



Aquaculture Working Group

For

Dutch Island Harbor, Jamestown, RI

(DEM/CRMC/Town of Jamestown)

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Rhode Island General Laws Title 20 - Fish and Wildlife
Chapter 20-10 Aquaculture
Section 20-10-1 Declaration of intent and public policy.

- Whereas, R.I. Const., Art. I, Sec. 17, guarantees to the people the right to enjoy and freely exercise all rights of fishery, and imposes on the general assembly the responsibility to provide for the conservation of water, plant, and animal resources of the state; and
- Whereas, it is in the best public interest of the people and the state that the land and waters of the state, are utilized properly and effectively to produce plant and animal life; and
- Whereas, the process of aquaculture is a proper and effective method to cultivate plant and animal life; and
- Whereas, the process of aquaculture should only be conducted within the waters of the state in a manner consistent with the best public interest, with particular consideration given to the effect of aquaculture on other uses of the free and common fishery and navigation, and the compatibility of aquaculture with the environment of the waters of the state; therefore,
- It is the public policy of this state to preserve the waters of this state as free and common fishery. The health, welfare, environment, and general wellbeing of the people of the state require that the state restrict the uses of its waters and the land thereunder for aquaculture and, in the exercise of the police power, the waters of the state and land thereunder are to be regulated under this chapter.



CRMC Aquaculture Policy

“The CRMC recognizes that commercial aquaculture is a viable means for supplementing the yields of marine fish and shellfish food products, and shall support commercial aquaculture in those locations where it can be accommodated among other uses of Rhode Island waters.” 650-RICR-20-00-1.3.1(K)(1)(a)



