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: 2026-08-040 Date: September 16, 2026

This office has under consideration the application of:

Rhody Raw Bar & Events LLC
Little Compton, RI 02837

for a State of Rhode Island Assent to construct and maintain: a three-acre shellfish aquaculture farm for the cultivation of Eastern Oysters and Bay Scallops using submerged bottom cages, suspended lantern nets, and low-profile floating baskets. For more details, please see the plans for the proposed work attached to this notice.

Project Location:	Sakonnet River
Nearest Town:	Portsmouth
Waterway:	Lower Sakonnet River, Black Point

Plans of the proposed work can be found attached to this notice or 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 **October 16, 2026**.

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 and Providence Plantations
Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

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APPLICATION FOR STATE ASSENT

To perform work regulated by the provisions of Chapter 279 of the Public Laws of 1971 Amended.

Project Location Sakonnet River No. Street City/Town	File No. (CRMC USE ONLY) 2026-08-040
Owner's Name Rhody Raw Bar & Events LLC.	Plat: Lot(s):
Mailing Address [redacted] City/Town Little Compton State RI Zip Code 02837	Contact No.:
Name of Waterway Sakonnet River, Narragansett Bay	Estimated Project Cost (EPC): Application Fee:

Longitude/latitude of all corners of Proposed Aquaculture Project Location (preferably in decimal degrees):
NW: 41.536127, -71.234215
SW: 41.535316, -71.233785
SE: 41.535666, -71.232262
NE: 41.536461, -71.232782

Have you or any previous owner filed an application for and/or received an assent for any activity on this property?
(If so please provide the file and/or assent numbers): No

Is this site within a designated historic district? YES (NO)

Is this application being submitted in response to a coastal violation? YES (NO)

If YES, you must indicate NOV or C&D Number: _____

Name and Addresses of adjacent property owners whose property adjoins the project site. (Accurate addresses will insure proper notification. Improper addresses will result in an increase in review time.)
See application

STORMTOOLS (Http://www.beachsamp.org/resources/stormtools/) is a planning tool to help applicants evaluate the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge on their projects. The Council encourages applicants to use STORMTOOLS to help them understand the risk that may be present at their site and make appropriate adjustments to the project design.

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. Where variances or special exceptions are requested by the applicant, the applicant will be prepared to meet and present testimony on the criteria and burdens of proof for each of these relief provisions. 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. If the information provided to the CRMC for this review is inaccurate or did not reveal all necessary information or data, then the permit granted under this application may be found to be null and void. Applicant requires that as a condition to the granting of this assent, members of the CRMC or its staff shall have 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 the penalties of perjury. 8/04

Owner's Signature (sign and print)

PLEASE REVIEW REVERSE SIDE OF APPLICATION FORM

RECEIVED
AUG 06 2026
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Full Application

To whom it may concern,

I am applying for a lease to establish a shellfish farming operation in the Sakonnet River. Through my work in shellfish aquaculture and my position as Roger Williams University's aquaculture extension specialist and field operations manager, I have developed expertise in many different shellfish farming systems. My experience in commercial oyster farming and commercial and charter fishing has led to a greater understanding of the Rhode Island seafood industry and the waters we call home, as well as many of the people who work on the water. With this experience and perspective, I am humbly applying for a combination of bottom cage, and low-profile floating gear cultivation methods. This application for assent is an entirely independent venture not involved with other pending applications or currently established aquaculture operations. Plans to operate out of Sakonnet Harbor in Little Compton, Rhode Island, have been formally established following a successful review and endorsement by the Little Compton Harbor Commission.

The 3-acre lease will be used for cultivating Eastern Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) and Bay Scallops (*Argopecten irradians*). The site will be divided east to west, with the western portion dedicated to bottom cage cultivation and the eastern portion utilizing the low-profile floating basket system.

The western portion will feature four longlines, each supporting 15 bottom cages and running 300 feet north to south, secured at both ends with pyramid or helical anchors. This gear will be entirely submerged and invisible from shore. The eastern portion will deploy 15 floating lines, each approximately 300 feet in length and maintaining 250 FlipFarm baskets (low-profile floating gear), anchored with pyramid or helical anchors. Positioned over 500 feet from shore, the floating gear will present minimal visual impact.

Establishing this operation will help meet the growing demand for sustainably raised seafood, support local economic development, and preserve local maritime culture while creating habitat for marine organisms.

My occupation and shellfish aquaculture experience have given me a foundation in responsible aquaculture management, environmental monitoring, and the ability to foster students' skills and enthusiasm for careers in aquaculture. As someone whose family has been here for five generations, I am personally invested in being a good steward of the Sakonnet and maintaining strong, genuine relationships with community members.

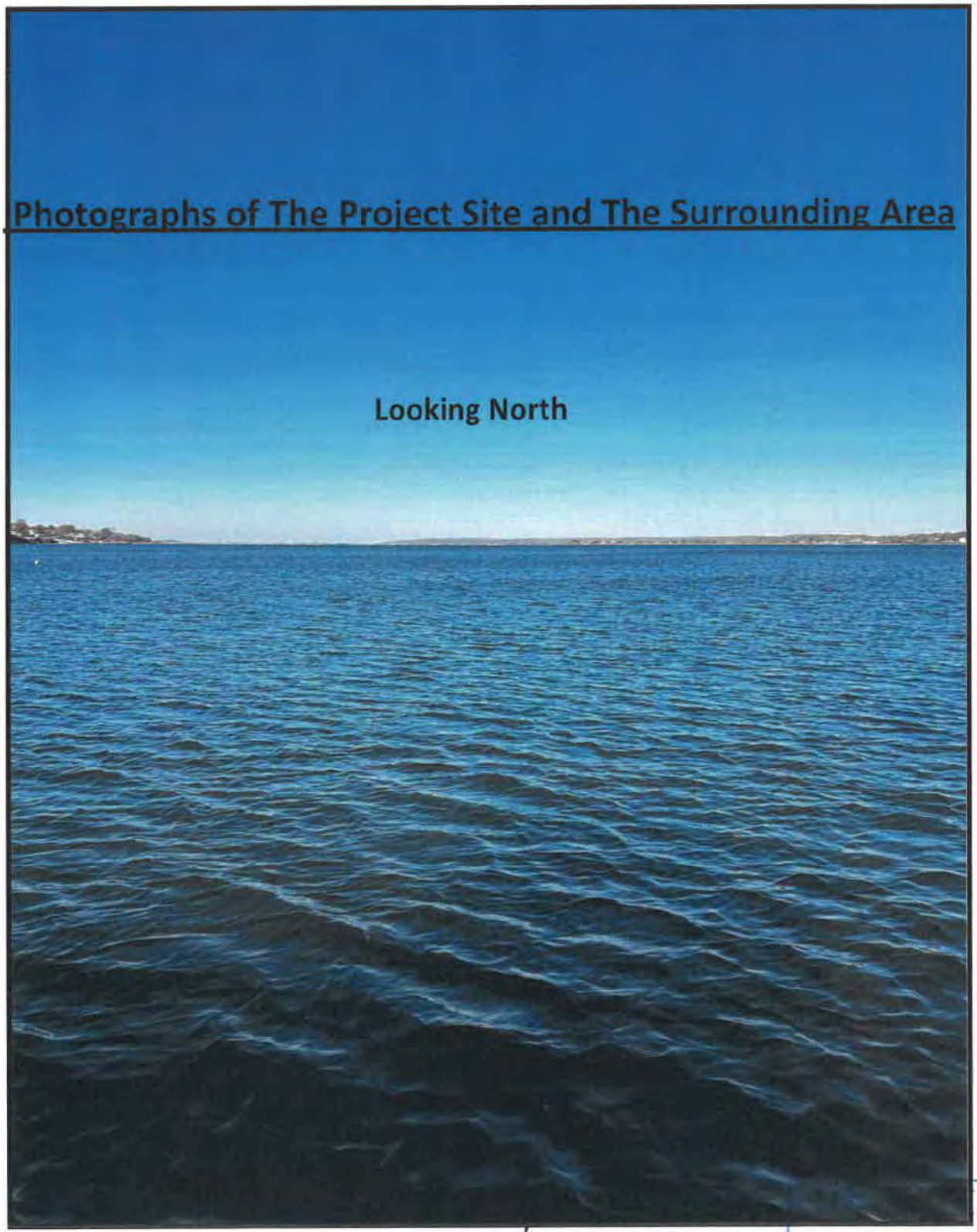
If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me via email at [redacted]

