



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: 2015-07-031 Date: February 3, 2025

This office has under consideration the application of:

East Beach Farms, LLC
Attn: James Arnoux

for a modification of a State of Rhode Island Aquaculture Assent to: remove thirty high-profile OysterGro© floating cages and seventy-five bottom cages from the approved 0.75 acre gear area of the 3.2 acre lease, to be replaced by twelve lines of one-hundred low-profile floating baskets (i.e. FlipFarm®) for the cultivation of oysters. In addition, the modification proposal seeks to add a 100'x100' gear area for five trawl lines of twenty bottom trays (2'x3'x1') for the holding of market size oysters. See attached application for more details.

Project Location/Waterway:	Quonochontaug Pond
City/Town:	Charlestown
Related CRMC Files:	2012-10-066; 2013-10-063; 2014-01-007; 2015-05-068

Plans of the proposed work can be requested at 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: March 5, 2025.

Please email your comments/hearing requests to: 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



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

JAN 09 2025

COASTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR ASSENT MODIFICATION

Assent/Permit Number: 2015-07-031 (including extensions)
Expiration Date: JUNE 24, 2029
Name of Assent Holder: EAST BEACH FARMS, LLC
Location of Project: GUENOCMONTAUG POND
City/Town: CHARLESTOWN, RI Plat: N/A
Lot: N/A

Name of Present Owner: JAMES ARNOUX / EAST BEACH FARMS
Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
City/Town: WAKEFIELD State: RI
Zip: 02879
Phone Number: [REDACTED] Email Address: [REDACTED]
Abutters: BRIAN & PAULA WHITNEY
[REDACTED]

I hereby certify that the names and addresses of adjacent property owners whose property adjoins the project site are accurate and current as of the date of application. If said names and addresses are found to be not accurate and/or current, any subsequent Assent may become Null and Void. Signed: [Signature]

Describe the proposed modification(s): REMOVE EXISTING 30 OYSTERED FLOATING CAGES AND 75 BOTTOM CAGES FROM CURRENT GEAR LAYOUT, TO BE REPLACED WITH 1200 FLIP-FARM BASKETS DEPLOYED ON 12 LINES IN CURRENT GEAR AREA. ADD UP TO 100 2'X3'X12" BOTTOM TRAYS IN 100'X100' AREA TO HOLD MARKET SIZE OYSTERS.
Reason: FLIPFARM GEAR PROVIDES FOR SUPERIOR OYSTER QUALITY, INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, AND EMPLOYEE SAFETY, WHILE ALSO MAINTAINING ORDERLY FARM LAYOUT/APPEARANCE. THE BOTTOM TRAYS/CAGES ARE NEEDED TO SUBMERGE MARKET SIZE OYSTERS FOR 2 WEEK PERIOD PRIOR TO SALE TO ADDRESS POTENTIAL CAMPYLOBACTER CONTAMINATION
What state of construction is the project in: FROM BIRDS ON FLOATS.
BASKETS AND LINES ARE AWAITING APPLICATION APPROVAL BEFORE CONSTRUCTION / DEPLOYMENT BEGIN.

JAMES ARNOUX

Owner Name (PRINT)

Owner's Signature (SIGN)

Note: The applicant acknowledges by evidence of their signature that they have reviewed the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program, and have, where possible adhered to the policies and standards of the program. The applicant also acknowledges by evidence of their signature that to the best of their knowledge the information contained in the application is true and valid. The filing of false information can result in the Coastal Resources Management Council revoking State Assent. Applicant requires that as a condition to the granting of this assent, members of the CRMC or its staff shall be access to the applicant's property to make on-site inspections to insure compliance with the assent. This application is made under oath and subject to penalties of perjury. 5/00

Aquaculture Site

**AQUACULTURE SITES
JAMES ARNOUX
QUONOCONTAUG POND**

LOCUS MAP
NINIGRET POND

North West
-71° 42' 46.62"
41° 21' 04.70"

**PROPOSED
FLIP FARM FLOATS**
8 LINES EACH
100 BASKETS
140' LINES

**EXISTING
FLOATING
BASKETS**

South East
-71° 42' 41.74"
41° 21' 02.29"

North West
-71° 42' 49.14"
41° 21' 02.37"

**PROPOSED
ROWS OF
BOTTOM TRAYS OR CAGES**
5 ROWS
100' LONG X 25' APART

**PREVIOUS
FLOATING CAGES
TO
PROPOSED
FLIP FARM FLOATS**
4 LINES
180' LINES

CPMC #
2015-07-031

South East
-71° 42' 44.19"
41° 20' 59.66"

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2025

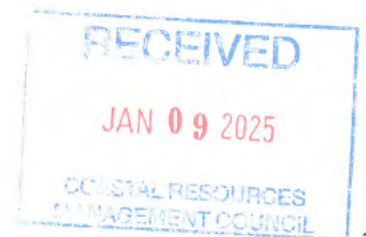
COASTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL





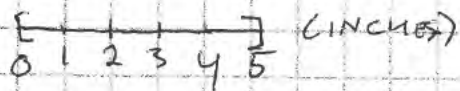
FLIP FARM BASKETS
IN "UP" (DRYING) POSITION

FLIP FARM BASKETS
IN "DOWN" (GROWING POSITION)



www.koyadecor.com

SCALE



FLOAT

(WATER
SURFACE) →

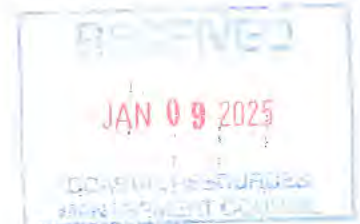
FLOAT

BASKET
(29" x 11" x 6")

