'**

There are no property owners within 1000'.

\* **list of all approved aquaculture leases within 1000'**

Dave Roebuck with Salt Pond Selects is to the West and South of proposed area.

\* **list of CRMC designated ROW(s) within 1000'**

none

\* **CRMC water use types within 1000'**

type II

\* **any shoreline(s) within 1000' which have been preserved for**

**conservation, recreation, and/or public access through easements, purchased by the state or municipality, or are owned by a land trust or state recognized conservation organization.**

none

**c) The degree of exclusivity required for aquaculture activities on the proposed site. (In support of this requirement and in accordance with 1.3.1(K)(b), the applicant must include a plan demonstrating reasonable public ingress and egress to and from the proposed site for traditional water activities such as boating, swimming and fishing. The ingress/egress plan may be notated on a copy of the site plan or other map.)**

There is no difficulty for ingress/egress given the proposed location.

**d) The safety and security of equipment, including appropriate marking of the equipment and/or lease area.**

The lease corners are marked with 6" PVC that have radar reflective tape on them for nighttime hazard. We are open to safety demarcation as much as would be permissible. The line will be constructed with 1" polysteel rope. Auger anchors will be screwed into the bottom to serve as back up anchoring in the event of extreme winds.

**e) The projected per unit yield of harvestable product.**

We project a harvestable yield of 500,000 oysters annually.

**f) The cumulative impact of a particular aquaculture proposal in an area, in addition to other aquaculture operations already in place. (At minimum,**



**applicants should consider the impact of any other aquaculture operations within 1000' of the proposed site.).**

The proposed modification does not increase the size of leased area, nor vessel traffic related to aquaculture in the area.

**g) The capability of the applicant to carry out proposed activities.**

John and Cindy West have owned and operated this oyster farm for the past 22 years. We have shown to be capable and competent farmers.

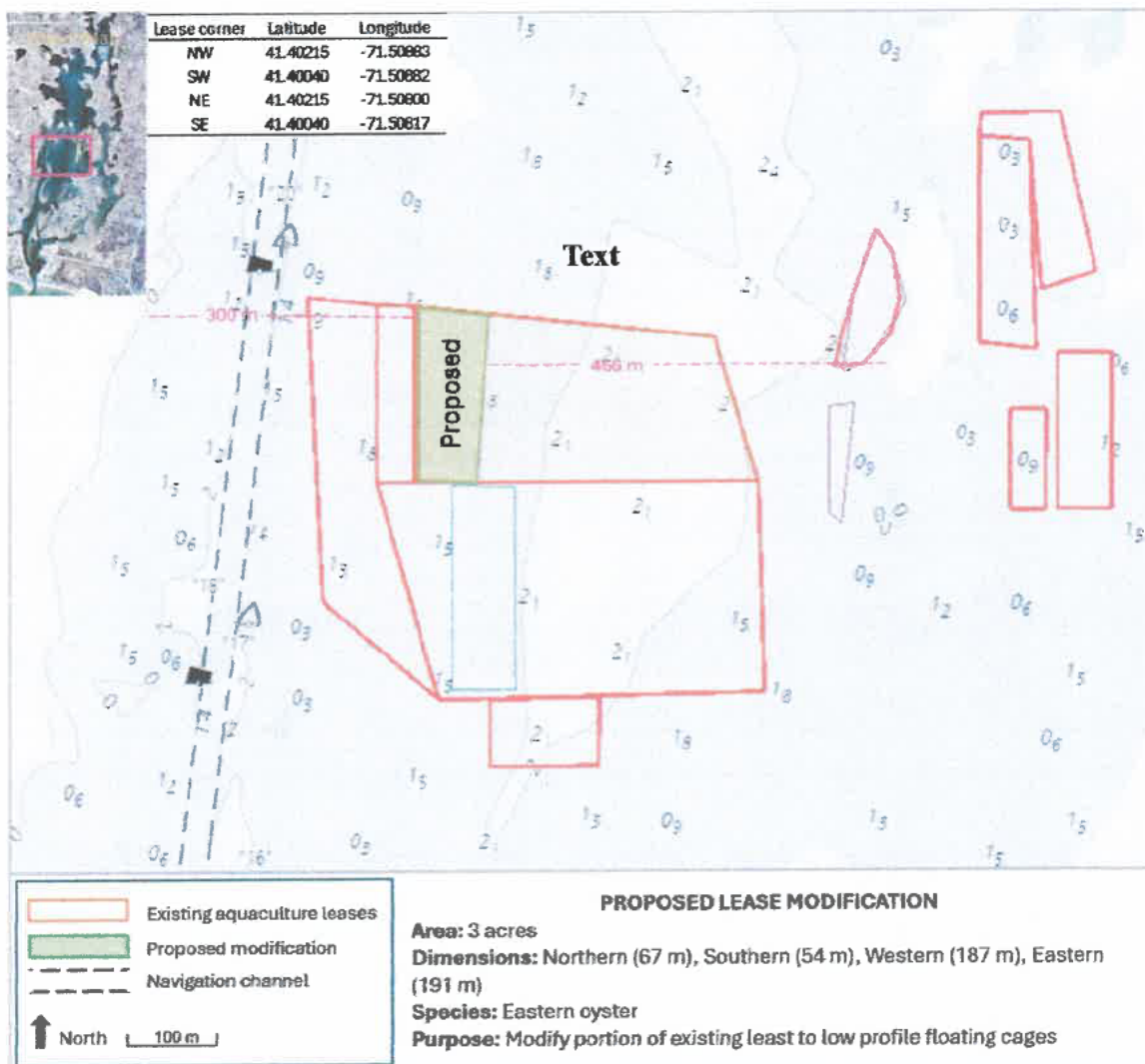
**h) The impact of the proposed activities on the scenic qualities of the area.**