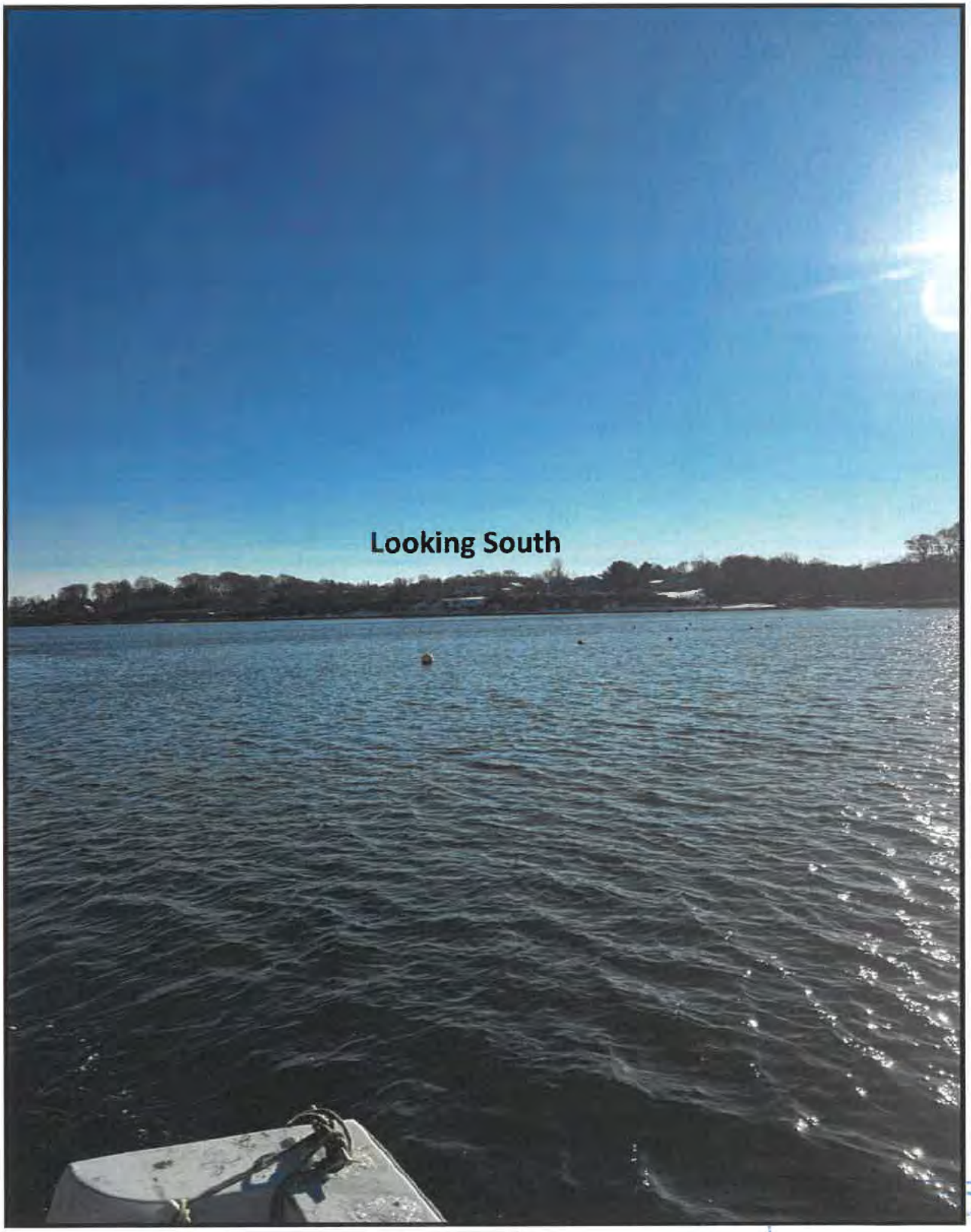
Thank you for your consideration.