AXLE/
1" ROPE
MAINLINE

APPLICANT: EAST BEACH FARMS, LLC

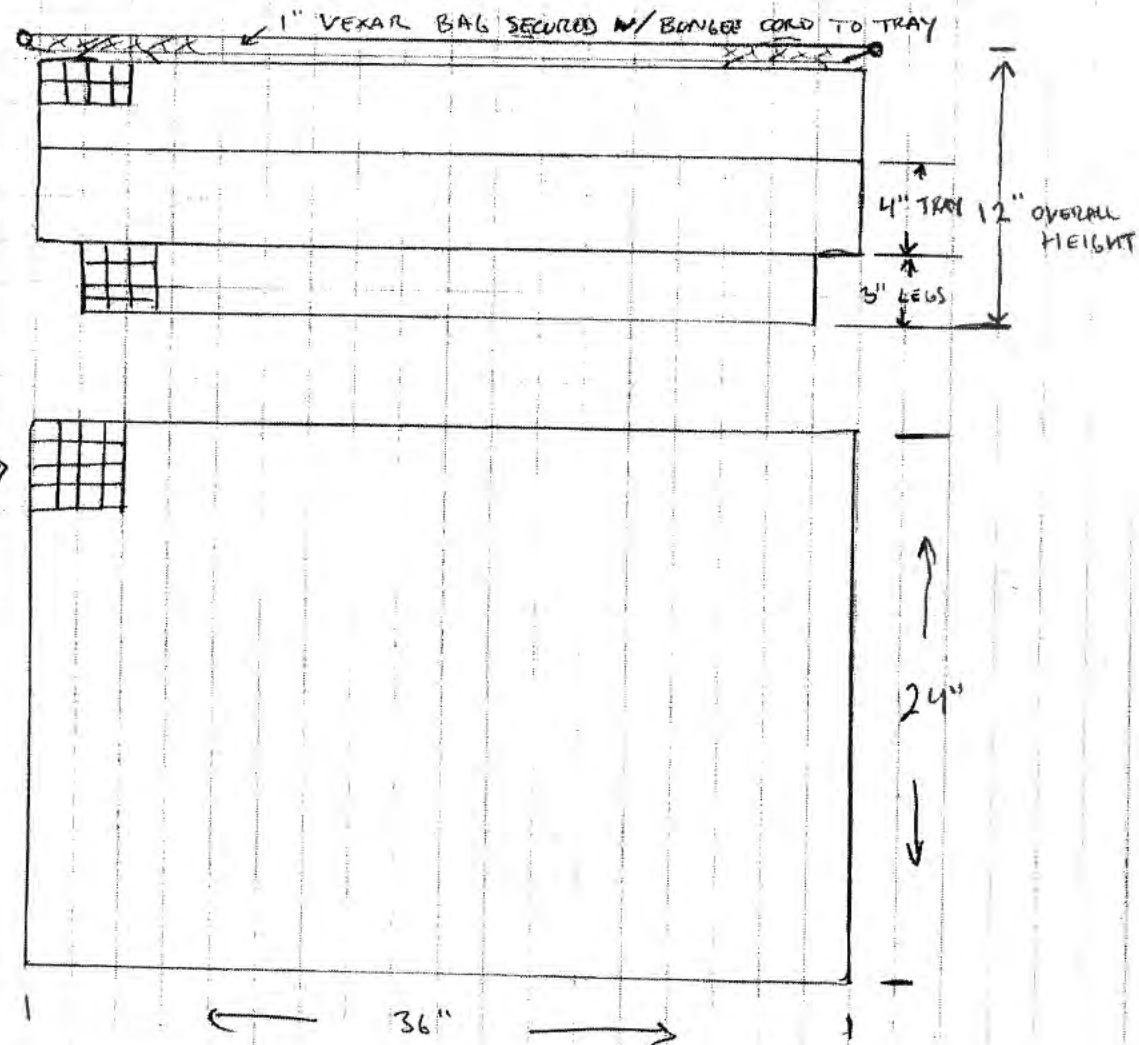
DATE: ~~10/15/23~~
1/9/25



"STACKABLE WIRE TRAYS"

SCALE [0 2 4 6 8] INCHES

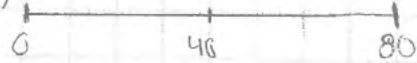
TRAYS CONSTRUCTED
OF 1" x 12 GAUGE
VINYL COATED
WIRE MESH



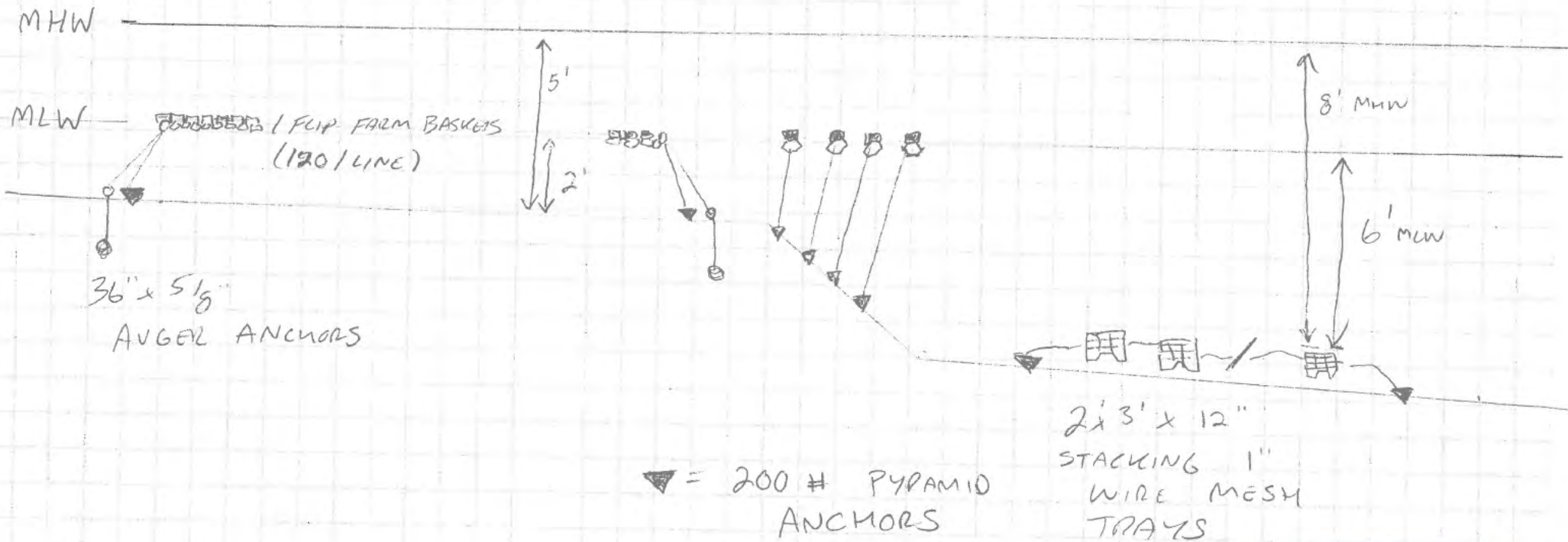
CROSS SECTION VIEW - PROPOSED ASSENT MODIFICATION TO 2015-07-031

APPLICANT: EAST BEACH FARMS, LLC
11/9/2025

SCALE (FT.)
(HORIZONTAL)



SCALE
(VERTICAL)



RECEIVED

JAN 09 2025

COASTAL RESOURCES

East Beach Farms, LLC (owned and operated by James Arnoux) has operated a 3.2 acre commercial aquaculture lease in the northeastern corner of Quonochontaug Pond since 2015. The lease is currently approved for growing oysters utilizing bottom culture, bottom cages/trays, and floating cages/baskets. The lease is one of several the company successfully operates in Quonochontaug and Ninigret Ponds beginning in 2005 with the first 1 acre site. Since then we have kept our focus on growing high-quality oysters while also striving to co-exist with the other users of the ponds, participating in numerous shellfish restoration programs, pond-clean-ups, and partnering with local institutions with salt pond research projects. We are also partners at Ninigret Landing Marina in Charlestown where we provide access for RI-DEM research in Ninigret Pond and partner with the Chariho Marine Tech program to provide internships.

We were approved by CRMC for floating baskets in 2022 and they proved to work well utilizing the FlipFarm style float/axle. The FlipFarm axle in tandem with 200# mooring anchors and 1" line provided a secure and robust system over the past 2 seasons, demonstrated by zero loss of gear. Expanding the use of this system with 1200 more baskets will simultaneously improve product quality in an increasingly competitive oyster market and reduce labor time in an environment of labor shortages.

There will be 75 bottom cages and 30 of the higher profile OysterGro cages removed in the area where the 1200 new FlipFarm baskets would be installed (i.e. in the existing footprint of the gear layout). The FlipFarm baskets would be arrayed in 8 new lines of 100 baskets running parallel (northeast to southwest) to the current floating baskets (i.e. where bottom cages are currently located) and 4 lines in the area where the OysterGro cages will be removed. Each line will be anchored with 200# pyramid anchors and 1" polysteel rope. We will also install screw-in auger anchors as a back-up to the mooring anchors. In the event of storms a back-up line would be attached from the auger screw to the mainline.