The scenic impact would be mitigated by the more linear/symmetrical appearance and low profile of the FlipFarm baskets. There may be times when there is less gear on the lease than is proposed given weather or growing conditions.



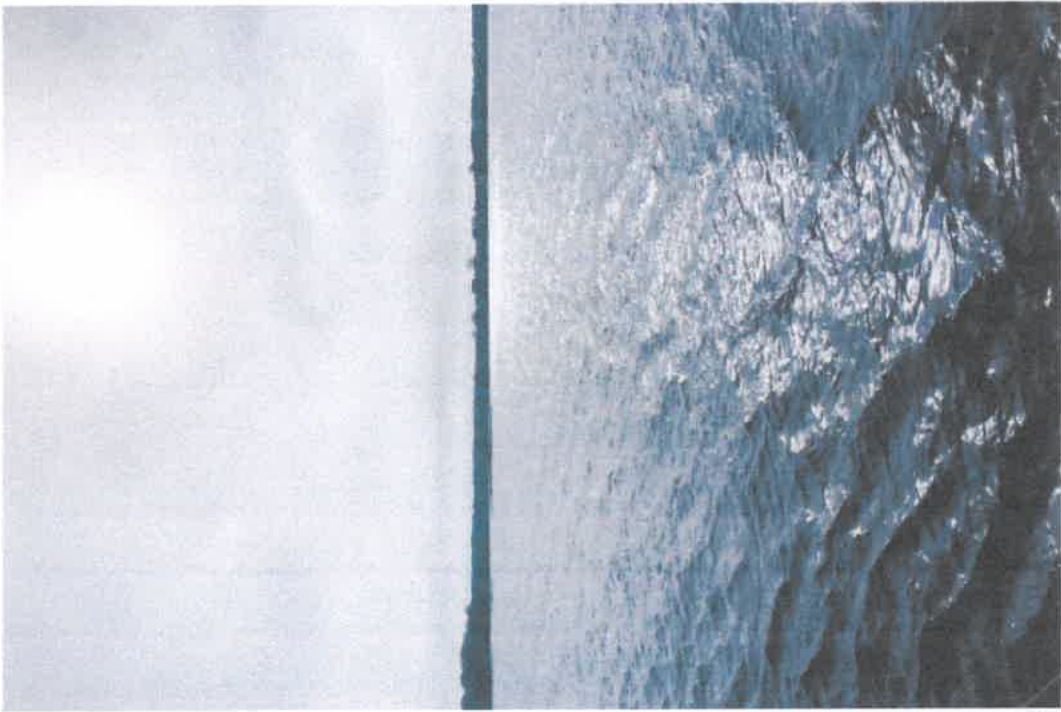
**Cedar Island Oyster Company**  
**CRMC File B2004-05-024**  
**Lease Site on Chart**

**Figure 1.** Location of proposed lease modification. This chart depicts existing aquaculture leases and the proposed lease modification of Cedar Island Oyster Co. (dark green).