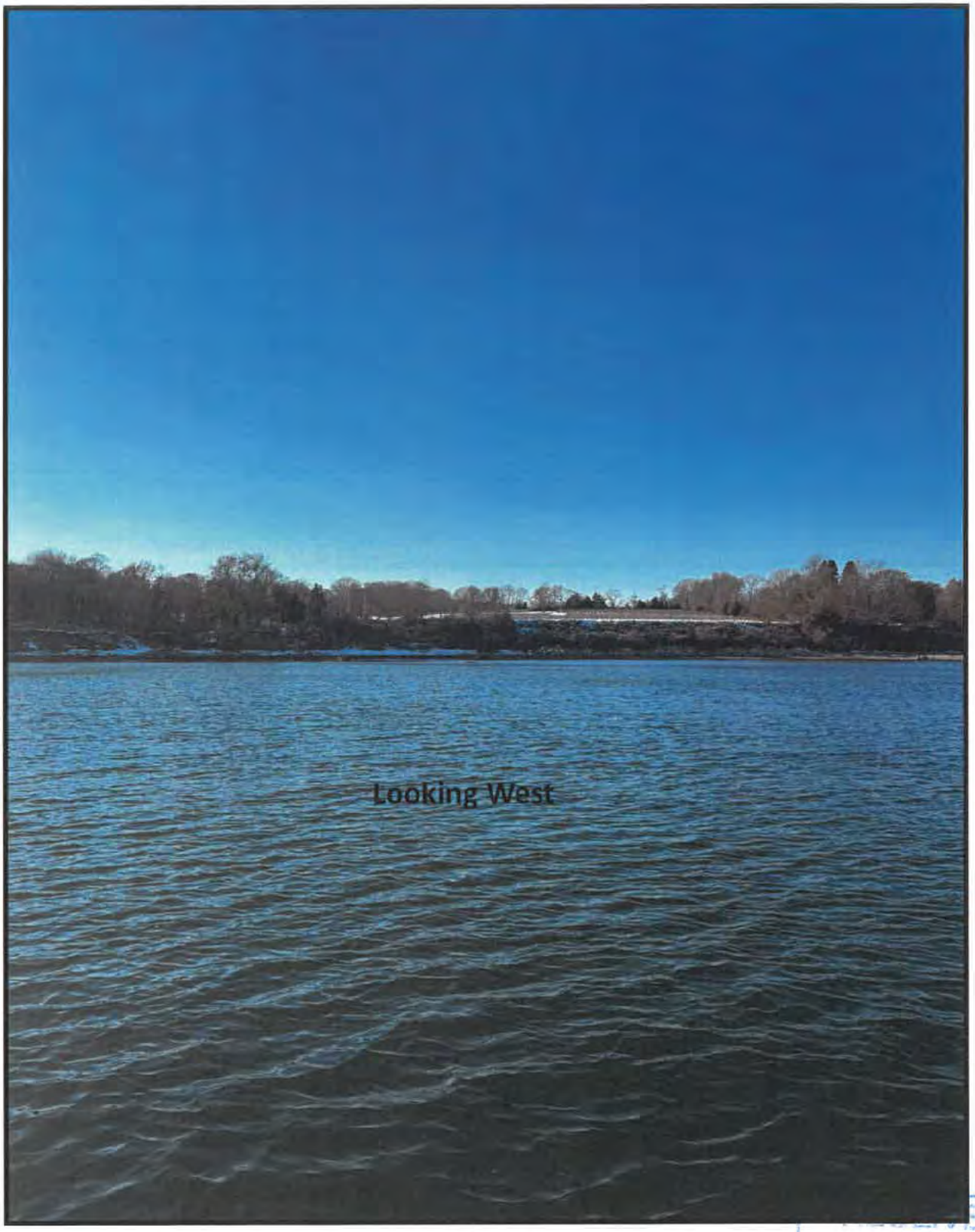
Sincerely,

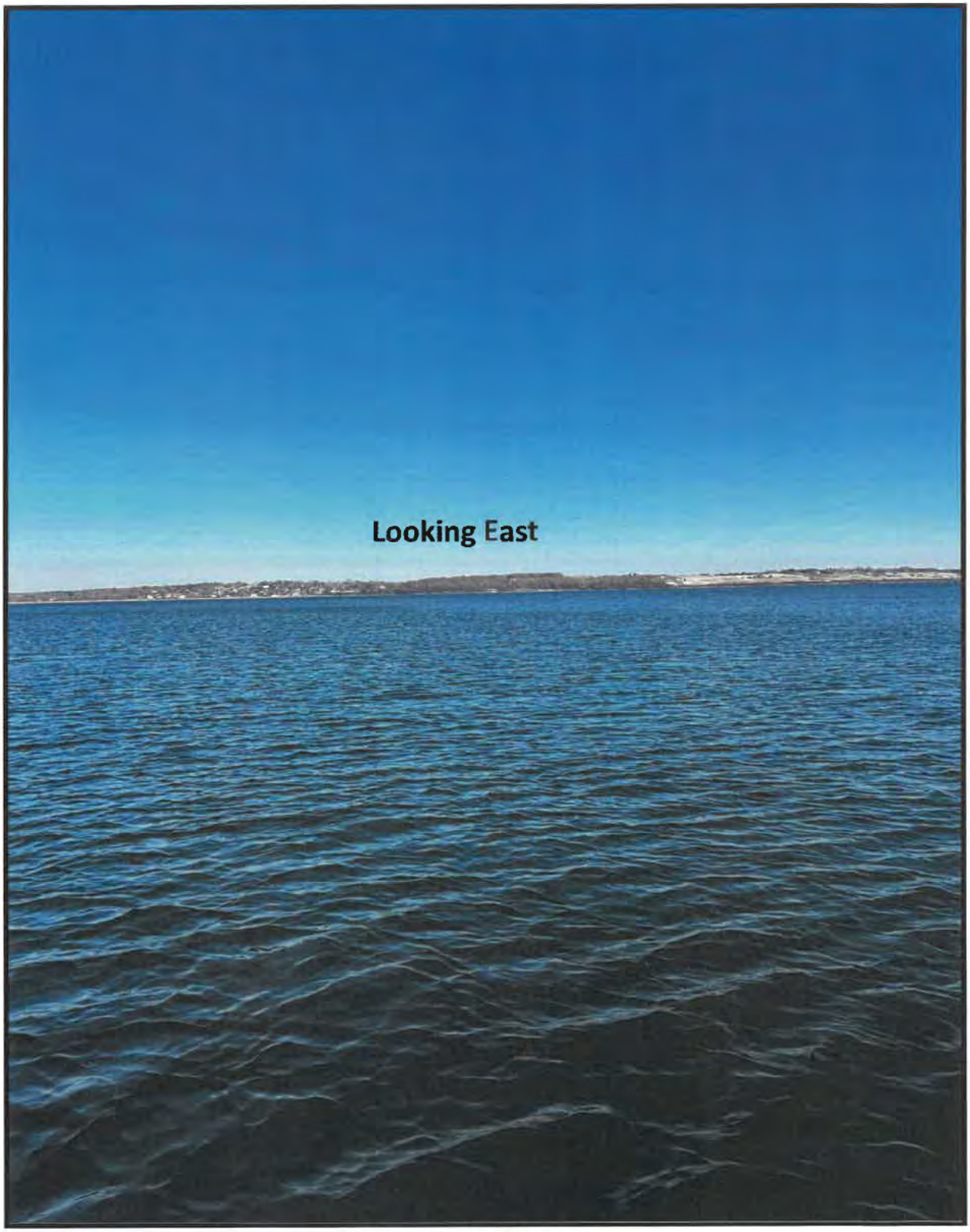
Malcolm Bowen

Photographs of The Project Site and The Surrounding Area









Full Application
CRMC Aquaculture Assent
Shellfish Lease
Rhody Raw Bar & Events LLC
Aug 6, 2026