The area proposed for the bottom trays would be to the south of the current floating OysterGro cages in a depth of 6'-8'. The 100' x 100' area would permit 5 trawl lines secured with 200# anchors at each end to hold 20 bottom trays per line. Each trawl would be marked with a single pick-up buoy to allow for locating/hauling the trawl line. This area has several unmarked submerged boulders that lie 12"-18" below mean low water so the buoys should not impact boat traffic as boats stay away from that corner of the lease area. The trays will be used to hold market sized oyster inventory and will allow for a minimum 2 week time between removal from the floating gear to time of harvest. This will address regulatory concerns over *Campylobacter* bacteria contamination from birds that perch on the floating gear in the late summer/fall period.

In summary, the modification will substantially improve the viability of the lease site while, as described in the Section 300.1B responses below, minimize the potential conflicts and concerns that may arise from floating aquaculture gear.



Category B Tidal Aquaculture Form

Anyone conducting aquaculture operations in RI must comply with all applicable CRMC regulations (*Coastal Resources Management Program* §§ 1.3.1(A)(1) and 1.3.1(K)(3)(a)) and DEM regulations, as set forth in "*Aquaculture of Marine Species in RI Waters*." Applications provided to the CRMC will be available for DEM review. Category B applications shall address each of the items listed below, as applicable, following the format set forth below.

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

The proposed gear modification is sought primarily to improve operational efficiency and economic viability of the farm. Low-profile floating FlipFarm baskets will have the ability to be frequently dried out to eliminate fouling organisms without the significant labor involved to load the gear onto the boat. 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. Removing the floating "OysterGro" cages and replacing them with flip farm lines will also improve the visual appearance by lowering the float profile and maintaining liner/symmetrical lines.

2. Demonstrate that all applicable local zoning ordinances, building codes, flood hazard standards, and all safety codes, fire codes, and environmental requirements have or will be met; local approvals are required for activities as specifically prescribed for nontidal 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.

When the gear is removed for the winter months it will be stored on commercial property that is also used to store boats. Since the gear would be routinely dried out it will likely be cleaner/less fouled than the typical boat is at the end of a boating season. There will be no other land-based activities as a result of the proposed modification aside from shipment of oysters which takes place at licensed dealer (Ocean State Shellfish Cooperative).



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

The current lease where the proposed gear would be located is just to the west of an area of exposed boulders in the northeastern corner of Quonochontaug Pond, or approximately 1000 feet west of the intersection of Briarwood Drive and West Beach Road in the town of Charlestown. The adjacent shoreline is zoned as privately owned open space cluster. Access to the residential dock facility for 5740 Post Road will not be altered or restricted by the proposed modification.

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 waters;

The floating cages (while securely moored) will move slightly according to wave and tidal action and will not impede these processes. Bottom cages on the shallower portion of the lease will be removed pending approval of the application.

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

The floating gear will serve as shelter and habitat for juvenile finfish and crabs similar to what we observe within/under the currently permitted floating gear. The presence of the existing floats has not resulted in any disturbance to bird or waterfowl activities; we continue to see them perch in the area on the rocks and feed when baitfish are present in the area. SAV was not located when the lease was originally developed and the bottom continues to be barren sand with summertime macroalgae blooms that die off each fall.

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 lease site was originally chosen in large part due to the distance from some of the most actively used parts of the pond (i.e. the Breachway, Bill's Island, Ski Beach, etc.). A second reason for the site location was due to its proximity directly adjacent to a large boulder field which precludes most boating activity in the area, thus limiting activity to kayaks and other paddlecraft. The proposed modification stays within close proximity to numerous boulders and is limited to a relatively small footprint compared to the overall lease. Gear is laid out in linear manner to allow paddlecraft 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 structures are designed to allow for the greatest flow of water to promote feeding and growth of the oysters. Structures will be arranged in roughly SW-NE rows to allow for predominant wind and tide directions to flow unimpeded through the site. The bottom trays are 2' x 3' x 12" and do not alter these processes.



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 a small 22' work barge with a four-stroke engine equipped with a fuel spill kit.

In terms of how the floats may attract waterfowl, we already see a large number of cormorants, terns, and other birds attracted to the area due to the exposed boulders. We have observed that the localized population of birds fluctuates depending on the concentration of baitfish in the immediate area and would expect this to continue with or without the additional proposed gear.

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

There are no known historic or archaeological resources within the proposed site. If any were discovered, the location of aquaculture gear will not impact their existence. The gear could be shifted within the site as requested.

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:

As noted in item (6) above, the site was chosen largely due to the distance from known areas of heavy recreational use. There are no mooring fields, navigation channels, or boating facilities nearby that will be impacted by the proposed gear modifications. Fishing, swimming, and kayaking will not be restricted by the presence of aquaculture gear or farm operations as the gear is laid out in parallel rows that are adjacent submerged and exposed boulders. The area is typically avoided by power boaters and sees occasional use from recreational shellfishing via kayak or small boats who anchor up to the east.

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

The FlipFarm floats were chosen over other types of floating gear in part due to the lower profile of the floatation, with roughly 8" of the floats exposed above the waterline versus 18" or more for OysterGro floating cages. FlipFarm floats also provide an improved visual due to the linear and organized nature of the floats.

The boulder field to the east partially blocks the view of the floats by property owners to the east. There is also another existing lease several hundred feet to the north that utilizes floating bag culture, so the proposed modification will not be the only floating gear in the immediate viewshed. Most of the floats will be removed from the site from December - March annually so the visual impacts will be non-existent during this time frame.

Additional Category B Requirements:

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

Quonochontaug Pond, Lease # 2015-07-031

Approximately 15000 sq. ft of new floating gear (1/3rd acre), removal of existing floating OysterGro cages on 16000 sq. ft area to be replaced with FlipFarm baskets.

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

Crassostrea virginica (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, bottom cages/trays, and bottom culture.

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:

The current lease (including floating gear) has been in use for the past 10 years. The area of proposed modification is non-navigable due to depth at low tide and the presence of nearby boulders. Recreational fishing/shellfishing and paddlesports will remain viable in the area contiguous to the lease, while paddlecraft will still be able to utilize the area.