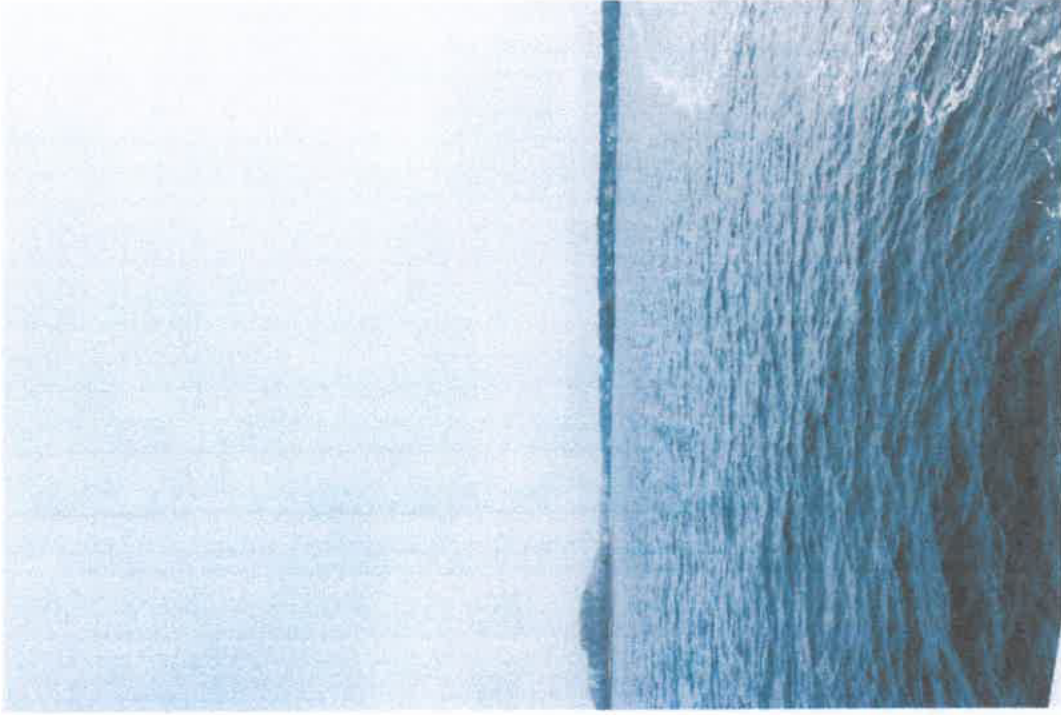


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 CEDAR ISLAND OYSTER CO.  
 1000 CEDAR ISLAND RD. S.W.