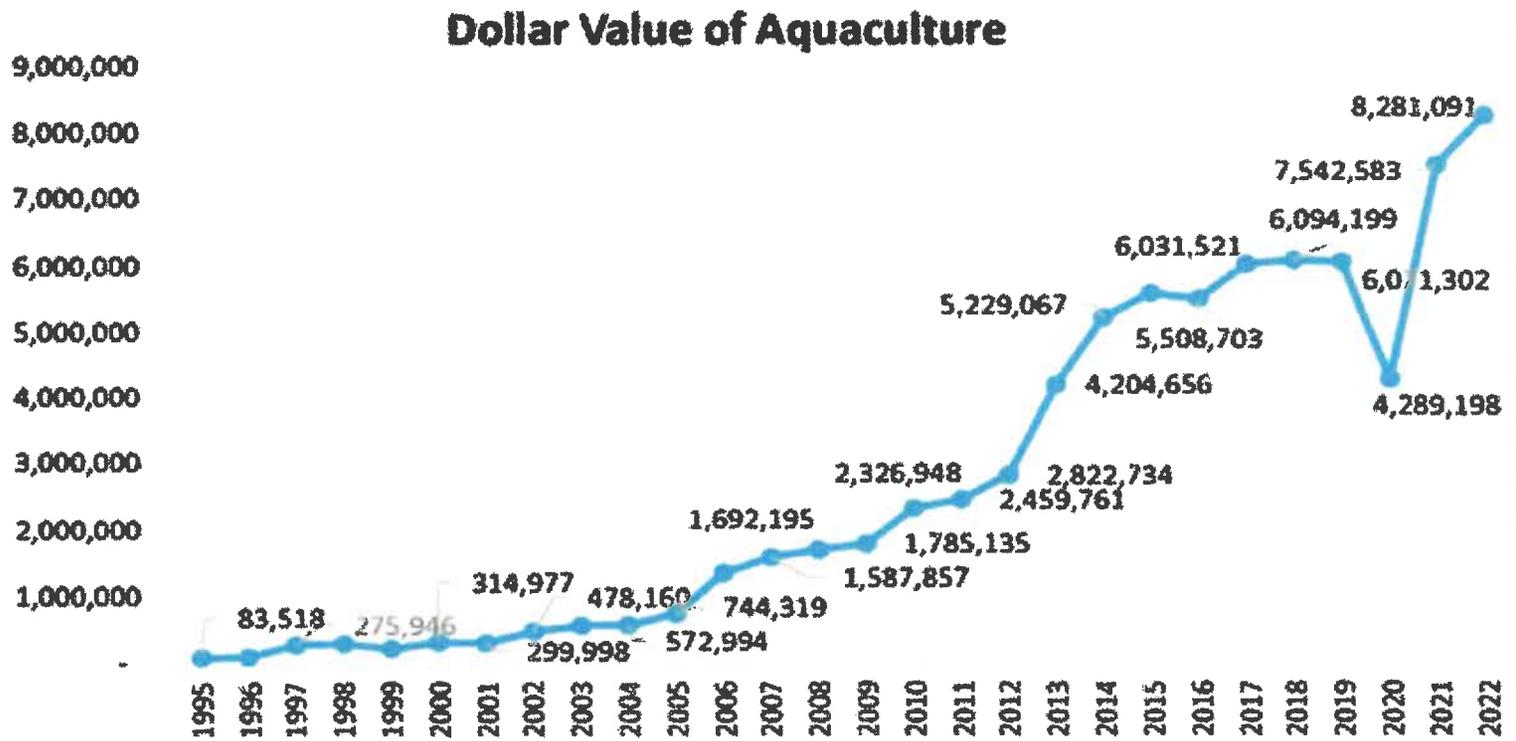
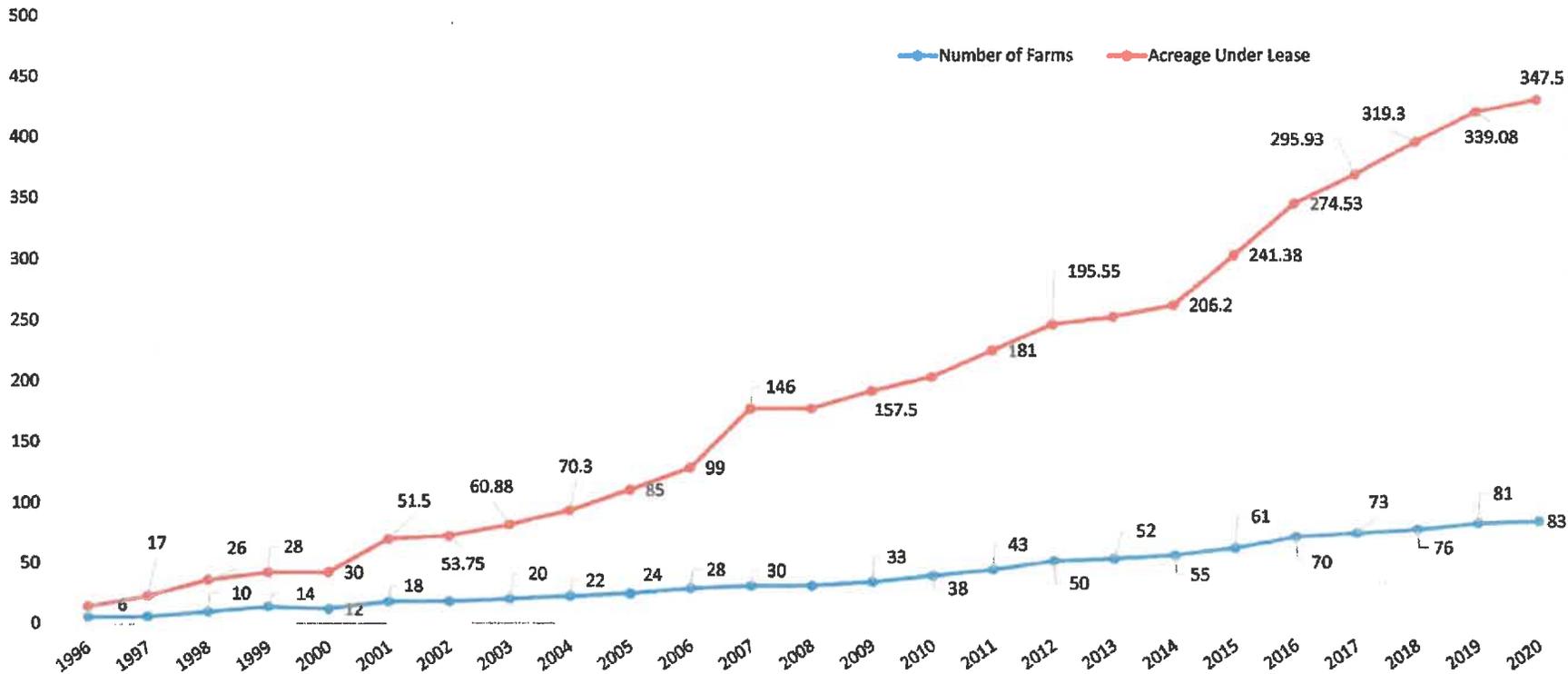