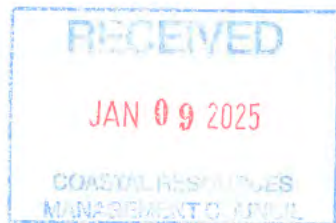
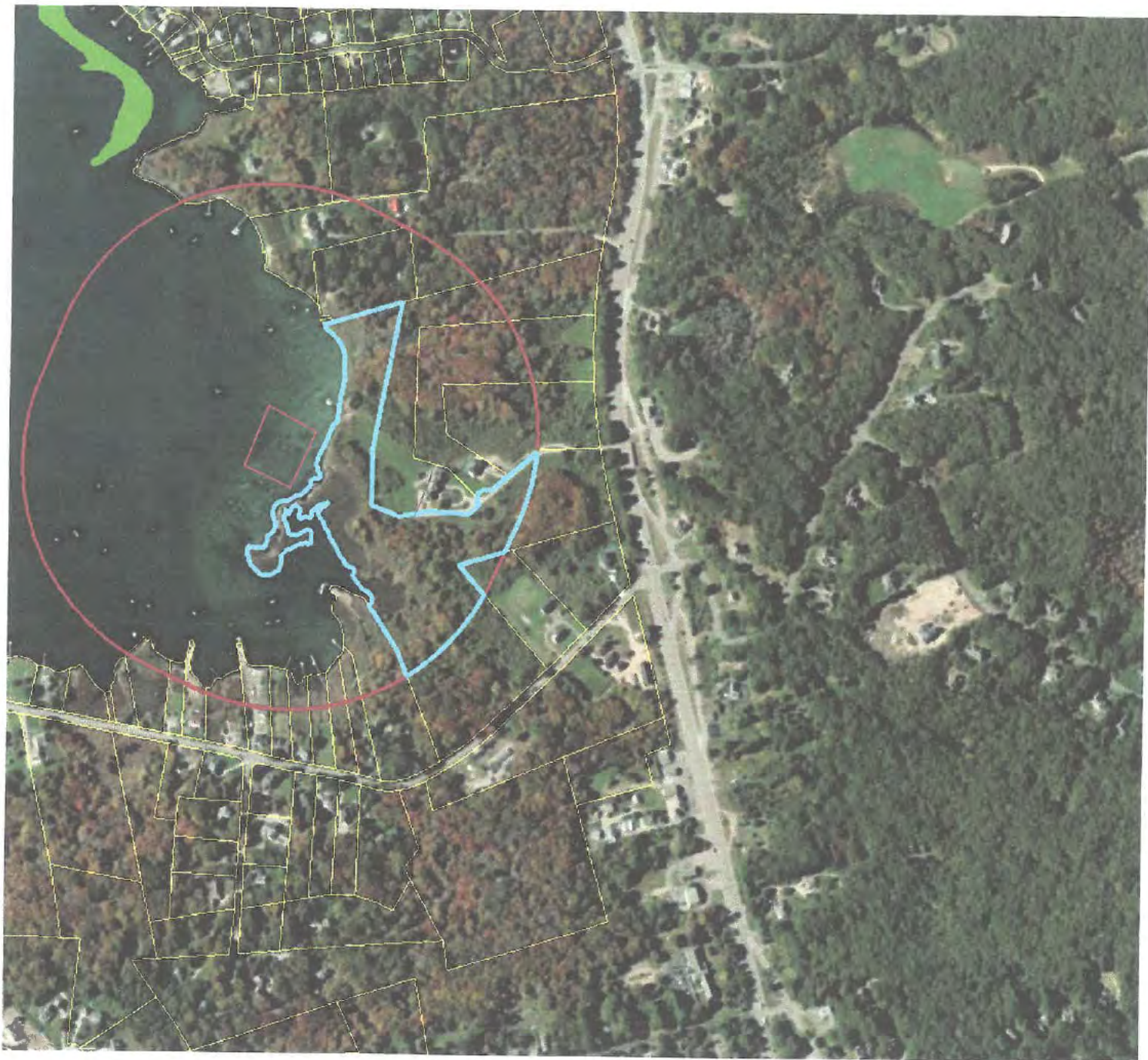
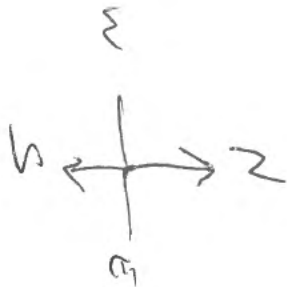
- b. *In addition, please provide the following necessary information as required in the 1000' Contiguous Area Map:*

- o *list of all property owners within 1000':*

See attached map/report.



1000' RADIUS MAP about:blank



#	MuniName	ParcelID	Unique_PID	Address	Shape_Area	Shape_Length	Area(acres)
1	Charlestown	03-142	5-0003-00142-02624	134 SHIRLEY DRIVE	56732.750000	1166.288068	1.31
2	Charlestown	03-143	5-0003-00143-02961	5790C POST ROAD	59494.625000	1568.145843	0.05
3	Charlestown	03-144	5-0003-00144-03015	5790B POST ROAD	134041.777344	2096.684548	4.27
4	Charlestown	03-145	5-0003-00145-03023	5790A POST ROAD	24114.308594	670.549726	3.35
5	Charlestown	03-152	5-0003-00152-02964	5740C POST ROAD	60305.289063	1800.189392	5.76
6	Charlestown	03-153	5-0003-00153-03022	POST ROAD	50605.972656	1407.489643	4.88
7	Charlestown	03-154	5-0003-00154-03016	POST ROAD	36218.519531	813.723435	3.17
8	Charlestown	04-100	5-0004-00100-02770	WEST BEACH ROAD	6621.031250	476.658787	0.30
9	Charlestown	04-101	5-0004-00101-02758	119 WEST BEACH ROAD	7223.281250	538.743312	0.34
10	Charlestown	04-102	5-0004-00102-02774	99-101 WEST BEACH ROAD	31231.199219	897.983014	1.95
11	Charlestown	04-69	5-0004-00069-03027	23 WEST BEACH ROAD	21606.109375	651.286268	0.40
12	Charlestown	04-69-5	5-0004-00069-03026	WEST BEACH ROAD- COMMON LA	169517.437500	3453.311585	15.04
13	Charlestown	04-92-2	5-0004-00092-02755	WEST BEACH ROAD	9813.730469	438.780392	0.35
14	Charlestown	04-93	5-0004-00093-02768	187 WEST BEACH ROAD	4134.304688	337.992228	0.13
15	Charlestown	04-94	5-0004-00094-02756	179 WEST BEACH ROAD	5012.218750	419.818676	0.17
16	Charlestown	04-95	5-0004-00095-03172	163 WEST BEACH ROAD	9051.617188	418.981728	0.38
17	Charlestown	04-96	5-0004-00096-02769	155 WEST BEACH ROAD	8075.234375	493.505887	0.59

#	MuniName	ParcelID	Unique_PID	Address	Shape_Area	Shape_Length	Area(acres)
1	Charlestown	03-142	5-0003-00142-02624	134 SHIRLEY DRIVE	56732.750000	1166.288068	1.31
2	Charlestown	03-143	5-0003-00143-02961	5790C POST ROAD	59494.625000	1568.145843	0.05
3	Charlestown	03-144	5-0003-00144-03015	5790B POST ROAD	134041.777344	2096.684548	4.27
4	Charlestown	03-145	5-0003-00145-03023	5790A POST ROAD	24114.308594	670.549726	3.35
5	Charlestown	03-152	5-0003-00152-02964	5740C POST ROAD	60305.289063	1800.189392	5.76
6	Charlestown	03-153	5-0003-00153-03022	POST ROAD	50605.972656	1407.489643	4.88
7	Charlestown	03-154	5-0003-00154-03016	POST ROAD	36218.519531	813.723435	3.17
8	Charlestown	04-100	5-0004-00100-02770	WEST BEACH ROAD	6621.031250	476.658787	0.30
9	Charlestown	04-101	5-0004-00101-02758	119 WEST BEACH ROAD	7223.281250	538.743312	0.34
10	Charlestown	04-102	5-0004-00102-02774	99-101 WEST BEACH ROAD	31231.199219	897.983014	1.95
11	Charlestown	04-69	5-0004-00069-03027	23 WEST BEACH ROAD	21606.109375	651.286268	0.40
12	Charlestown	04-69-5	5-0004-00069-03026	WEST BEACH ROAD- COMMON LA	169517.437500	3453.311585	15.04
13	Charlestown	04-92-2	5-0004-00092-02755	WEST BEACH ROAD	9813.730469	438.780392	0.35
14	Charlestown	04-93	5-0004-00093-02768	187 WEST BEACH ROAD	4134.304688	337.992228	0.13
15	Charlestown	04-94	5-0004-00094-02756	179 WEST BEACH ROAD	5012.218750	419.818676	0.17
16	Charlestown	04-95	5-0004-00095-03172	163 WEST BEACH ROAD	9051.617188	418.981728	0.38
17	Charlestown	04-96	5-0004-00096-02769	155 WEST BEACH ROAD	8075.234375	493.505887	0.59

about:blank

18	Charlestown	04-97	5-0004-00097-02757	147 WEST BEACH ROAD	5895.996094	405.637887	0.35
19	Charlestown	04-98	5-0004-00098-02771	139 WEST BEACH ROAD	5616.562500	429.760493	0.28
20	Charlestown	04-99	5-0004-00099-02759	WEST BEACH ROAD	6364.214844	419.641295	0.30

The parcels included in this report fall within 1,000 ft. of the proposed lease site. RI-SheffAST Viewer.