**Cedar Island Oyster Co.  
CRMC File B2004-05-024  
Photos from Middle of the  
Lease**



**East**



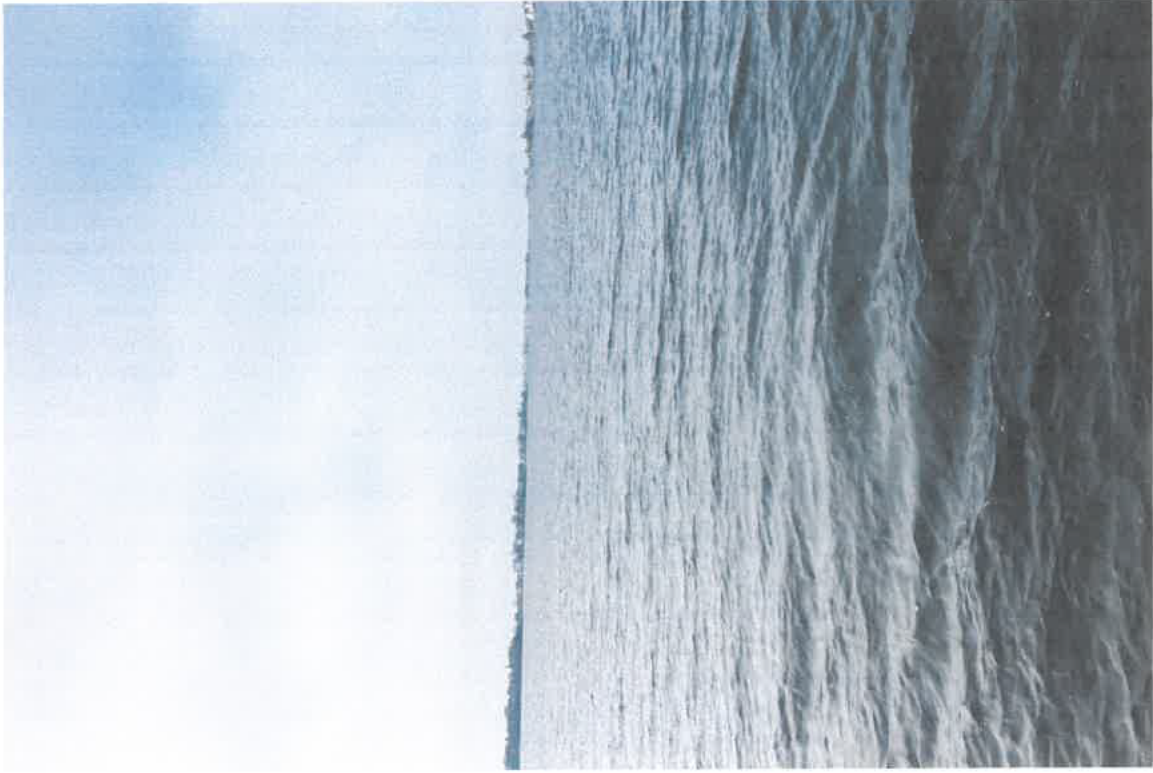
**North**

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COUNTY OF LINCOLN  
COUNCIL

Cedar Island Oyster Co.  
CRM File: B-2004-05-024  
photos from the middle of the lease