Proposed Lease Coordinates

NW: 41.536127, -71.234215
SW: 41.535316, -71.233785
SE: 41.535666, -71.232262
NE: 41.536461, -71.232782

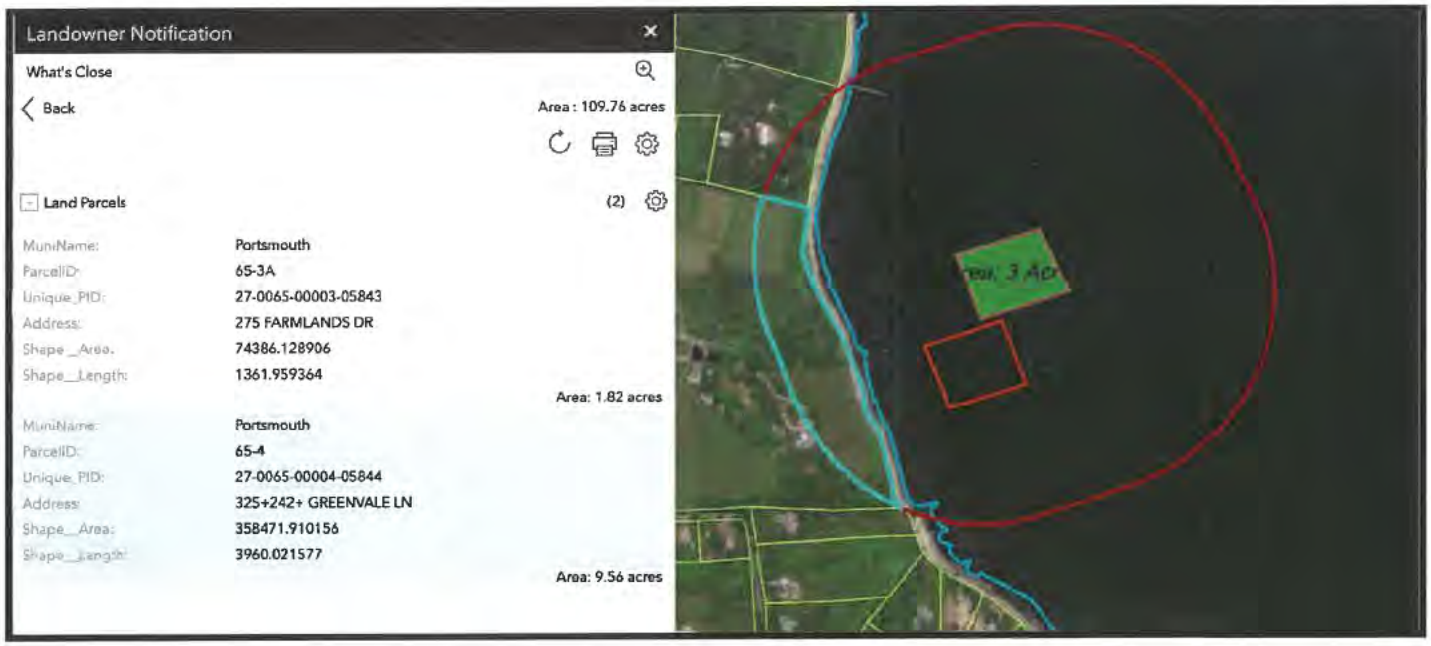
Distance to Shore

AUG 06 2026

Statewide View

Other Approved Aquaculture Leases in the Area

Land Parcels Within 1,000 ft of the Proposed Lease



Summary

Name	Count	Area(acres)	Length(ft)
Land Parcels	2	11.38	

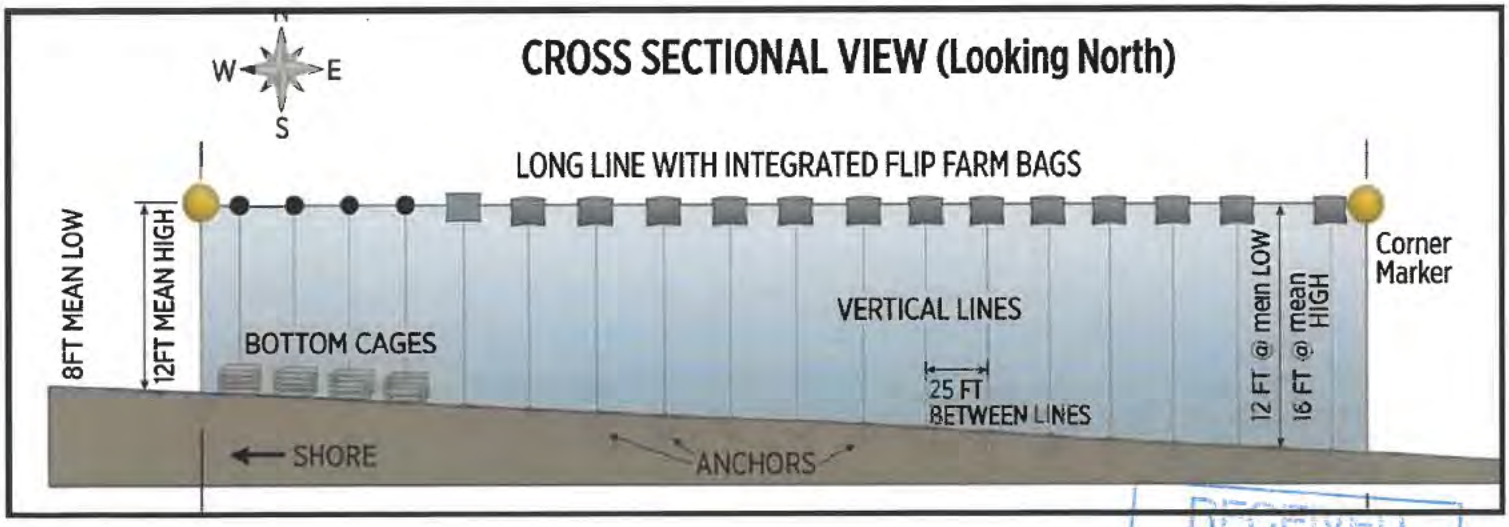
Land Parcels

#	MuniName	ParcelID	Unique_PID	Address	Shape__Area	Shape__Length	Area(acres)
1	Portsmouth	65-3A	27-0065-00003-05843	275 FARMLANDS DR	74386.128906	1361.959364	1.82
2	Portsmouth	65-4	27-0065-00004-05844	325+242+ GREENVALE LN	358471.910156	3960.021577	9.56

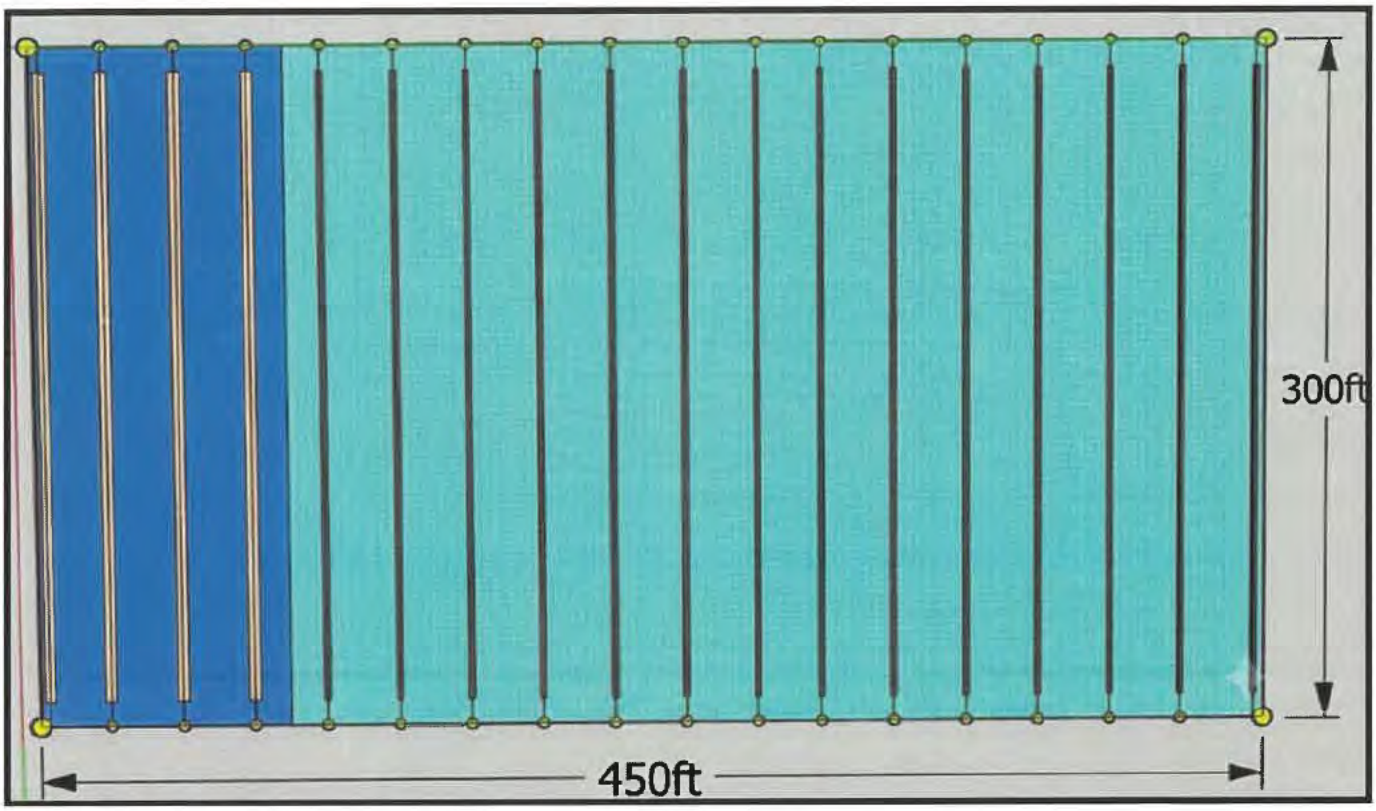
The parcels included in this report fall within 1,000 ft. of the proposed lease site. RI-ShellFAST Viewer.