- *list of all approved aquaculture leases within 1000':*
Crandall 2018-04-078
Scappatura 2019-07-003
Peet 2015-09-030

- *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:*

Property parcel # 04-69-5 that is directly adjacent to the lease area is privately owned open space.

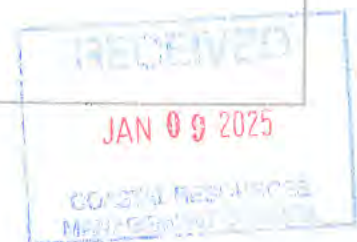
- c. The degree of exclusivity required for aquacultural activities on the proposed site. *(In support of this requirement and in accordance with 1.3.1(K)(b), the applicant must include a plan demonstrating reasonable public ingress and egress to and from the proposed site for traditional water activities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

See attached map/site plan for ingress/egress routes around the site. Motorized vessels will be precluded from the area of flip farm baskets; however, due to the shallow depths and adjacent boulder field this was not an area previously navigable. The proposed modification adds 1/3rd acre of floating gear out of the 3 acres of the current lease. Non motorized vessels will have 10' between rows of flip farm baskets to travel through the lease if desired.

JAN 04 2023

The ingress/egress plan may be notated on a copy of the site plan or other map. You can insert that image here:

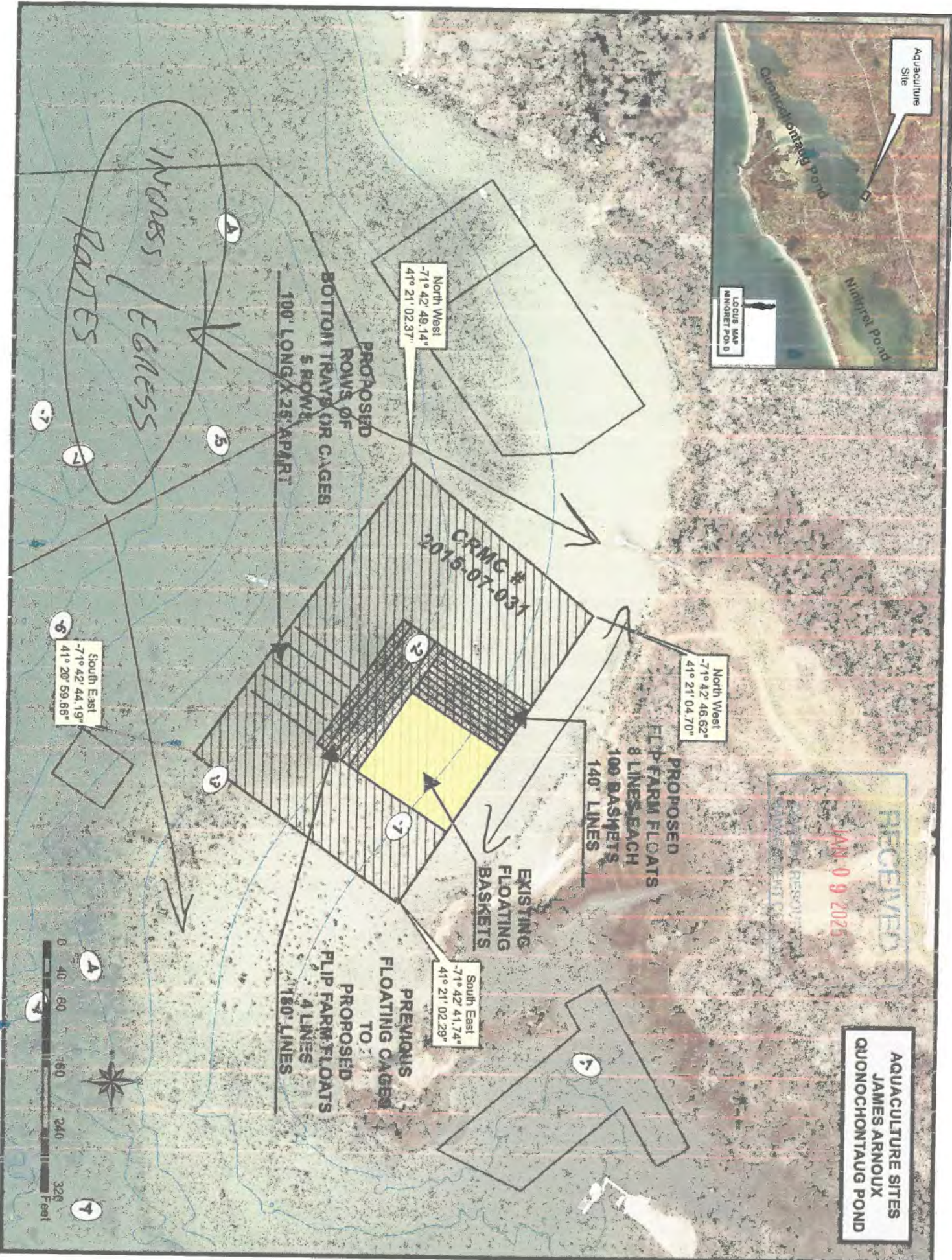
(SEE MAP ON
NEXT PAGE)





RECEIVED
JAN 09 2025
NARRAGANSETT COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING DEPT.

AQUACULTURE SITES
JAMES ARNOUX
QUONOCHONTAUG POND



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

Lease corners are marked with standard lobster buoys with the CRMC lease #. The floats are visible by day; the area is not navigable by power vessels so night lighting/radar reflectors are not applicable. The bottom trays will be marked by a single lobster buoy to show the location of the trawl line to assist in hauling. Each flip farm line will be constructed with 1" polysteel rope and 200# pyramid anchors at each end. 30" x 5/8" auger anchors will be driven into the bottom to serve as back-up anchoring in the event of extreme winds.

- e. The projected per unit area yield of harvestable product:

150,000 oysters on annual basis from the floating gear portion of the lease proposed.

- 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' of the proposed site.):*

The proposed modification does not increase the size of leased area or vessel traffic related to aquaculture in the area. The footprint of floating gear would increase by 1/3rd acre, an increase of approximately 30% greater than the current surface area of floating gear.

- g. The capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed activities:

East Beach Farms currently farms 3 lease sites in Ningret Pond and 3 sites in Quonochontaug Pond. We have 5 full-time employees tending the leased areas on a year-round basis utilizing 4 work boats, one of which is moored in Quonochontaug Pond year-round. Should any unforeseen issues arise with the proposed flip farm floats (which is not expected after 2 years of using them with zero gear loss/damage at this site), we have the vessels and labor force to respond quickly. The company is also a partner of Ninigret Landing Marina in Charlestown where we have the boat storage/repair/gear storage needed to support the operation of the farms.

