
Letter of support

From Dave Beutel <dbeutel27@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/22/2026 12:13 PM

To Cstaff <cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov>

Cc Ben Goetsch <bgoetsch@crmc.ri.gov>; Lisa Turner <lturner@crmc.ri.gov>; Jeff Willis <jwillis@crmc.ri.gov>

Please accept this letter of support for the modification of assent applications for file numbers 2001-02-025 and 2004-05-024.

Dear Council Members and Appropriate Staff:

I have had the opportunity to review the full council meeting packet for September 8, 2026, and some additional letters of objection for these two applications for modification of assent to allow the use of floating aquaculture gear on existing aquaculture assents. As a retired aquaculture coordinator for CRMC I am very familiar with these locations, the applicants, and the tenor of aquaculture objections.

The applicants are accurate that floating "flip bags" would be beneficial to the production of their farms. The floating gear puts the oysters in a zone where there are more nutrients for more rapid growth than the currently permitted bottom cages provide. The floating gear is less cumbersome and will be safer and simpler to handle than bottom cages. The farmers have worked consistently over many years to be responsible users of Point Judith Pond. They have worked with state, federal, and environmental agencies to provide education and outreach concerning shellfish aquaculture.

As the applications are for modification to existing sites the issues of concern provided by the letters of objection have already been addressed through the letters of no objection from multiple state and federal agencies. Issues of navigation and recreation were addressed in the original applications and have again been reviewed for these applications. Subaquatic vegetation (SAV) is important to protect and the RICRMCP does protect it. Existing aquaculture sites have had a SAV review, and are "grandfathered" to continue if SAV does start to inhabit the lease sites. The 5% rule is clear and any objection to that rule shows a misunderstanding of the rule. Any bird issues are addressed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and they have issued a letter of no objection.

The applications for floating gear will affect the visual aspects of the sites. Floating gear is permitted on other nearby sites in Point Judith Pond.

I encourage the Council to approve these simple modifications to the assents.

Sincerely,
David Beutel



Outlook

Moonstone gear modification

From Martha <astrikercharters@aol.com>

Date Wed 9/23/2026 5:08 AM

To Ben Goetsch <bgoetsch@crmc.ri.gov>

To all parties, I am in support of the gear modification as a farmer that has started using the FlipFarm baskets the system is :Low profile, and makes a premium oyster which is needed in today's market to compete with the number of oyster farms that have started in the US. FlipFarm will increase there survival to 90% which is a dramatic increase to there other farming techniques and drop in there labor costs with the use of there equipment which will extend the career of a farm hand by reducing the physical labor. I Hope that CRMC sees what the future of oyster farming is going to and permits the gear modification.

Russell Blank

Rome Point Ilc

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)



Outlook

West's upcoming CRMC hearing

From Sage Oranje <sageoranje@gmail.com>

Date Wed 9/23/2026 8:58 AM

To Ben Goetsch <bgoetsch@crmc.ri.gov>

Hello, my name is Sage Oranje, and I would like to speak during the upcoming meeting for John and Cindy West.

I would like to talk briefly about what the farm means to me as a worker, how it has benefited mine and my family's life, and the overall upsides to aquaculture in our communities.

Thank you, and I look forward to attending the meeting!

- Sage Oranje