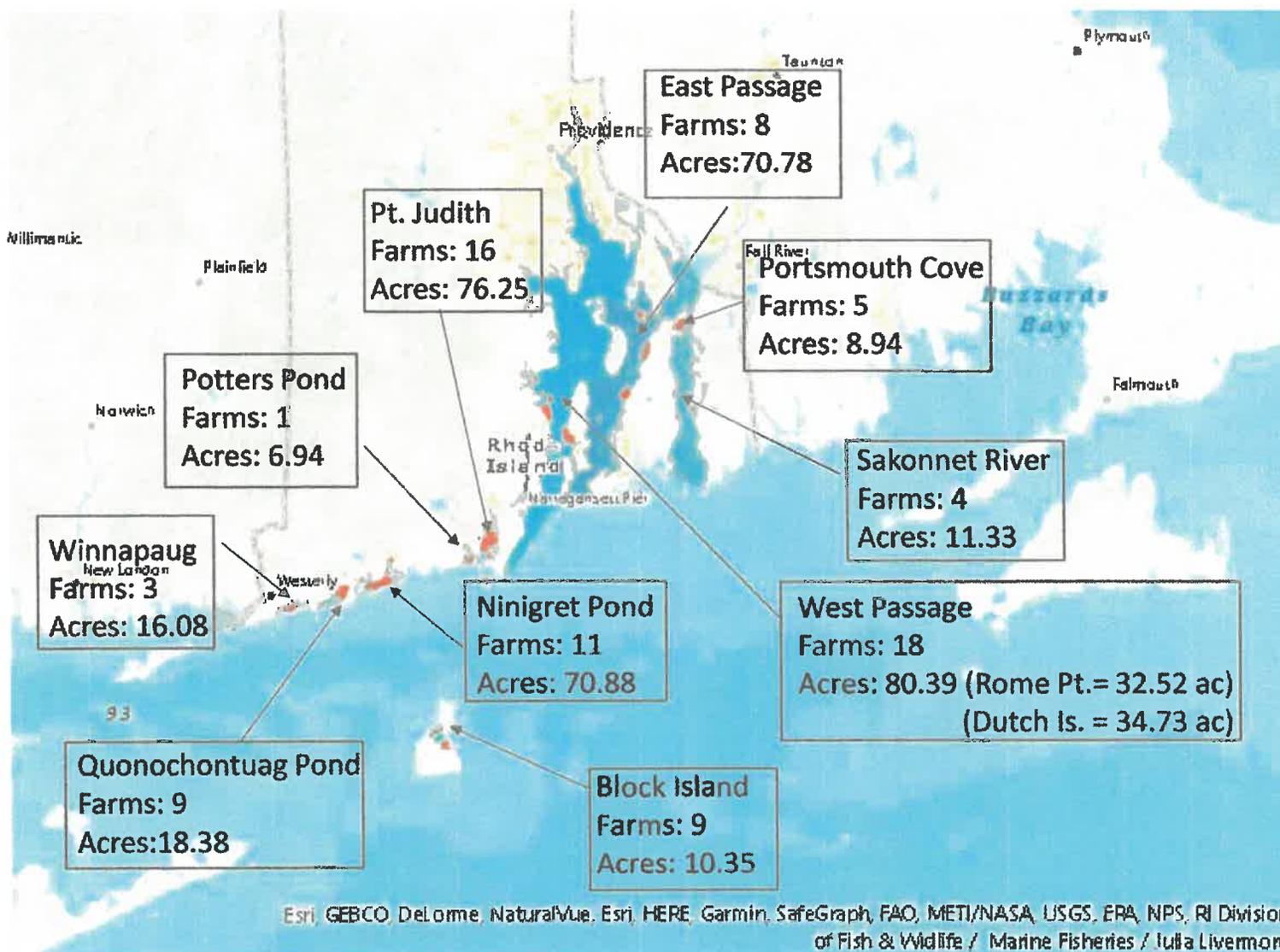