- h. The impact of the proposed activities on the scenic qualities of the area:

The lease site currently has flip farm baskets and floating "OysterGro" cages permitted. The proposed modification would remove the high profile OysterGro cages with lower profile flip farm baskets in one section and add a new area of flip farm baskets parallel to the existing flip farm lines. So while the overall surface area of floating gear would increase slightly, the scenic impact would be mitigated by the more linear/symmetrical appearance and lower height profile of the flip farm baskets. Flip farm lines are to be removed in the late fall/winter as oysters are harvested and sold, then reloaded each summer back to the lines/anchors as seed is purchased so there will be times when there will be less gear on the lease than the site plan shows.

CRMC Guidelines for Siting Aquaculture Gear

1. Floating gear should be a minimum of 750 feet from the nearest residential structure: *The nearest residential structure is approximately 700' from the floating gear.*
2. Low profile floating gear shall be required (maximum 4" above still water elevation) unless the application can demonstrate a significant reason and need for a larger profile: *FlipFarm floats have a vertical profile of approximately 8" when submerged with oysters loaded in them; when in the "up" (drying position) for a day they sit approximately 15" above the surface. The original lower profile FlipFarm floats have been phased out of production by the manufacturer due to their tendency to flip over in waves when in the drying position.*
3. Floating gear is discouraged in areas where the fetch from the prevailing wind is greater than three (3) nautical miles: *Longest fetch is about 1 mile from the southwest.*
4. Floating gear and all corner marker buoys should be secured with helical (screw) anchors: *36" x 5/8" diameter shaft auger anchors will be installed at the end of each line as back-up to the primary 200# pyramid anchors.*
5. Floating gear shall have a minimum \$15,000 proof of performance bond: *Performance bond is being renewed currently; last bond was for \$25,000.*
6. Initial floating gear or submerged gear leases should be: • maximum of two (acres) in the upper Narragansett Bay (defined as the area north of latitude 41°35') • maximum of three (3) acres elsewhere: *Proposed area of modification is less than half acre.*
7. Floating gear is discouraged in Type 1 waters: *Site is in Type II waters.*
8. Floating gear should not be located in areas which contain significant boat traffic or significant water based recreational activities, including but not limited to sailing, kayaking, paddle boarding, kiteboarding, windsurfing or swimming: *See comments in application under "Section 300.1B Responses".*
9. Floating gear should be at least 200 feet from an existing CRMC approved recreational mooring field: *Area is near Town of Charlestown mooring field 1-01 but not within the defined mooring field as shown in Harbor Management Plan.*
10. Aquaculture gear shall not be permitted over or within 25 feet of protected submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV): *No SAV in historical or recent CRMC SAV maps*
11. Aquaculture gear shall not be permitted in areas of significant recreational or commercial fishing activity: *Shellfish survey when lease was developed showed no significant population of marketable shellfish. Recreational fishing is generally precluded by depth where floating gear is*

JAN 09 2025

located and adjacent boulders.

12. Floating gear should be discouraged within 400 feet along shorelines which have been: • Preserved for conservation, recreation and/or public access through easements, purchase by the state or municipality or are owned by a land trust or conservation organization and have been recognized by the CRMC: *Land adjacent to lease is privately held open space.*

13. Floating gear should not be located within 400 feet along shorelines where: • Public access is provided through CRMC rights-of-way, public land where the primary purpose is intended for public access, or by CRMC easements and/or where there is evidence of significant public usage and access: *Land adjacent to lease is privately held open space; there is no public access/ROW within 400' of proposed gear.*

14. Leases approved for direct bottom plant or submerged cages may receive a stipulation preventing modification to the use of floating gear: *Not applicable to original application.*

15. Towns may recommend areas where floating gear should be discouraged and/or encouraged. *N/A*

JAN 19 2025

Aquaculture Operations
Plan Form

Anyone conducting aquaculture operations in RI must comply with all applicable CRMC regulations (*Coastal Resources Management Program* §§ 1.3.1(A) and 1.3.1(K)) and DEM regulations, as set forth in "*Aquaculture of Marine Species in RI Waters*." Plans provided to the CRMC will be available for DEM review.

Modifications to the permit must follow the CRMC process for modification of assent. Separate, individual plans shall be developed and submitted for each aquaculture site/facility (i.e., one for each lease site, one for each upweller location, etc.); provided, however, that if lease sites are contiguous, or part of a single, unified operation, the overall site can be covered by a single plan. Operations Plans shall address each of the items listed below, as applicable, following the format set forth below.

-
1. ***Name and mailing address*** of individual, firm, partnership, association, academic institution, municipality, or corporation who is principally responsible for the aquaculture operation or activity; if corporation, specify and include names of all owners/partners.

Name: East Beach Farms LLC

If applicable, names of all owners/partners of corporation:
Jim Arnoux, Kristina Arnoux

Street Address: [REDACTED]

City/Town: Wakefield

State: RI

Zip code: 02879

2. ***CRMC file number*** for the facility; new applications will be assigned a file number by CRMC. Additionally, list any past CRMC file numbers related to the current application.

CRMC file number: 2015-07-031

Previous CRMC file numbers:

3. ***DEM Aquaculture License number*** (applicable if products are offered for sale); new applicants will need to obtain the DEM aquaculture license after an aquaculture assent is issued.

DEM Aquaculture License number, if applicable: A-56



4. Select the *type of facility*:

☒ Commercial lease site ☐ Upweller ☐ Experimental site ☐ Research ☐ Commercial Viability

5. Describe the *nature of your operation* (i.e methodology used such as floating gear, submerged cages, bottom gear, etc):