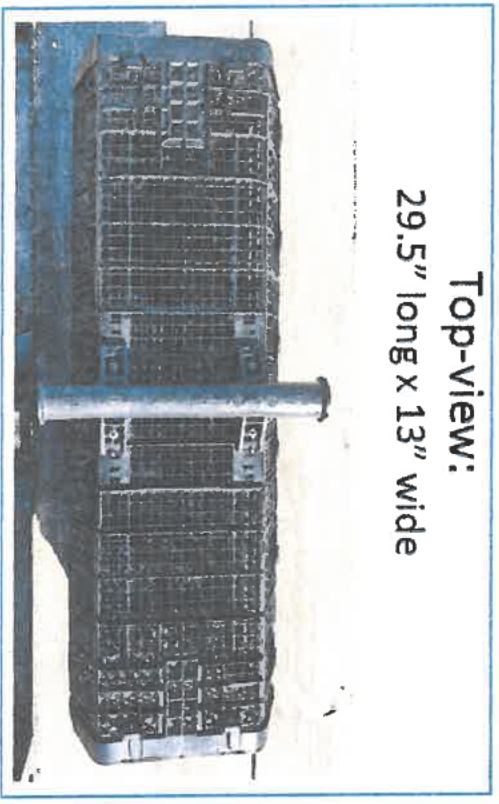
West



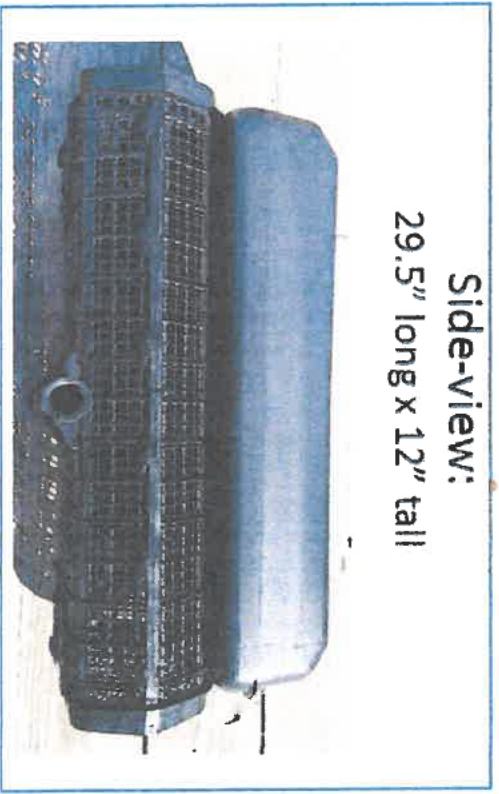
South

2026

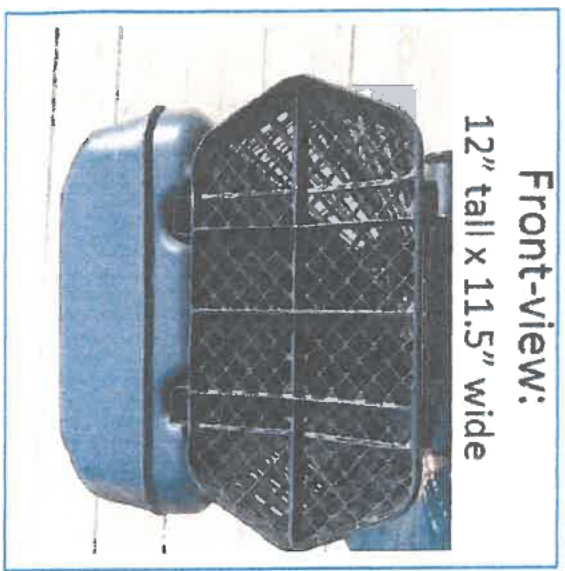
Cedar Island Oyster Co.  
CRM File: B-2004-05-024  
Hexcyl Baskets