Distance of Proposed Lease to Nearby Private Dock (847 ft)

Cross-Sectional View (450ft overall East to West)



Proposed Gear Layout



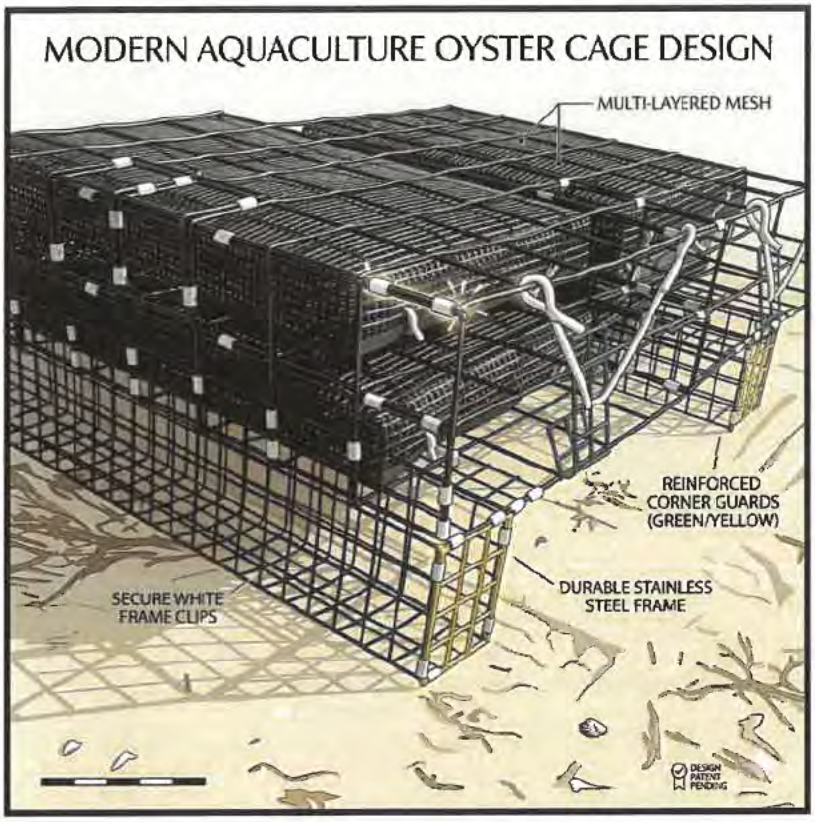
Western Portion (Deep Blue)

- 4 longlines
- 15 bottom cages per line

Eastern Portion (Aqua)

- 15 floating longlines
- 250 bags per longline

Multi Bay Bottom Cage- 4'x3'x2' tall

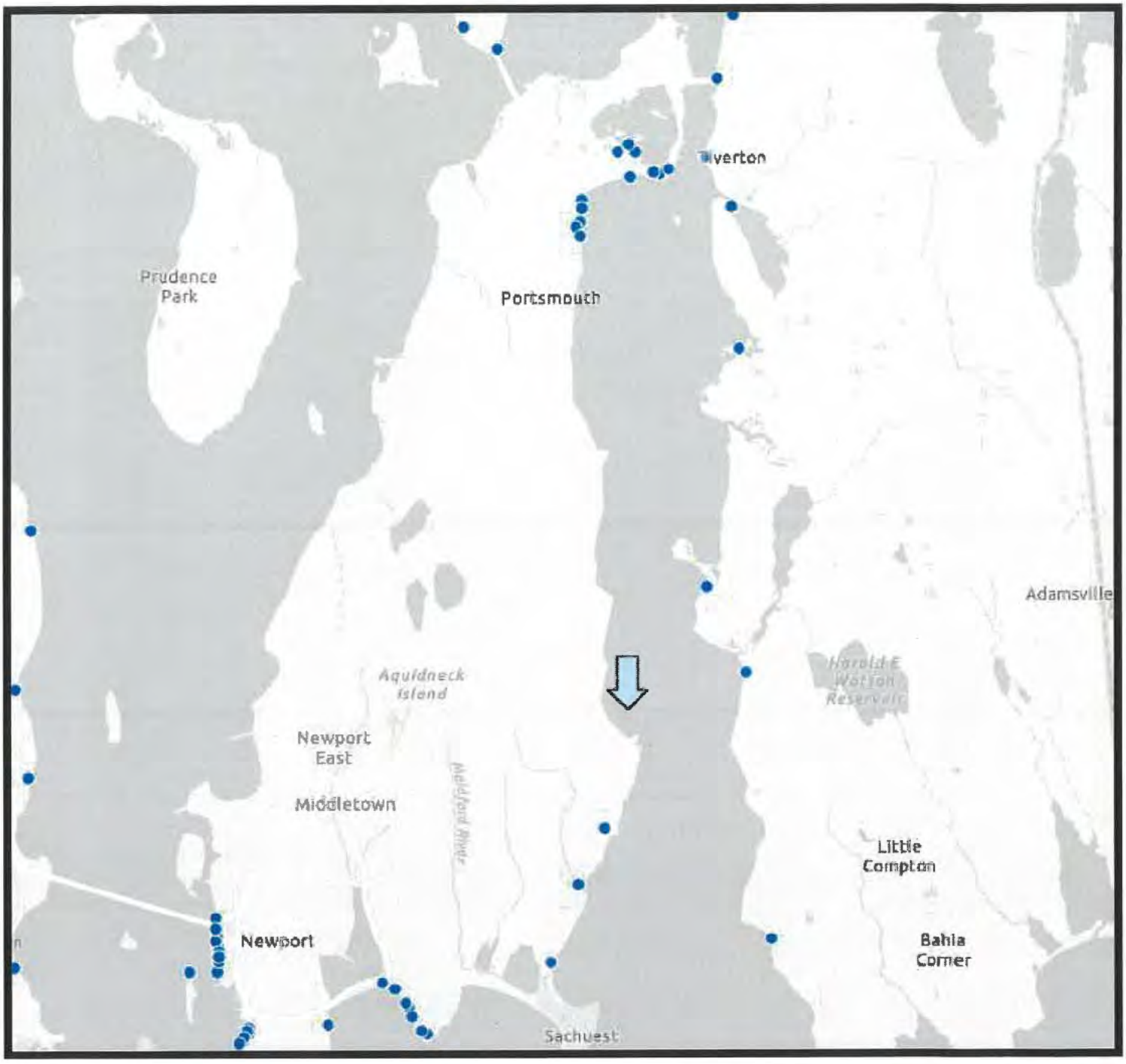


FlipFarm Baskets (low-profile floating gear)- 2'x0.5' surface area (2.5'thick)

Lantern Net- 18"x18"x5' tall

Floating Bag- 20"x3'x3" tall

Public Rights of Way (CRMC)



Operations Plan – Full Application Description

Overview

The applicant's proposed operation will employ a floating culture system for the commercial cultivation of Eastern Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) and Bay Scallops (*Argopecten irradians*) off the west bank of the Sakonnet River, Rhode Island. Oysters and scallops will be harvested using both bottom and floating gear systems. All seed shellfish will be sourced from established, approved hatcheries and introduced following strict biosecurity protocols to ensure healthy and sustainable stock.

The operation will deploy 15 units of 250 low-profile polyethylene cages (for a maximum total of 3,750 floating baskets) suspended within the water column and secured at both ends with pyramid or helical anchors as conditions require. Cage mesh sizes will be varied to optimize water flow while preventing product loss. During warmer months, oysters will receive peak feeding levels, and baskets will be routinely flipped by hand to minimize biofouling and promote the development of well-shaped, clean shells. This approach is designed to produce oysters that are consistent in size, shape, and quality.

The operation will also deploy 4 units (long lines) of 15 bottom cages each, positioned on the seafloor. These cages will be periodically retrieved using a mechanized hauler operated from the vessel, allowing oyster bags to be extracted for cleaning or harvest as needed.

The commercial waterfront facilities at Sakonnet Harbor in Little Compton will serve as the base of operations for the farm. The applicant has received the full endorsement of and a letter of support from the Little Compton Harbor Commission and was added to the commercial mooring waiting list. The commercial town dock in Little Compton currently allows for waterfront access with commercial vehicles, and a crane/lift enables heavy cargo to be loaded and unloaded with efficiency.

Gear and Methodology

The farm will employ an array of floating and submerged gear systems adapted to specific cultivation needs. All gear will be deployed interchangeably along longlines, including:

- **Square Intermas Bags**
- **FlipFarm Baskets (low-profile floating gear)**
- **Lantern nets**
- **Bottom Cages (6 bay)**

Environmental and Ecological Impacts

Oysters are known filter feeders that can help improve water quality. Their filter feeding allows them to remove nitrogen from water bodies and prevent harmful algal blooms. Oysters also sequester carbon dioxide in their shells, which also makes them a viable resource in controlling and mitigating carbon emissions.
(https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2025/05/more-evidence-that-oysters-are-a-blue-food-win-for-climate-and-coastal-pollution)
(https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/global-study-sheds-light-valuable-benefits-shellfish-and-seaweed-aquaculture)

Shellfish cultivation facilitates nitrogen removal from the water column via two mechanisms: incorporation into biomass and deposition of particulates into bottom sediments. Increased particulate nitrogen in sediments supports eelgrass recovery, as these plants absorb nitrogen directly from the substrate, enhancing bed health and resilience as well as helping to restore/create natural habitat.
(https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2024.1382153/full)

Section 300.1 (Category B) - Summary of Benefits

This lease will generate direct and indirect local employment while addressing the increasing demand for locally farmed oysters, helping narrow a supply chain gap that will keep more seafood revenue in the Rhode Island economy. By employing local workers and partnering with local businesses and research organizations, the operation will strengthen the community's economic vitality and environmental future. **(https://www.crmc.ri.gov/aquaculture/aquareport23.pdf)**

The adjacent shoreline features a gently sloping, lightly forested area that terminates at an eroded cliff with an abrupt drop-off. Aquaculture operations, particularly floating systems, can help mitigate shoreline erosion by promoting the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation that stabilizes sediments. These systems have the possibility to also reduce wave energy, providing additional local erosion control benefits. (https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/etd/3849/)

The seafloor of the proposed site is muddy and generally low in biodiversity. Bottom cage operations are known to provide habitat for marine life, essentially acting as temporary reefs. Bottom cages provide essential shelter for a wide variety of juvenile fish, crustaceans, and amphipods, supporting the foundation of the local marine food chain.
(Capturing Life on Shellfish Farms)
(www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2022.862548/full)

The closest public access point lies approximately 1.25 miles to the north at Sandy Point in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. With the proposed lease positioned more than 500 feet offshore, recreational activities on both land and water will experience negligible impacts. This operation is anticipated to benefit water quality, sedimentation patterns, turbidity levels, flushing rates, and circulation. Visual impacts will be minimized through the use of low-profile floating gear and submerged bottom cages, which remain invisible from the surface, thereby preserving scenic views for neighboring properties and recreational users. The floating gear will be centered around the East side of the lease to create a larger buffer from land and to mitigate visual disturbance from the perspective of the shore.

Seasonal monitoring of fishing activity revealed no conflicts or operational disruptions. Commercial fishing vessels maintain a buffer of several hundred feet from the site, presumably owing to shallow bathymetry that limits vessel draft and the absence of preferred target habitat. Spatial analysis using the Rhode Island Recreational Fishing Tool indicates this area represents the lowest fishing intensity zone within the Sakonnet River system, as depicted in the map below (highlighted region approximates farm boundaries).

The operation will primarily utilize the FlipFarm system (low-profile floating gear), a durable, low-profile floating bag specifically engineered for oyster cultivation. Each longline accommodates approximately 250 bags, creating an efficient and sustainable production platform. Complementing this approach, bottom cages will be deployed on the seafloor, with each unit holding 6 bags. These cages remain completely submerged and invisible from shore while providing valuable habitat for diverse marine species.

Guidance Document for Aquaculture Operations Plan

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 outlined 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.

Note: All plans must be typewritten. This Microsoft Word document is intended to be used by applicants as a template when preparing plans and may be modified as needed to fit the specific needs of the operator.

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.

Rhody Raw Bar & Events LLC

225A Long Highway, Little Compton, R.I. 02837

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.

TBD

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.

TBD

4. *Type of facility* (e.g., commercial lease site, upweller, experimental site, research, commercial viability) and nature of operation (i.e., methodology used, such as floating gear, submerged cages, bottom gear, etc.).

Commercial shellfish aquaculture lease utilizing primarily floating gear, with bottom cages, and suspended gear as secondary methods.

5. *Location of facility* (include aerial or chart depicting exact location)

a. Adjacent town:

Portsmouth

b. Water body:

Sakonnet River, Narragansett Bay

c. Lat/long coordinates and size of facility:

3-acre lease, lat/long included in diagrams above.

6. Identification of all *species of shellfish* grown at the facility. Acknowledgement that the applicants will follow Biosecurity Board seed protocols should be included.

The applicant's operation will employ floating and bottom gear systems to cultivate Eastern Oysters and Bay Scallops, off the west bank of the Sakonnet River. All seed will be sourced from established, approved hatcheries in accordance with Biosecurity Board protocols.

7. Description of *types of structures, gear, and methods* used at the facility (e.g., rafts, pens, cages, tanks, upwellers, docks) and their locations on the site. Include a 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. Include the maximum number of cages proposed and the size of the cages proposed.

The operation will deploy 15 longlines, each supporting 250 floating polyethylene baskets suspended in the water column and secured at both ends with anchors. Mesh sizes will be varied to optimize water flow while preventing product loss.

Additionally, 4 longlines will each support 15 bottom cages positioned on the seafloor. Each bottom cage will have 6 bays for mesh oyster bags.

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

The farm will be constructed, accessed, and maintained near-daily and year-round as weather permits, with operations peaking in the summer season and scaling back in winter months. Little Compton municipal commercial waterfront facilities will serve as the base of the operations for the applicant. This harbor provides commercial moorings and dockage for loading and unloading product and equipment, and is already used by commercial operators. While primary vessel berthing and heavy cargo loading will be based out of Sakonnet Harbor in Little Compton via established commercial infrastructure, the applicant will maintain compliance with all Portsmouth maritime ordinances and coordinate with the Portsmouth Harbormaster regarding transit safety across the waterway. Operations, including the manual and mechanized rotating of the low-profile baskets for biofouling control and oyster sorting via tumbling, will be restricted strictly to standard daylight working hours. The gear operates passively, utilizing ultra-low-noise manual or low-RPM vessel equipment that generates limited acoustic impact to the coastal neighborhood.

9. Description of the *methods and equipment used to identify and mark the site.*

The four corners of the commercial aquaculture site will be marked using High Flyer radar-reflective, illuminated floats in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard protocol.

14 and 11-inch pot buoys with written notation marking in 3-inch letters "CRMC" including the file number when available.

Recommendations and preferences from Federal, State, and Town officials will be taken into account for implementing marking of the site.

10. DEM *Shellfish Harvesting Classification* at the site.

The proposed lease is located in approved waters outside of known wild shellfish beds. Furthermore, the closest permitted lease at Black Point (within a few hundred

feet of the proposed farm site) was approved with acknowledgment that there is negligible shellfish abundance in the area. No submerged aquatic vegetation is present within the proposed lease area. An official site evaluation will be conducted at the expense of the applicant.

11. Description of *practices and procedures* used during the growth, harvest, storage, transportation, and sale of the cultured species. Including any off-site activities necessary for the operation.

During warmer months when oyster feeding rates peak, floating cages will be flipped regularly to minimize biofouling. Tumbling of the oysters will also be done regularly, promoting the development of well-cupped shells free of fouling organisms. This cultivation method produces oysters with consistent size, shape, and quality. Regular cleaning and sorting will ensure product marketability, while periodic bag rotation to dry positions will reduce biofouling.

Multi-bay oyster cages will be employed for growout, with periodic air-drying conducted off-site to control fouling. Bottom cage oysters will be periodically transported to the applicant's facility for tumbling and sorting, then returned to the farm to continue growing.

All shellfish sold will comply with strict Rhode Island Department of Health regulations. Products will be properly iced and maintained at appropriate temperatures.

Bay Scallops will be cultivated with the lantern nets and bottom cages, and shorter drying will be employed to control biofouling.

12. For operations that will use *floating gear*:

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

Approved forms of physical bird deterrence will be implemented as needed. These include Zip-Tie "Ticklers": Securing heavy-duty, UV-resistant zip ties to the floaters on cages with the pointy ends facing upward is a common, industry-standard method in Rhode Island that could be employed by the applicant.

Regular farm attendance and activity will discourage birds from roosting on gear, further minimizing potential wildlife conflicts. Negative interactions will be minimized by the considerable distance from shore, as well as the location within the Sakonnet River. Bird presence is highly seasonal, and will be addressed with approved deterrence methods according to best management practices.

The frequent Drying Cycle: The system relies on flipping baskets out of the water periodically to dry and kill biofouling. By scheduling these flips strategically, the activity will disrupt the potential roosting cycles of gulls and terns who prefer stable, predictable perches.

Ultra-Low Profile: FlipFarm basket floats (low-profile floating gear) sit only about 2.75 inches above the water line. This ultra-low profile reduces the structural "perch appeal" compared to much larger high-profile traditional floats.

Constant Line Movement: The side-by-side tension and frequent mechanized rolling on the longline make it highly unstable for heavy, wading birds to maintain footing.

b. Description of a plan for re-submergence after air drying before harvest.

Drying of product is well documented, and shellfish are not harvested for sale from baskets until the regulation resubmergence protocol is fulfilled.

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

100,000 per acre per year at the maximum potential yield of 300,000 pieces per year.

14. Description of a *plan for the safety and security of equipment*, including appropriate marking of equipment and the lease area. Incorporate a *storm preparedness and response plan* that accounts for the safety and security of all aquaculture equipment and any measures that will be taken in the event of a significant storm or other adverse weather conditions impacting the site.

The four corners of the commercial aquaculture site will be marked using the standard 14inch round pot buoys with written notation marking in 3-inch letters "CRMC" including the applicant's file number when available. Additionally, floating lines will be marked with 11inch round marker buoys on the north and south ends. Radar reflective High Flyer corner markers will be deployed in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard Requirements as recommended.

The U.S. Coast Guard has deemed the proposed project does not appear to increase impact to navigation safety.

RI Historical Preservation and Heritage commission has no conflict with the proposed aquaculture application.

Gear Tagging: Every individual floating FlipFarm longline (low-profile floating gear) and deep-water bottom cage will be fitted with a tamper-proof, UV-resistant vinyl tag stamped with the farm's specific CRMC Assent number for identification and asset tracking.

In the event of disastrous weather conditions, the applicant has communicated with local commercial fishermen, landowners, and nearby aquaculturists to coordinate potential immediate emergency action.

Community & Law Enforcement Liaison: The farm will maintain open contact with the RI CRMC, RI DEM Division of Law Enforcement, and local harbormasters to report any unauthorized vessels or missing gear immediately.

This protocol activates sequentially based on weather advisories issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for Rhode Island waters.

Phase 1: Pre-Storm Alert (48 to 72 Hours Prior to Impact) Inventory Check: Secure all loose tools, sorting tables, and unseeded baskets on the support vessel or move them to a secure shore-based facility. Harvest Suspension: Cease all standard harvesting activities to pivot 100% of labor toward securing the farm site.

Phase 2: Storm Mitigation Action (24 to 48 Hours Prior to Impact) FlipFarm Longline Configuration: Ensure all FlipFarm baskets (low-profile floating gear) are flipped into the "growth/submerged" position (baskets underwater, floats on top). Secondary Anchoring: Inspect and tighten all backbone lines. If a major hurricane (Category 2+) is projected, add secondary storm-tethers from the longline ends to backup anchors.

Deep-Water Cages: Ensure all bottom cages are securely settled on the bottom. Check that all buoy lines attached to bottom cages have sufficient slack to accommodate projected storm surges without lifting the cages off the bottom.

Phase 3: Immediate Pre-Storm (0 to 24 Hours Prior to Impact) Evacuation: Clear all farm vessels from the lease area. Ensure the boat is either hauled out of the water or secured in a designated storm-safe harbor/marina.

Phase 4: Post-Storm Recovery & Response (Within 24 Hours Post-Impact) Safety First: No personnel will enter the lease until local maritime authorities declare the waterways safe for navigation.

Asset Assessment: Conduct a full visual inspection of all corner markers, FlipFarm lines (low-profile floating gear), and bottom cage buoys. Gear Recovery Protocol: In the event that any gear breaks free: Immediately notify the CRMC Aquaculture Coordinator and the RI DEM Division of Law Enforcement with descriptions of the lost assets. Deploy recovery vessels to locate and retrieve loose baskets or buoys, utilizing the stamped CRMC Assent tags to prove ownership. Repair any structurally compromised lines or anchors immediately to prevent further debris generation.

Some or all of these measures will be used to mitigate any damage from ice or extreme low temperatures in the event that they occur.

15. Procedures for *maintaining records*:

a. For operations using seed acquired from out-of-state:

Out-of-state seed acquisitions will be subject to Biosecurity Board and CRMC approval contingent upon pathology reports from the source hatchery.

16. Procedures *for maintaining records*:

a. N/A

17. Procedures for *maintaining records*:

The farm will maintain a permanent, centralized seed and inventory log to guarantee full traceability from hatchery to harvest. Every incoming seed shipment will be recorded prior to arrival with the following parameters: Date: The exact calendar day the shipment will arrive at the facility. Source: The name, location, and license number of the supplying hatchery. Average Size: The shell height in

millimeters is determined by sample counts upon delivery. Amount: The total volume, weight, or exact piece count of the incoming seed.

Pathology Reports: Disease-free certifications will be permanently attached to the log before deployment and sent to the CRMC Aquaculture Coordinator a week before the shipment is received.

Placement Data: The log will specify which FlipFarm line (low-profile floating gear) or nursery bag receives the seed.

Grading History: updated sizes and counts when splitting stock into larger gear will be included in the records.

See above

Guidance Document for Category B Tidal Aquaculture Applications

9-11. Category B requirements
1.3.1(A)
Category B written requirements:
a. Demonstrate the need for the proposed activity or alteration;

There is a demonstrated and growing demand in Rhode Island for sustainably farmed, locally produced shellfish. This new aquaculture operation will help meet that need, strengthen the coastal economy, and contribute to improved water quality and ecosystem health through shellfish filtration **and sustainable farming practices.**

b. 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 §§ 1.3.1(B), (C), (F), (H), (I), (K), (M), (O) and (Q) of this Part; for projects on state land, the state building official, for the purposes of this section, is the building official;

No terrestrial or non-tidal construction is proposed. All activities are limited to the sub-tidal lease area, and all applicable state and federal environmental requirements will be fully met.

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

This project would take place in the lower Sakonnet River of Narragansett Bay, **a low-traffic** area that is largely rural **and agricultural.**

d. 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 proposed aquaculture activity will not affect erosion or sedimentation. No dredging or shoreline alteration will occur, and gear will be passively anchored, allowing natural tidal and current movement to continue undisturbed. Therefore, no significant impacts to erosion or deposition processes are anticipated.

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

Shellfish aquaculture is regenerative to ecosystems. Aquaculture operations provide shelter for juvenile fish, crabs, and a wide variety of other animals. Biodiversity tends to increase around oyster farms. Operations will be i**n accordance with RICRMC and RIDEM SOPs and accommodate measures to contribute to sustainable cultivation methods by eliminating the need for inputs other than shellfish and gear. No chemical treatments will be used in this type of cultivation at all.**

f. 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 proposed **low-profile** floating gear within the lease area is located **more than** 500 feet offshore in waters that are rarely used for navigation or recreational activities. The adjacent shoreline is privately owned, mostly vacant land, and lacks public beach access. Also, commercial fishing activity in the vicinity is minimal.

g. Demonstrate that the alteration will not result in significant impacts to water circulation, flushing, turbidity, and sedimentation; h. Demonstrate that there will be no significant deterioration in the quality of the water in the immediate vicinity as defined by DEM;

The proposed floating shellfish aquaculture system will not alter local water circulation, flushing, or sediment movement. The gear allows natural tidal exchange to occur freely and does not

disturb the bottom. Shellfish filtration will enhance water clarity, and no discharges or pollutants will be introduced. Therefore, no significant impacts to water quality are expected.

