

**RHODE ISLAND****DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT****DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES/DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

3 Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

August 30, 2024

Benjamin Goetsch
Aquaculture Coordinator
Coastal Resources Management Council
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879



Re: Reichman #2024-07-016

Dear Mr. Goetsch:

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (the Department), through the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), has received and reviewed the application submitted by Kyle Reichman for a three-acre shellfish aquaculture farm consisting of twenty long-lines for the use of low-profile floating baskets (FlipFarm), suspended lantern nets, and bottom cages for the cultivation of eastern oysters and bay scallops.

The proposed location does not intersect with known submerged aquatic vegetation. Thus, DMF believes that the adverse impacts to marine fisheries and their habitat from this prospective site would be minimal. As such, the DMF does not have objections to this application. The DMF and DFW's acceptance of the current proposal is specific to the location (shown in Figure 1) and specifications outlined in the application.

Various species of wading birds, gulls, and terns may be attracted to the floating cages both as foraging and roosting opportunities (Callier et al. 2018). DFW encourages the applicant to explore floating gear designs that deter roosting (see Comeau et al. 2009). DFW will not support moving deterrents, scarecrows, etc. as they will also displace non-target species from the lease and surrounding area. Lethal removal of depredating birds requires authorization from DFW and will not likely be supported. Additionally, installation of exclusion devices or deterrents will be considered lease modifications and will need to be approved, as some versions are known to have lethal implications for diving ducks (Varenes et al. 2013). The applicant will be legally responsible for any take of migratory birds that is caused by unapproved exclusion devices.

However, at the time of this public notice period closing, no shellfish density survey has been performed at the site. If subsequent shellfish sampling in the lease area indicates high densities, the Divisions may issue a different recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason E. McNamee".

Jason McNamee,
Deputy Director, Bureau of Natural Resources



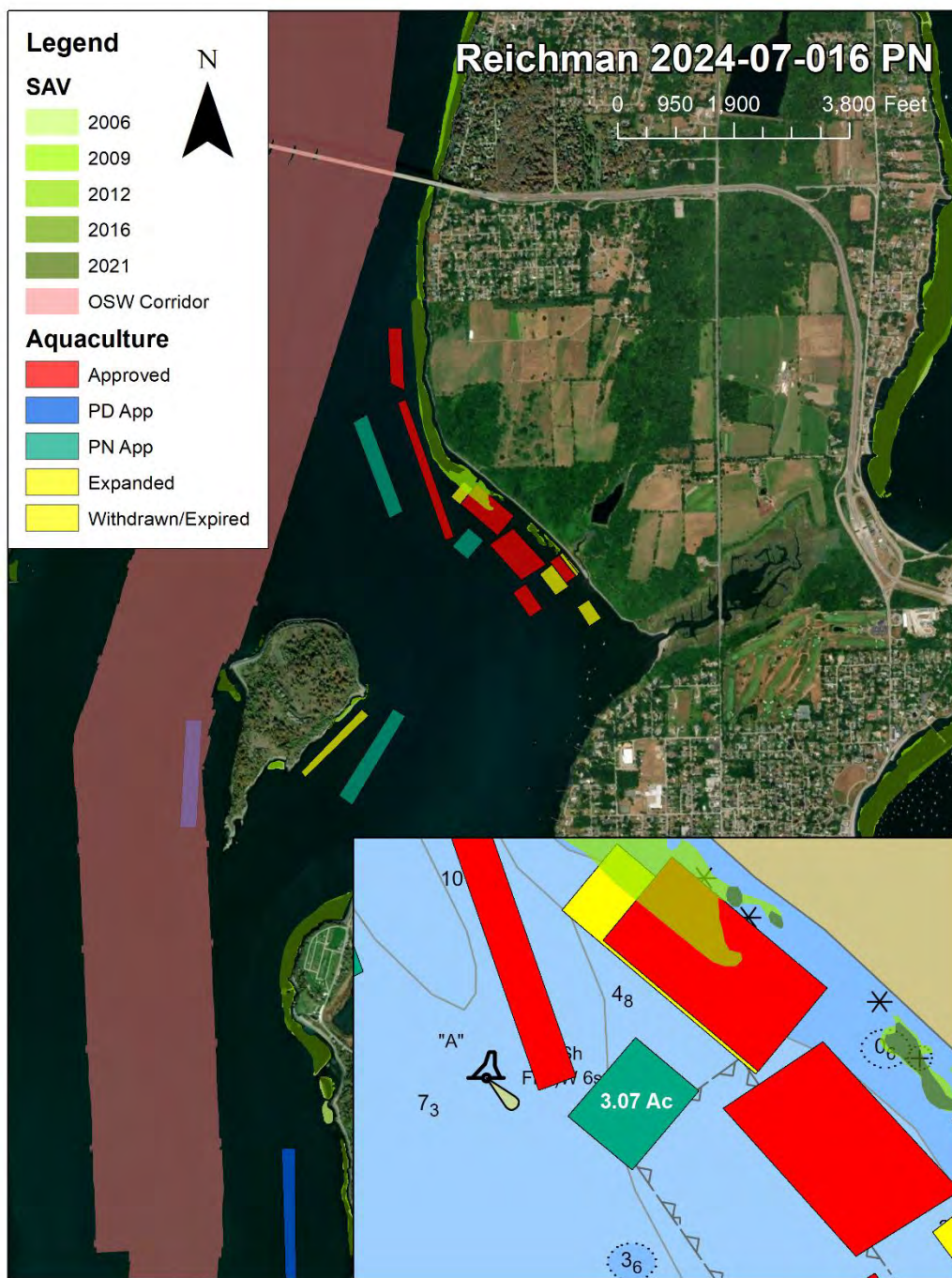


Figure 1. Lease location