Figure 3. Total dollar value of all aquaculture products

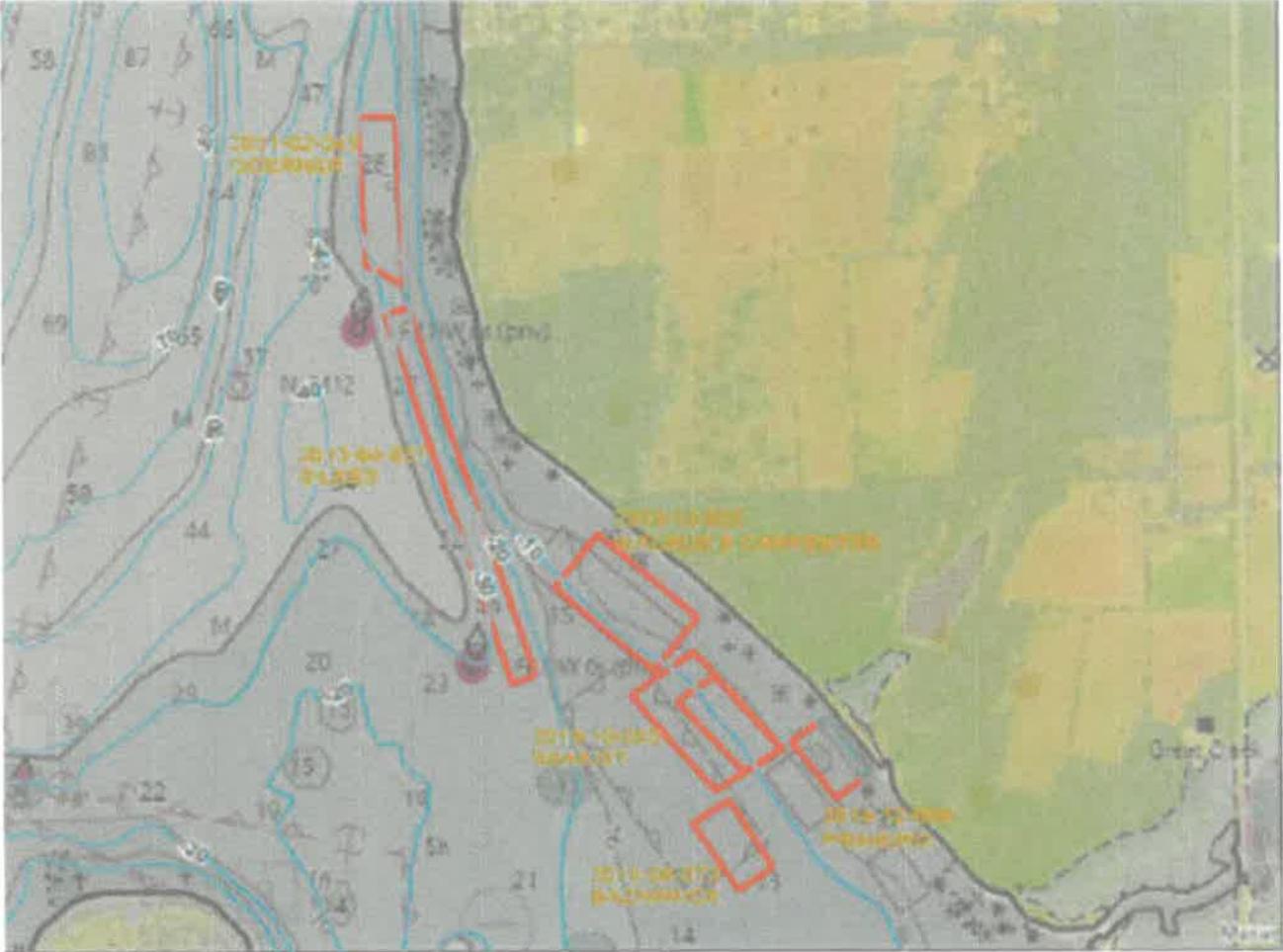


Farms & Acreage Under Lease





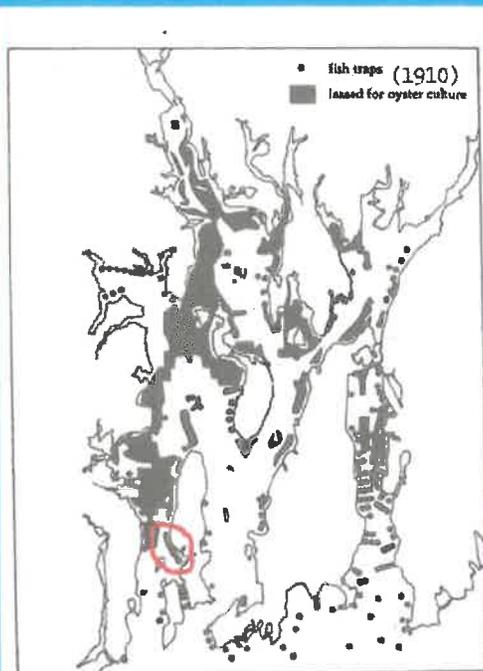
DUTCH ISLAND HARBOR AQUACULTURE SITES



2011-02-049	Bazarnick (Sweet Victory)	2.84 acres
2014-12-056	Pinheiro (Sunset Beach)	2.06 acres
2019-10-050	Cregan & Papa (Seakist)	8.58 acres
2019-12-055	Boehringer (Walrus & Carpenter)	7.82 acres
2013-04-057	Silkes (Saltwater Farms)	8.39 acres
2011-02-049	Goerner	5.04 acres