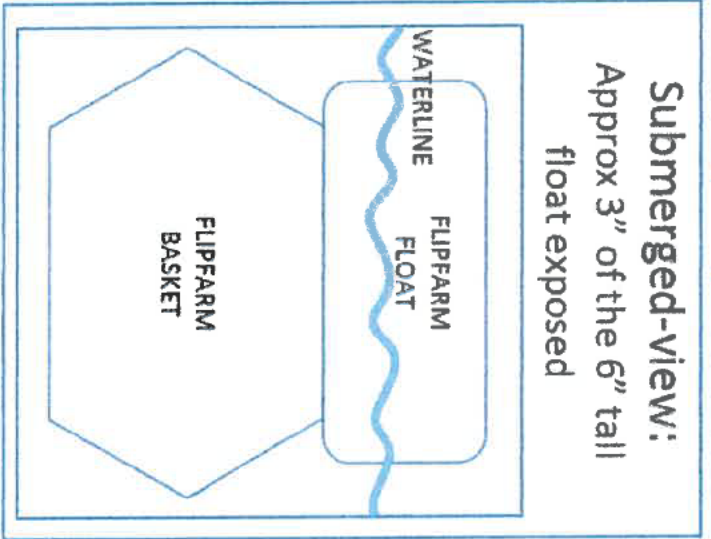
**Top-view:**  
29.5" long x 13" wide



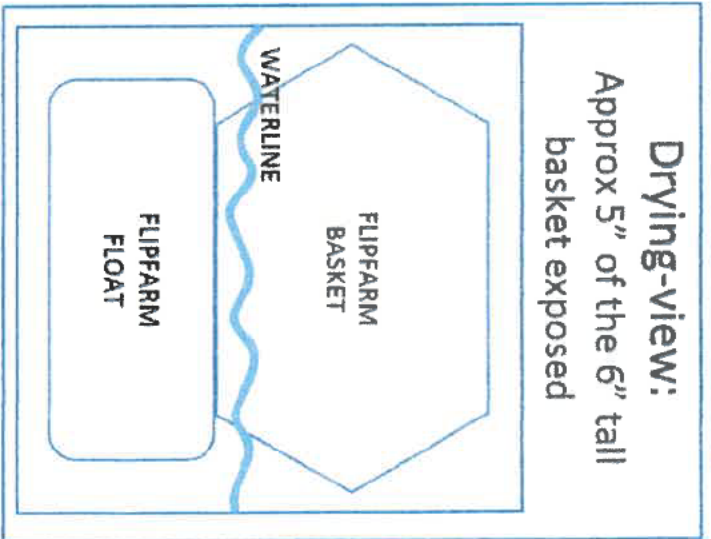
**Side-view:**  
29.5" long x 12" tall



**Front-view:**  
12" tall x 11.5" wide



**Submerged-view:**  
Approx 3" of the 6" tall  
float exposed



**Drying-view:**  
Approx 5" of the 6" tall  
basket exposed