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

The proposed project will not result in any excavation, dredging, or permanent disturbance that would impact areas of historic or archaeological significance.

j. 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, and;

The proposed lease area lies far outside the main navigational channel and away from regular boat traffic. Fisheries and recreation mapping indicate that this portion of the Sakonnet River experiences low-intensity use. The footprint of the lease is **minuscule** in comparison to both the surrounding shoreline and the overall width of the Sakonnet. Any private riparian moorings and docks are accounted for and remain well outside the northwestern boundary of the proposed lease site.

k. Demonstrate that measures have been taken to minimize any adverse scenic impact (see § 1.3.5 of this Part).

The application proposes to use low-profile floating gear to minimize visual impact. Any bottom gear will be connected to submerged longlines to minimize the visual impact of surface markers. ***Low-profile floating gear will also be concentrated towards the east side of the lease, removing it from shore even further than the edge of the lease itself.***

1.3.1(K)(3):
Additional Category B Requirements

a. **Applicants proposing to undertake any aquaculture project shall:**

(1) Describe the location and size of the area proposed;

~3-acre lease in the western portion of the lower Sakonnet River, Narragansett Bay.

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

Eastern Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) **and Bay Scallops (*Argopecten irradians*)**

(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; and

The proposed commercial cultivation will primarily employ longline systems utilizing various gear types, with FlipFarm baskets (low-profile floating gear) serving as the main production method.

(4) Provide such other information as may be necessary for the Council to determine:

(AA) 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 proposed lease area lies far outside the main navigational channel and away from regular boat traffic. Fisheries and recreation mapping indicate that this portion of the Sakonnet River experiences low-intensity use. The footprint of the lease is **minuscule** in comparison to both the surrounding shoreline and the overall width of the Sakonnet.

(BB) The degree of exclusivity required for aquacultural activities on the proposed site;

The Western Portion (Bottom Cages) offers completely unrestricted surface transit and recreational rod-and-reel fishing, as all structures remain fully submerged on the seafloor. The Eastern Portion (Floating Baskets) will require vessel operators and paddlers to navigate around the perimeter of the longline grid for safety, though recreational fishing immediately adjacent to the structural buffer is welcome.

(CC) The safety and security of equipment, including appropriate marking of the equipment and/or lease area;

The equipment will be maintained year-round, and the lease boundaries will be clearly marked with yellow corner buoys to ensure the site remains highly visible. In addition, each unit of gear will be inspected regularly and marked with identifying credentials in accordance with CRMC requirements.

(DD) The projected per unit area yield of harvestable product;

Projected yield is 100,000 shellfish per acre farmed, with a higher yield in floating equipment. Based on the output of similar-scale FlipFarm operations (low-profile floating gear) in the immediate area.

(EE) The cumulative impact of a particular aquaculture proposal in an area, in addition to other aquaculture operations already in place;

The intensity of other aquaculture sites in the area is low. The only other oyster farm at Black Point is actively supporting this application for approval. The closest active shellfish farm with floating gear is located less than 300 feet, directly off of Portsmouth's Glen Recreational Area.

(FF) The capability of the applicant to carry out the proposed activities; and
The applicant has demonstrated their capabilities to carry out the proposed activities.

The applicant is the current Aquaculture Field Operations Manager at the Roger Williams University CEED Shellfish program with almost a decade of experience in aquaculture. The applicant also currently operates a 1.78-acre experimental research farm (GA17), adjacent nursery systems, and two field sites for shellfish restoration, to enhance shellfish across Narragansett Bay. The applicant has made considerable connections with numerous aquaculture operations in the area and has effectively managed oyster farming operations on permitted locations within the Sakonnet River (GA4). The applicant also serves as the current Aquaculture Extension Specialist for Roger Williams University, and has established relationships with State (RIDEM and CRMC) and Federal agencies, as well as municipalities and local stakeholders. The applicant currently holds a RI catering license through the RI Department of Health, and is committed to the contribution of sustainable high-quality seafood from and for the Ocean State.

(GG) The impact of the proposed activities on the scenic qualities of the area.

The scenic impact will be minimized using low-profile gear designed to reduce the visible presence above the water's surface. Surrounding terrestrial agricultural operations are the main abutters to the shoreline adjacent to the proposed lease, and the approval of this lease application will contribute to the communities' commitment to locally farmed sustainable products.

Oliveira, Matthew P CIV USCG SEC SE NEW ENG (USA) <Matthew.P.Oliveira2@uscg.mil> Jan 22, 2026, 9:01 AM

to Ben, me

Good Morning Malcolm,

After careful consideration of the documents, the proposed project does not appear to increase impact to navigation safety. **For marine safety information during construction** or other significant periods, **email** D01-SMB-LNM@uscg.mil. **Applicants shall notify NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) Nautical Data Branch Office of Coast Survey to initiate appropriate chart and Coast Pilot corrections. Applicants must also notify NOAA if/when removal occurs.**

Regards,

Matt Oliveira
Assistant Chief / Waterways Management Division

U. S. Coast Guard
Sector SE New England
20 Risho Avenue, E. Providence, RI 02860
Cell: (508) 524-3944
Matthew.P.Oliveira2@uscg.mil

Harbor Commission
Town of Little Compton
P.O. Box 226
Little Compton, RI 02837

April 17, 2026

Jeffrey Willis, Director
Benjamin Goetsch, Aquaculture Coordinator
RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

Dear Sirs,

The Harbor Commission of the Town of Little Compton writes to you in support of an aquaculture application 2026-01-019 being submitted to you by Mr. Malcolm Bowen of Little Compton for a lease sited in State waters of the Sakonnet River off Portsmouth.

Referring to your Guidance Document for Aquaculture Operations Plans, and taking stock of points expressed by RI CRMC and RI DEM at the Preliminary Determination hearing held in Portsmouth on 04 Mach, and of our own introductions to this venture at our Little Compton Harbor Commission meetings of 12 February and 16 April, we offer the following in support of this application-

- The Commercial fishing facilities at Sakonnet Point are fully capable of supporting the logistical and vessel basing requirements to access and regularly service the proposed aquaculture site, from initial operating capability to full scale commercial activity.

- Mr. Bowen is registered on the Harbormaster's waitlist for a commercial vessel mooring in the harbor. This short list is experiencing faster than average turnover as the inshore lobster fishery becomes more challenging. We have every reason to believe Mr. Bowen will have a mooring within a year or two. Meanwhile we have been informed he has arrangements for use of other fisherman's vessels for the immediate term. The RI DEM boat ramp at Sakonnet Harbor also

provides ready backup access capability to the applicant.

- The community of commercial fishermen at Sakonnet Harbor, speaking through their representatives on the Harbor Commission, welcome this new venture and are ready to support any surge requirements Mr. Bowen may need in coping with storm preparations, including assistance in scuttling or retrieving his gear.

The Little Compton Harbor Commission is committed to working with the CRMC and the Portsmouth Harbor Commission in the successful development of this application and in responsible long-term management of this new aquaculture enterprise.

Respectfully,

Benoit Gauthier, Chair

Harbor Commission, Town of Little Compton, RI

cc:

Clerk, Town Council, Harbormaster, Town of Little Compton

Clerk, Harbor Commission, Harbormaster, Town of Portsmouth