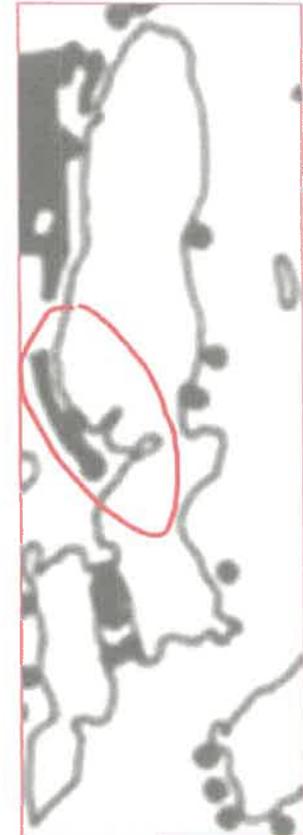


Oyster Aquaculture Leases and Fish Traps in Narragansett Bay 1910

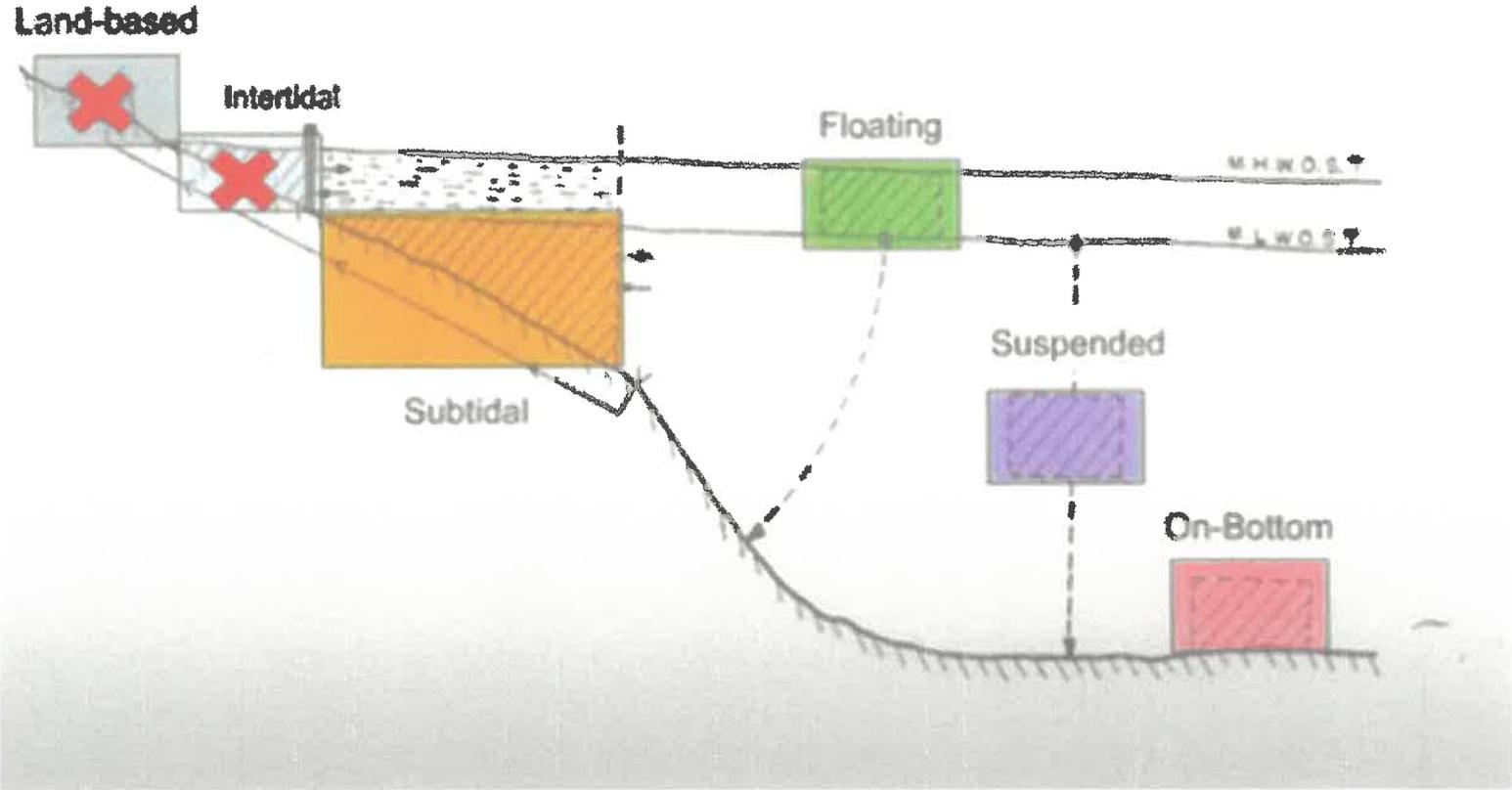


Features about early oyster aquaculture in RI

- Peak 20,846 leased acres (1911)
- Peak production 1.4 million bushels live oysters & 1.3 million gallons of shucked meats (1908); worth >\$500M in today's dollars.
- “Mill Town” labor system similar to textile mills