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Cedar Island Oyster Co

CRMC File: B - 2004-05-024

Site Plan

500 lb Mooring : spar  
buoy at each corner

NW

NE

25'  
buffer  
from  
perimeter

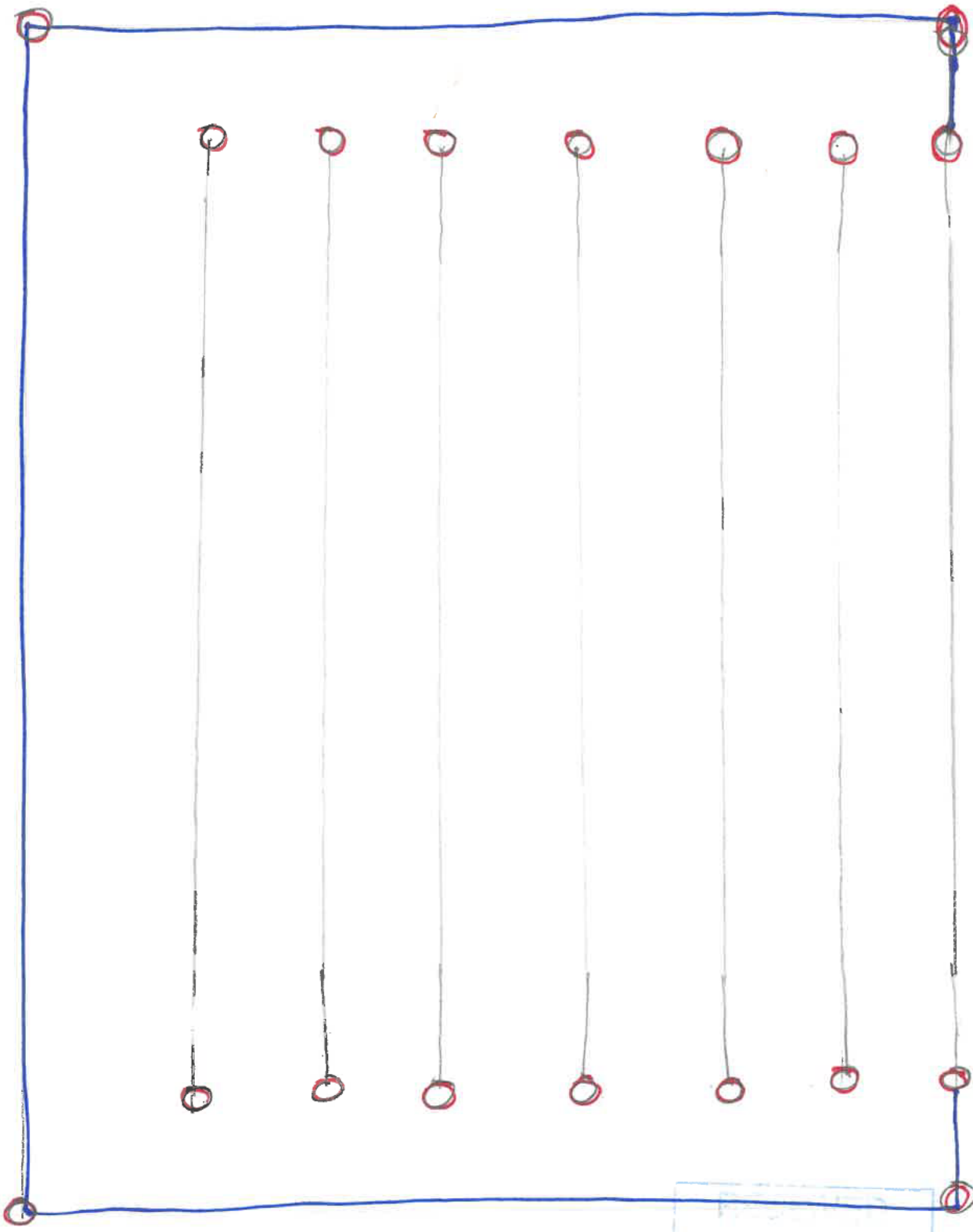
25'  
between  
each line

SW

SE

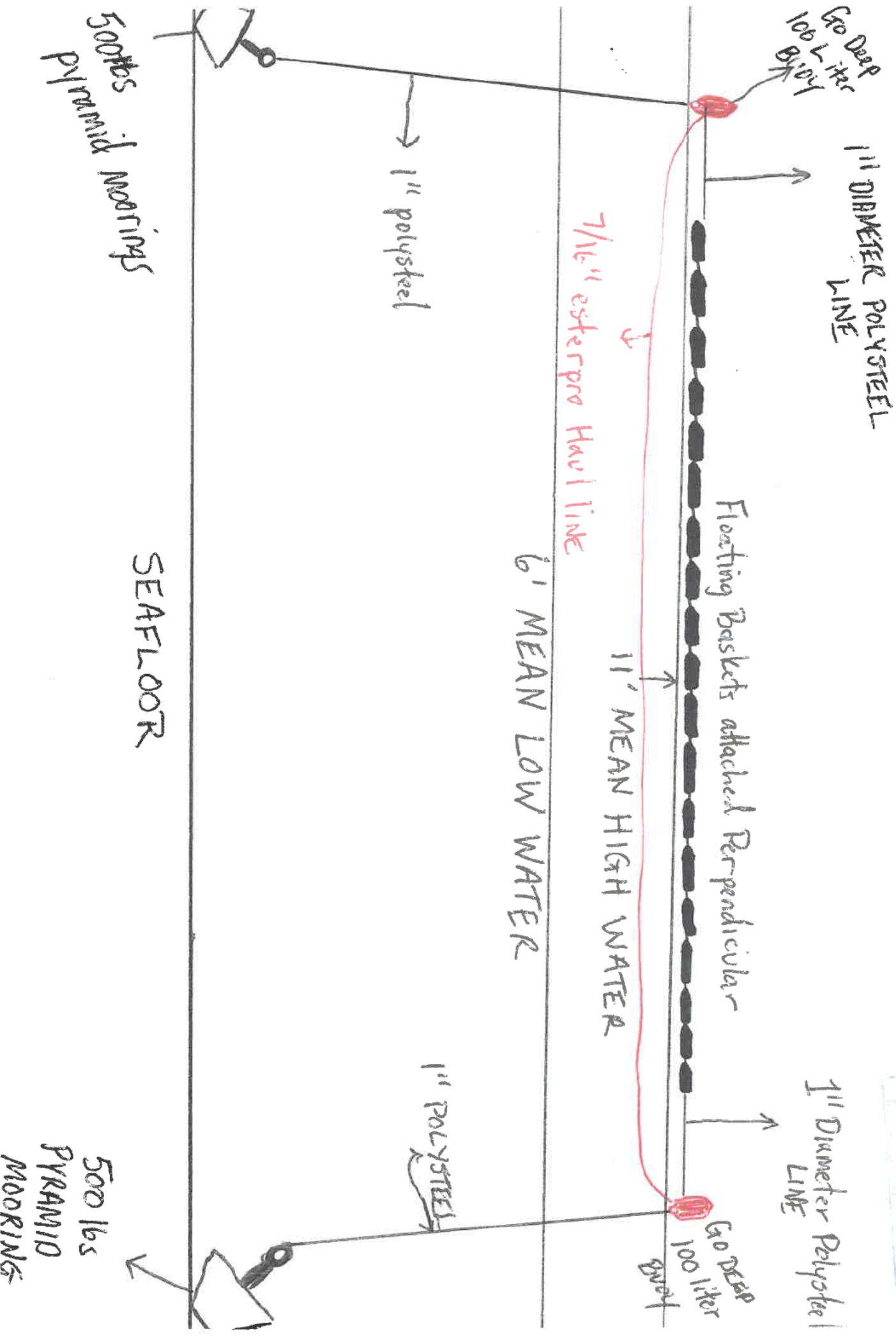
Total 18 - 500 lb pyramid moorings  
7 - 600' lines