Mix of floating gear, bottom cages/trays, and bottom culture

6. *Location of facility*

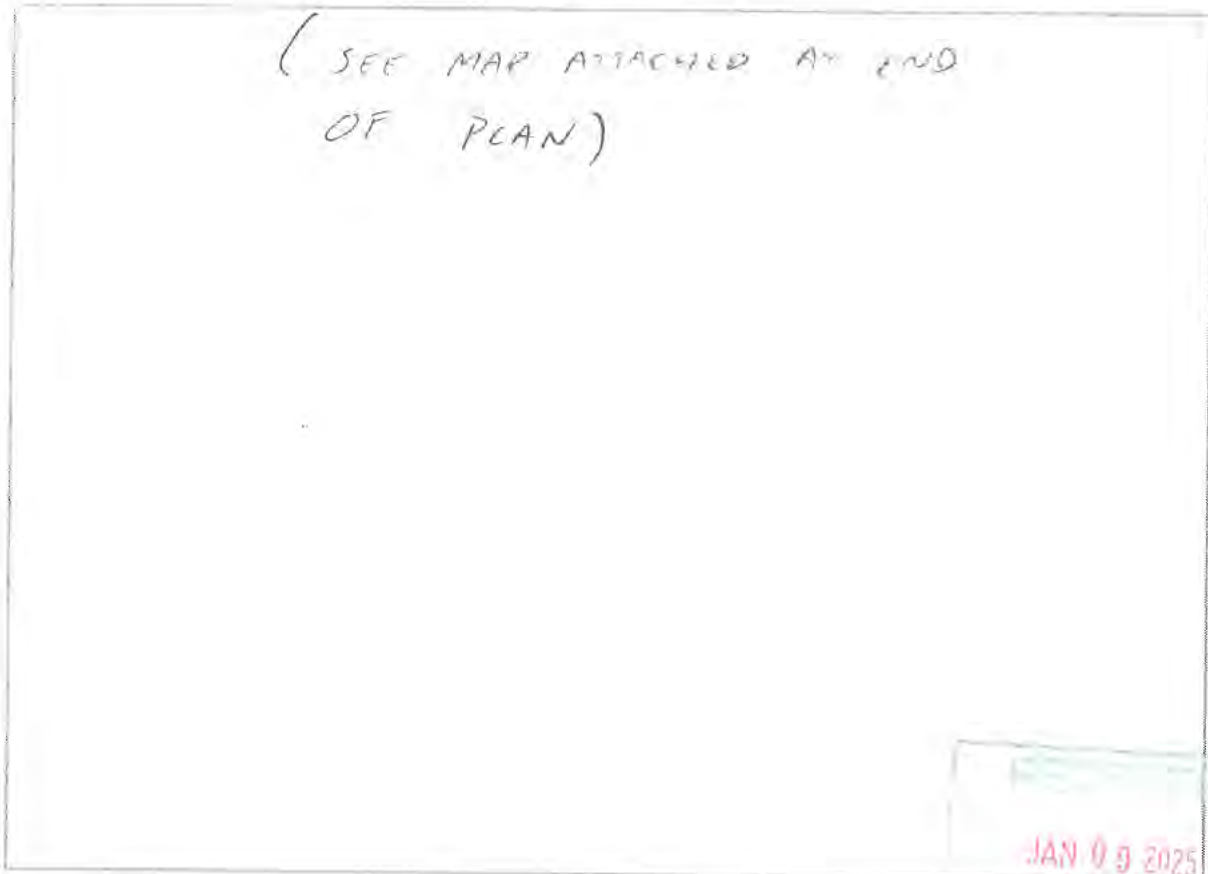
a. Adjacent towns: Charlestown

b. Water body: Quonochontaug Pond

c. Lat/long coordinates: 41 21'.03.00" N, -71 42' 42.70" W

d. Size of facility: 3 acres

e. Insert aerial image or chart showing exact location:

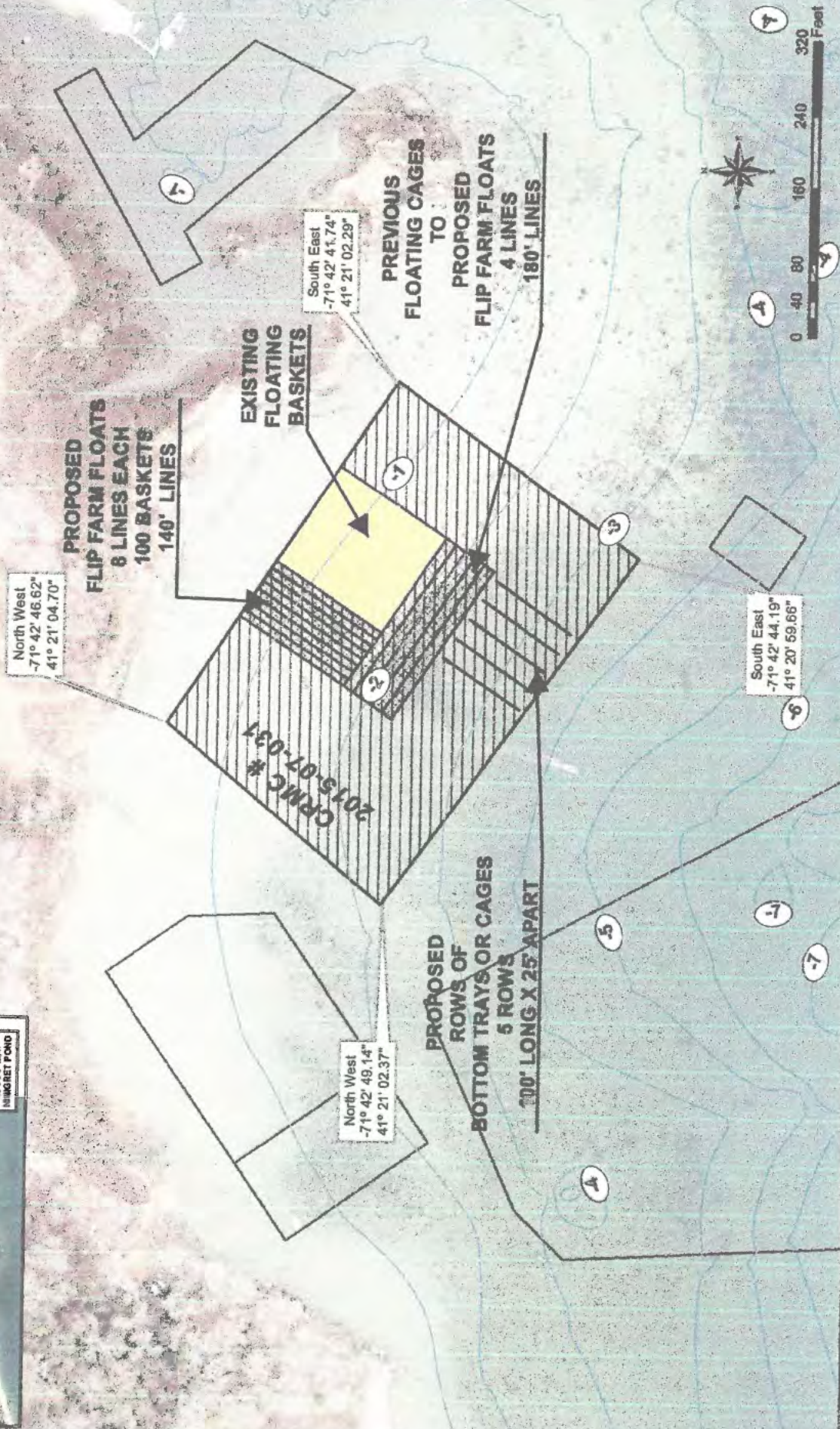


**AQUACULTURE SITES
JAMES ARNOUX
QUONOC HONTAUG POND**

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2025
COASTAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

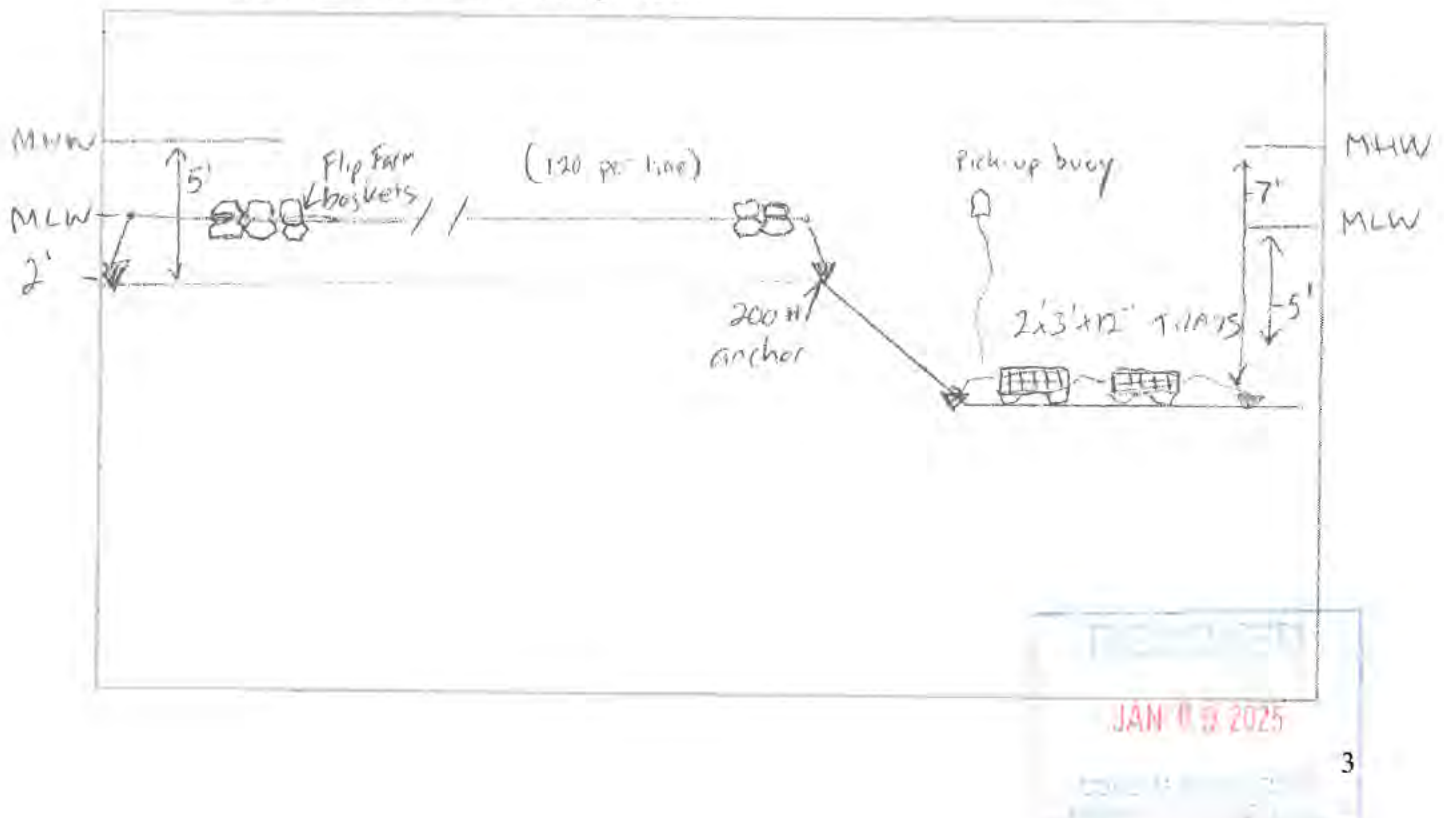


LOCUS MAP
MINKRET POND



7. Identify all species of shellfish grown at your facility: *Crassostrea virginica*
8. Do you acknowledge that you will follow Biosecurity Board seed protocols:
Yes
9. Describe the types of structures, gear, and methods used and the locations of each on your site
(e.g., rafts, pens, cages, tanks, upwellers, docks):
Bottom cages, 1" wire bottom trays, Hexcyl baskets, and OysterGro floating cages

- a. Maximum number of cages proposed: 1200 flip baskets, 100 trays
- b. Size of cages proposed: trays 2' x 3' x 12", baskets 29" x 13"
- c. Insert image of sketch/site plan that details a cross-section of structures as they appear in the water column, including proximity to surface and bottom with a depth profile at mean low water and mean high water:



10. Describe how the site will be ***built out, accessed, and maintained***. Including the expected level of activity (seasonal, weekly, and/or daily):

Site is accessed daily via private mooring located in adjacent mooring field. We typically work the site 3-5 days per week between April - December to flip and dry out the gear, harvest, and sort seed with mechanical grader. Flip farm lines are deployed by sliding each round axle/basket assembly onto one end of 3/4" rope strung between 200# mooring anchors until each line is full. Drying and harvesting are accomplished with one boat and one or two farm crew and do not result in any appreciable noise. Grading is done approximately 30-40 days per season and takes place between the hours of 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The equipment is powered by a 2000W gas inverter generator which only produces around 60 decibels of noise.

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

Each corner is marked with a standard 8" x 11" lobster pot buoy with 3" numbering to denote the lease site. Each corner buoy is held down with 1/2" rope and 100# mooring anchor.

12. DEM ***Shellfish Harvesting Classification*** at site: approved waters, tagging area 11Q

13. Describe the ***practices and procedures used*** during the growth, harvest, storage, transportation, and sale of the cultured species. Including any offsite activities necessary for the operation:

Seed is tumbled on board vessel 2x annually, harvesting performed by handculling. Seed sources, size, and dates dried are updated weekly using spreadsheet. Harvest is transported via truck to Ocean State Shellfish Cooperative following all applicable Vibrio protocols along with the use of ice and mechanical refrigeration via our box truck (harvests get loaded onto truck at Ninigret Landing Marina). The flip farm baskets are stored at Ninigret Landing Marina when not in use during the winter.

JAN 09 2025

14. For operations that will use floating gear

- a. Describe the mitigation or deterrent measures that will be used to minimize the potential pollution impact of birds and/or mammals:

FlipFarm system does not have bird deterrent system that can attach to the baskets. We submerge all oysters intended for harvest in bottom cages for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to sale year-round. We plan to explore the use of the acoustic bird deterrent system made by Guardian Technologies Group pending connection to shore power at a neighboring residential dock.

- b. Describe your plan for re-submergence after air drying before harvest:

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. We will maintain 5 rows of bottom trays, one for each weekly future harvest and will track each row based on date oysters are loaded to keep track.

15. Indicate the *projected per unit area yield* of harvestable product and the *applicant's capability* to carry out the proposed activities:

We expect to harvest approximately 150,000 per season from the proposed gear modification. Our 22' workboat is moored in the pond and we have operated the site for the previous 10 years successfully.

16. Describe your *plan for safety and security of equipment*, including appropriate marking of your equipment and lease area. Incorporate a *storm preparedness and response plan* that accounts for the safety and security of all aquaculture equipment:

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 waves). Therefore the storm plan is to attach back-up lines from 36" auger anchors to each 1" main line in case the pyramid anchors begin to drag.



- a. What measures will you take in the event of a significant storm or other adverse weather conditions impacting the site:

Flip farm gear is designed to move as a single unit in a storm and minimizes chafing points in contrast to other floating gear types. The 200# pyramid anchors will be backed up in the event of storms by 36" x 5/8" auger anchors. Each main line is 1" diameter and rated for breaking strength that is greater than the weight of the overall gear on the line. Most, if not all, of the flip farm baskets will be removed by January each season to prevent ice damage.

18. Procedures for Maintaining Records

- a. For operations using seed acquired from **out-of-state**, describe your notification, disease certification, and labeling/tagging procedures:

Seed imports are made for out-of-state seed purchases after supplying the disease certificate from the respective hatcheries. Once planted, each row is tracked according to seed origin using a spreadsheet with dedicated cells/rows for each line of flip farm baskets or trays.

- b. For upwellers/seed-growing facilities in prohibited waters, describe procedures, including frequency of grading, with particular reference to requirements that seed must be removed before it exceeds maximum "seed" size threshold (<32 mm for oysters, <20 mm for quahogs):

Not applicable to this operation.

JAN 09 2025

- c. For operations using seed from prohibited waters, or operations using shellfish obtained from a third party that originated as seed from prohibited waters, describe in detail your demarcation methods and record-keeping practices used at the lease site to ensure that animals have been cultured at least six (6) months in approved waters, prior to sale.

- i. Describe your detailed record-keeping practices specifying date, source, average size, and amount of seed:

We do not purchase seed from any third party that grows seed in uncertified waters. Seed for this lease is purchased directly from hatcheries at 3/8" retained or greater in size.

- ii. Describe your protocols and associated record keeping for tracking product, e.g., use of tagged/numbered cages and/or bags, use of marked trawls, and/or use of marked, segregated portions of lease sites:

N/A

- iii. Describe your process for notifying the third party that seed came from prohibited waters, the date of that transfer, and the remaining time needed to maintain the animals in approved prior to sale:

N/A

JAN 9 2025