Shellfish grow-out strategies



Suspended Oyster Culture

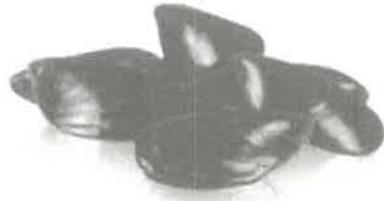
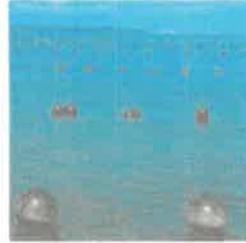
Shellfish in Mid-water – Hanging Cages



Mussel Culture

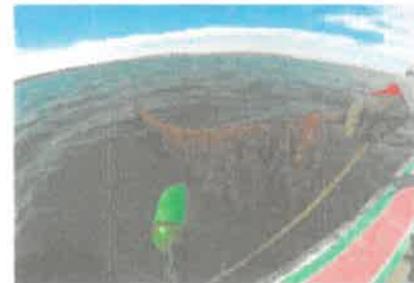


Figure 1. Schematic of a submerged longline with dimensions for deployment in water depths of approximately 70 ft (21 meters)



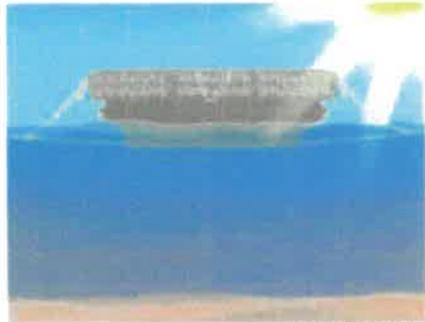
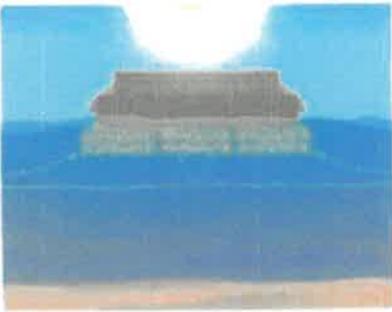
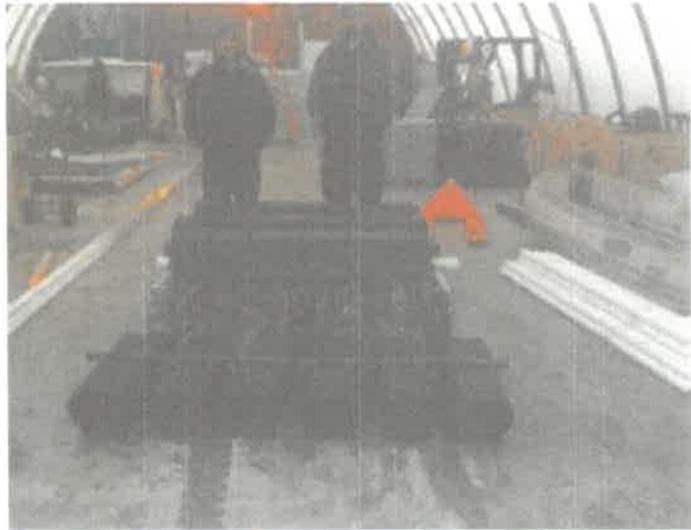
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Sugar Kelp: an emerging industry



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Floating Gear

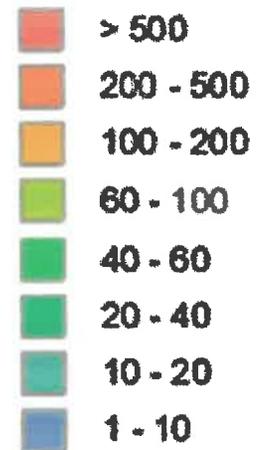
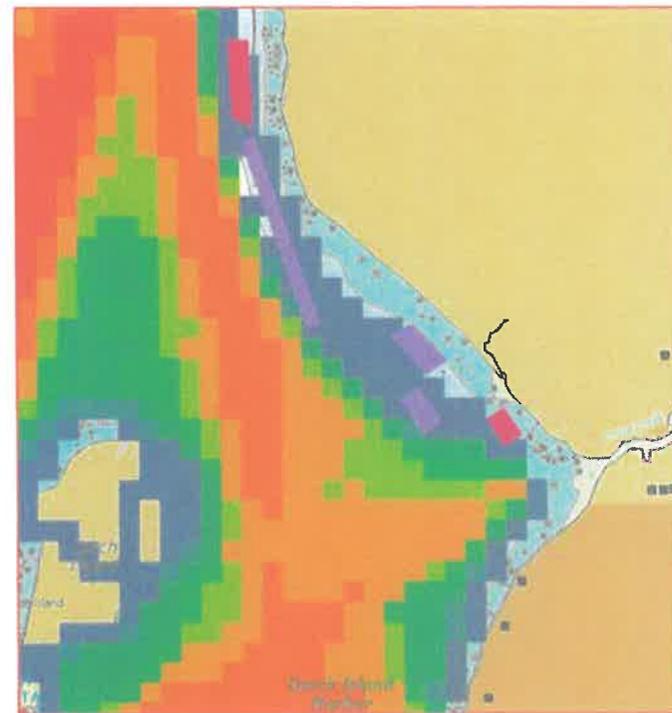
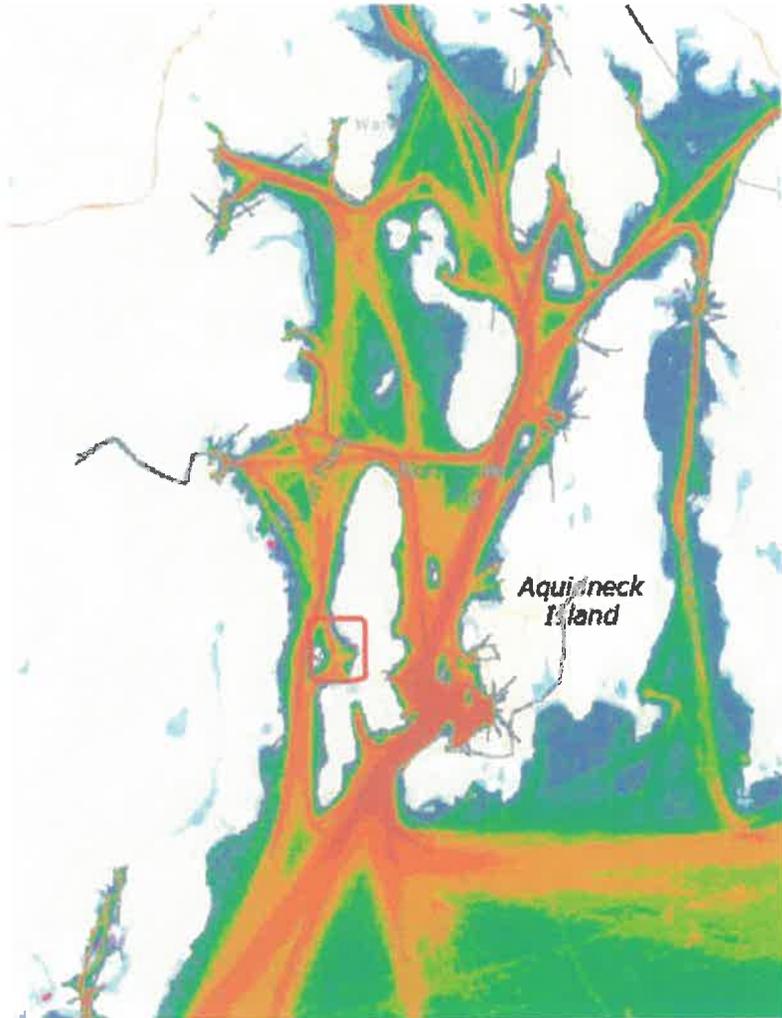


CRMC



CRMC
COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

All Vessel Transit Counts - 2022



Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) i.e. Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*)



Proposed aquaculture leases may not be sited where eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) or widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*) exists.

**THE TOWN OF
JAMESTOWN, RI
HARBOR
COMMISSION**

**APPENDIX A-1:
Waters Under the Jurisdiction
of The Town of Jamestown**

Legend

- Jamestown Harbor Boundaries
- ▭ Proposed Mooring Areas
- ▨ Transient Zone
- ▨ Mooring Zone
- ▨ Conservation Zone
- ▭ Coastal Waters

0 1 2 Miles

The information depicted on this map is for illustrative purposes only. For legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation please consult the Harbor Management Ordinance.

Jamestown GIS Department



Town of Jamestown Harbor Department

Appendix A-5.16
West Ferry Anchorage Zone



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MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dutch Is. Harbor Aquaculture Area



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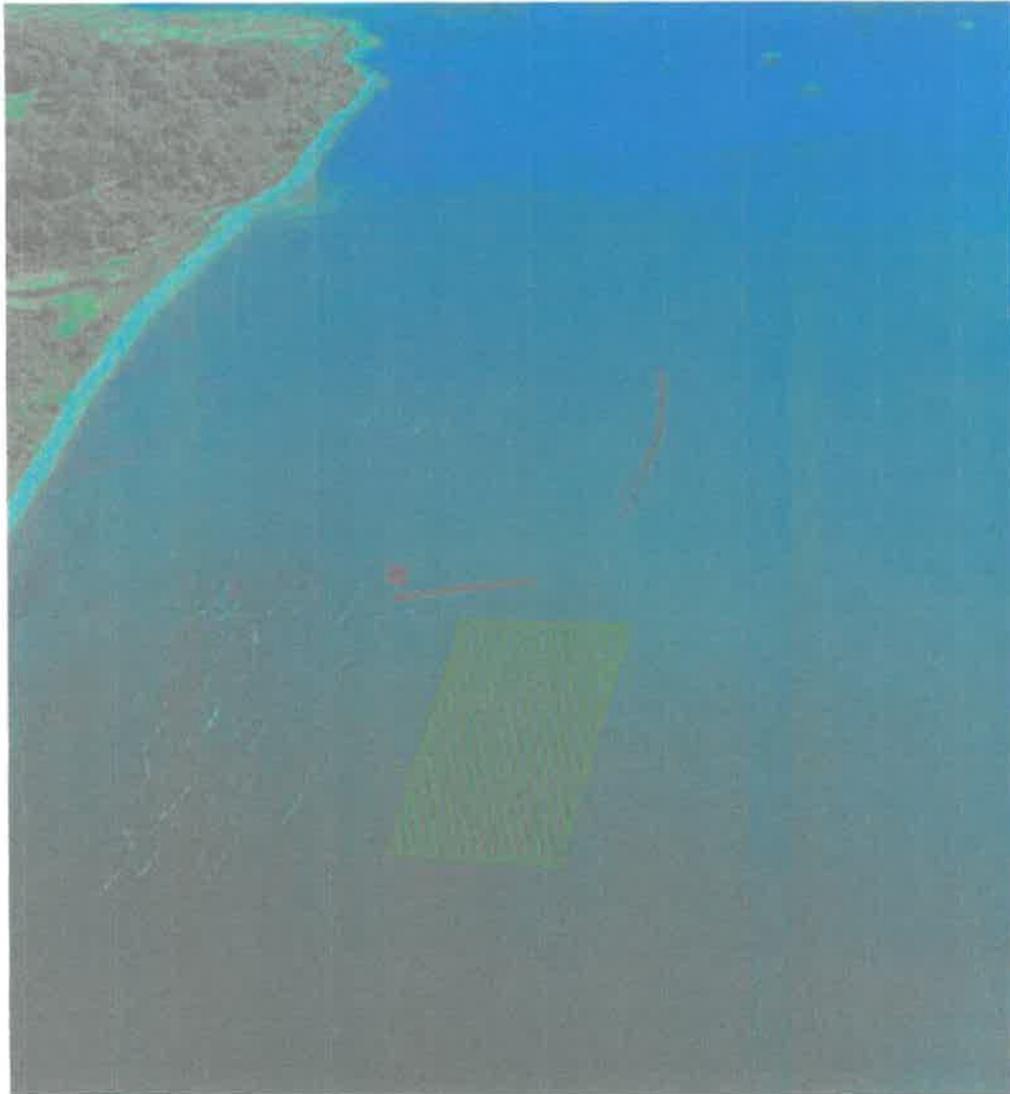


NDA/NDDC, Sea Grant, HydroViz, Sea Community Map Contributors,
University of Rhode Island, Sea Grant, Dartmouth, SeaDrift,
GeoIntelligence Inc. MIT/NOAA, USGS, EPA, NOAA US Coastal Services
USDA, USFWS, RI Division of Fish & Wildlife / Marine Fisheries / J&L
Landscape

Considerations for future policies:

- Aquaculture Area is approx. 90 acres;
- 6 farms and 34.67 acres currently permitted within the area;
- Constraints to expanding area include:
 - vessel traffic traveling N/S from harbor;
 - Current eelgrass beds and historic habitat to the East nearshore;
 - Potential conflicts to the North and South (residences, anchorage, moorings);
- Areas around Dutch Island itself present challenges for applications based on habitat/hunting/rec. use;
- There appears to be room within the Aqua Area for more acreage, should it be reserved for existing farmers or new ones?





CRMC #2023-11-055
Reichman Preliminary Determination
Need to schedule meeting for Feb/March 2024