MAR 23 2026



Cedar Island Oyster Farm  
CRM File B-2004-05-024  
Cross Section View

MAR 23 2026



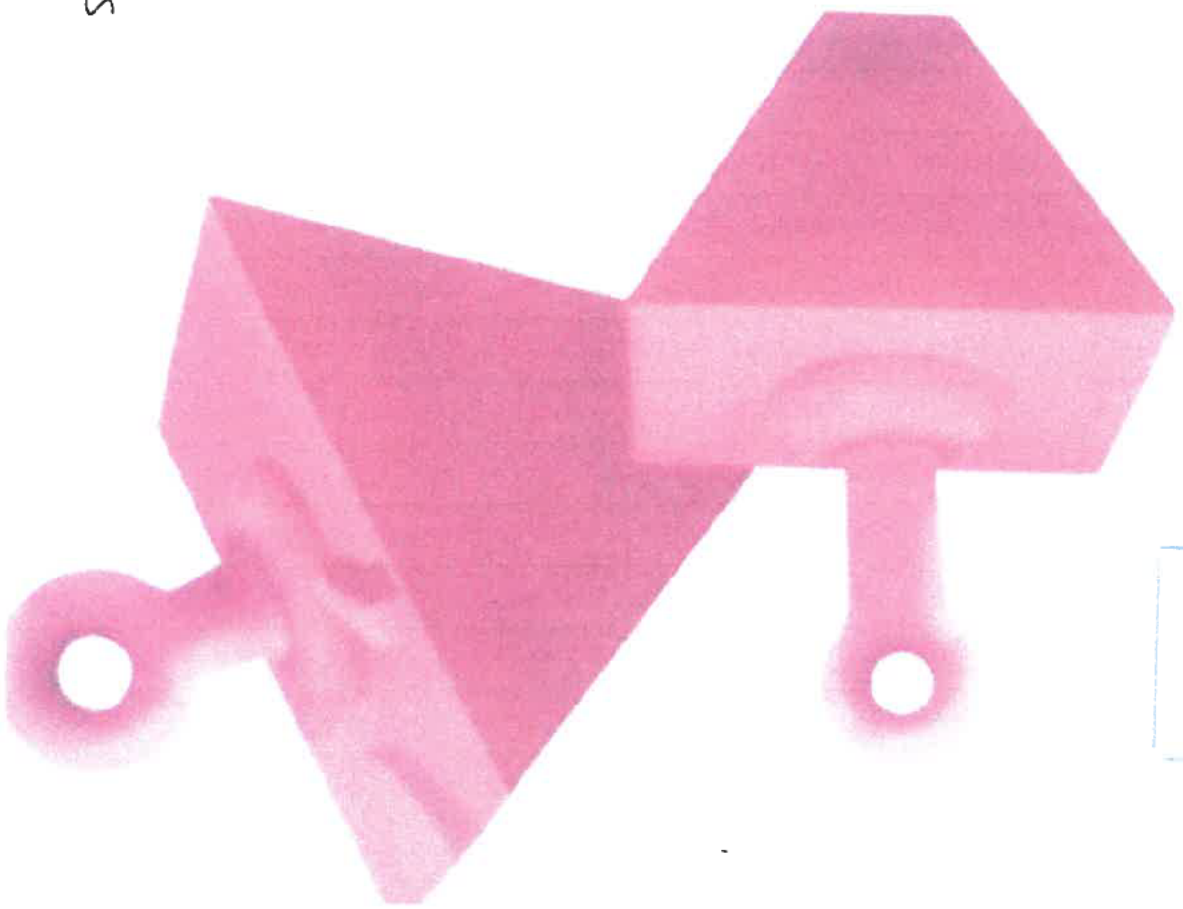
Cedar Island Oyster Co.  
CRM# FU: 2024-05-024  
50 Deep Buoy & Moorings



7.5" x 20" Buoy

500 lb

Pyramid moorings



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QUINCY, ILLINOIS  
MAR 23 2026

**Cedar Island Oyster Co.  
CRMC File B2004-05-024  
Flipper Attachment**

Basket Flipper  
attaches to boat  
Dimensions:  
16' by 6' by 4'

Shuttle is fastened  
onto boat with the  
line of cages running  
through and over it.



0502-0000  
MAR 23 2026  
CONSERVATION  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL