

CONTACT:

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March 26, 2024

Public Hearing on Aquaculture License Application Scheduled for April 23

Durham, NH – The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., regarding a proposed marine aquaculture license application at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Region 3 Office, 225 Main St., Durham, NH. The public is welcome to attend and offer comments on the proposed aquaculture plan.

Jonathan Bunker of Bayside Oysters Farm, LLC, will present an application to modify a portion of an existing 3.5-acre site for the use of floating shellfish cages for the culture of multiple shellfish species in Broad Cove, Little Bay, NH.

Detailed plans for these projects are available for public review at www.wildlife.nh.gov/saltwater-fisheries-new-hampshire/new-hampshire-commercial-saltwater-fishing or at the Department's Region 3 Office in Durham. Written comments on the proposed license may be submitted up until May 7, 2024, and may be: mailed to Executive Director, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Dr., Concord, NH, 03301; faxed to (603) 271-5829; or emailed to comments@wildlife.nh.gov.

Bayside Oysters Farm LLC.
Request for Marine Aquaculture Permit 2024

Applicants:

Jonathan Bunker
165 West Leyden Road
Colrain, MA 01340
413-834-3148
Baysideoysters@gmail.com

Species To Be Cultured: American Oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*
Soft Shell Clam, *Mya arenaria*
Hard Shell Clam, *Mercenaria mercenaria*

Introduction

The following marine aquaculture application is being submitted for review of the proposed shellfish farm site and methodology for additional acreage to Bayside Oysters Farm LLC. The proposed site will consist of a ~3.5 acre bottom culture based grow-out that will be located in a sub-tidal and inter-tidal region located on the western shore of Broad Cove, southwest of Great Bay Marine. Floating gear is proposed for the eastern 2 acres of the farm.

Description of Proposed Culture Site

General Methodology

Bayside Oysters Farm intends to farm the proposed site with first and second year oysters during the summer 2024. Oysters will be grown in mesh bag and cage systems, commonly referred to as “condos”, constructed in a similar form to lobster traps, and then encased with a PVC plastic coating. Oysters will also be grown using floating gear i.e. condos, trays, or bags with floats attached. The cages will float in lines with buoys attached at both ends where anchor points will be established in the substrate. Lights will be attached to lines to indicate corners for night time navigation. Oysters may also be grown in the shallowest sections of the farm using SEAPA style baskets/bags on long lines or thin rails. Lines or rails will be anchored to the substrate at regular intervals and will not exceed 450 feet in length. The lines will be anchored at consistent intervals using PVC pipe that will extend approximately 3 feet out of the substrate into the water column. Floating cages will only be used on the eastern 2 acres of the farm. GPS coordinates attached below. Cages will be cleaned periodically and sorted to larger mesh bags after the first year. New oyster seed will be planted on the farm each year in the remaining acreage.

Type of Aquaculture

Oyster seed will be grown using a bottom culture technique incorporating mesh bags and cages, which will sit on the bottom substrate. After the first growing season, oysters will be sorted into larger mesh bags and continue to grow in cages until they reach market size. Larger oysters will be placed in growout trays. Soft shell clams may also be grown via bottom culture, using “bag-

Bayside Oysters Farm LLC Aquaculture Permit Application

on-bottom” techniques. The floating gear will be used primarily for first and second year oyster seed. Market oysters may be grown in floating gear at a later point in time.

Location

Bayside Oysters Farm is proposing a ~3.5 acre farm located on the western side of Broad Cove southwest of Great Bay Marine, Newington, NH. The proposed farm is located over 150 feet to the south of Fat Dog Shellfish’s site (Number 14) and over 150 feet away to the north of Breens proposed site.

	Latitude	Longitude
Northwest Corner	N 43.115840	W -70.847487
Southwest Corner	N 43.115381	W -70.847424
Northeast Corner	N 43.115857	W -70.843434
Southeast Corner	N 43.115542	W -70.843400
Floating Gear Western Boundary N	N 43.115847	W -70.845893
Floating Gear Western Boundary S	N 43.115442	W -70.845893

Site Specific Information

Tidal Information

Depth measurements were taken on a slack low tide and varied from 1 to 4 ft within the site. The bottom descends uniformly northwest towards the channel.

Proximity to Natural Resources

No eelgrass or natural oyster beds were observed within the site. Small finfish may be present, but no spawning grounds were observed. No other critical habitats or species were observed.

Characterization of Sediment Type

The sediment within the site consists of hard packed mud and sand with scattered rocks. No recent eelgrass, oyster, or finfish beds have been observed within the proposed site.

Recreational and/or Commercial Activities

Other oyster aquaculture farms currently exist in Little Bay, none of which are within 150 feet of the proposed site for Bayside Oysters Farm. Recreational areas closest to the proposed site include Hilton Park, which is across the river. Great Bay Marine mooring field is located approximately 500 feet north. There will be no interference with the mooring field as it is located in much deeper water closer to the channel. The farm is not located anywhere near the navigational channel although lights will be deployed on buoys marking the floating gear.

Navigational Aspects

The deepest section of the site is sufficient distance away from the main channel and major boat traffic. The nearest boat mooring is over 500 feet from the northeast corner of the farm.

Type, Size, and Configuration of Gear

Single stack growout trays will be deployed during the first summer of operation. Oyster condos may also be added to the site during summer. Each oyster condo constructed from similar material as lobster traps has a structural dimension of 4ft x 3ft x 1.8ft. Each condo will hold 6 mesh bags (100 x 40 cm). Although the condos are positioned on the bottom, the majority of the cage is 3 inches off the bottom. In deeper water, individual condos can be marked with 1 small 3-4 inch floats or a long-line using a trawl setup with buoys on each end. Long-line setup would allow sufficient water clearance for boat traffic at high tide. Floating gear will measure approximately the same size as a condo but including two floats attached to the cage. Oyster trays which have a structural dimension of 3ft x 3ft x 4 in (h) will be used in the more shallow areas of the farm. All gear is planned to be removed for winter due to shallow area. Soft shell clams will be grown in mesh tubes and allowed to burrow into the bottom. Oysters and clams will be inspected, cleaned, and graded on a monthly basis using a 24' boat and a pressure washer and/or brushes.

Source of Organisms

The oyster spat will be obtained from a certified hatchery with disease resistant strains including MSX and Dermo. A prospective hatchery includes Muscongus Bay Aquaculture, Bremen ME. Fat Dog Shellfish and Little Bay Beauties can also supply oyster spat using their upweller located in the bay.

Clams will also be supplied from Muscongus Bay Aquaculture, Bremen ME. Alternative certified hatchery will be selected if these are unavailable.

Disposition of Oyster and Clams

Oysters will be grown and maintained in appropriate cages until they reach marketable size.

Clams will remain in mesh bags on the bottom until they reach marketable size.

All products will be sold directly to restaurants or wholesalers in agreement with safe seafood handling (HAACP) certification and regulations.

List of Any Chemicals

None

Description of Any Restricted Uses Proposed by the Project

Request that the harvest of oyster and clams within the lease site be restricted to Bayside Oyster Farm employees only.

Permission of Owner to Exercise Littoral Rights

State-owned bottom land. Access to the site will be by boat only.

List of Abutters

Lot 7-22
Town of Newington
Town Office
205 Nimble Hill Road
Newington, NH 03801

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Lot 05-01
Cyrus B. Noble REVOC TRUST
41 Carters Lane
Newington, NH 03801

Lot 10-07
Matthew A. Morton REVOC TRUST
29 Carters Lane
Newington, NH 03801

List of agencies to whom the copies of the complete application will be sent:

Justin McMath
Shellfish Inspection & Licensing
Division of Public Health Services
NH Department of Health & Human Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Wetlands Program
NHDES Wetlands Bureau
Pease International Tradeport
222 International Drive, Suite 175
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 559-1500
*Please forward to Chris Nash

NH Port Authority
Geno Marconi
Director of Ports and Harbors
555 Market Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 436-8550

US Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN Richard Kristoff Regulatory
New England District
696 Virginia Rd.
Concord, MA 01742

United States Coast Guard
Sector Southeastern New England Command Center
259 High Street
South Portland, ME 04106-0007

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New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Marine Fisheries Division

225 Main St.

Durham, NH 03824

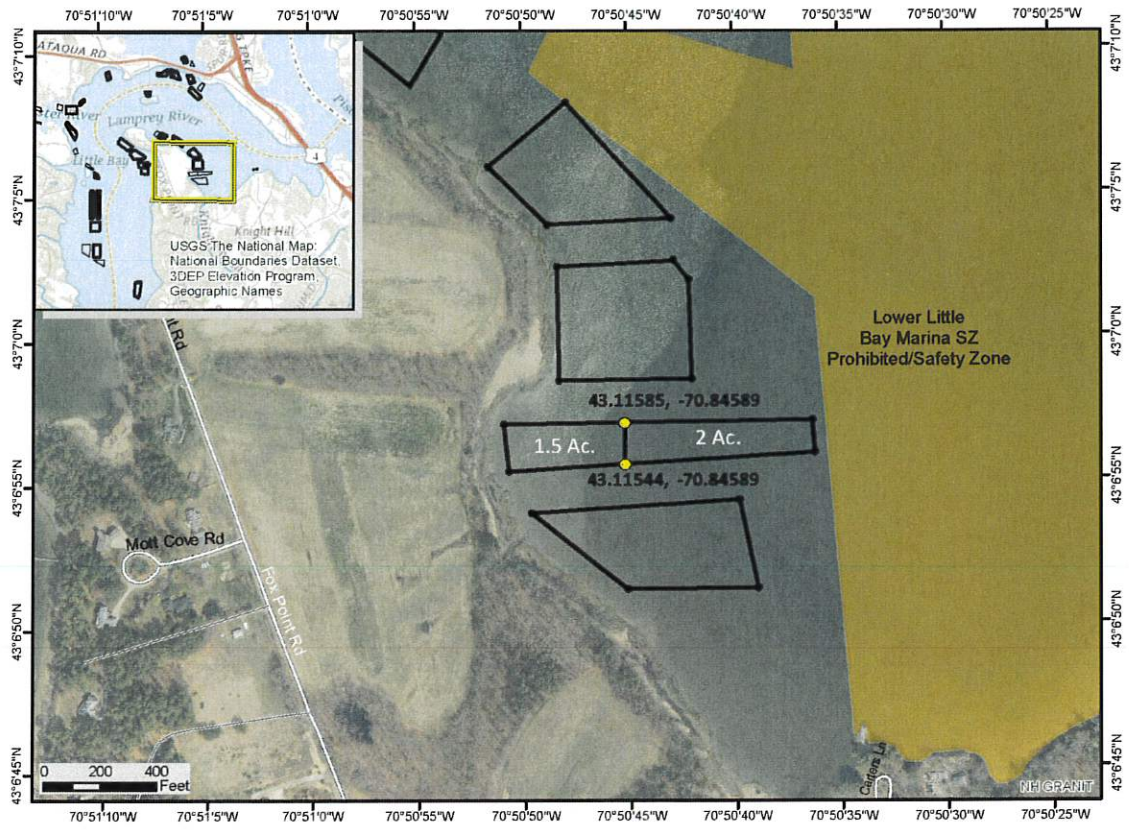
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Executive Director, Scott Mason

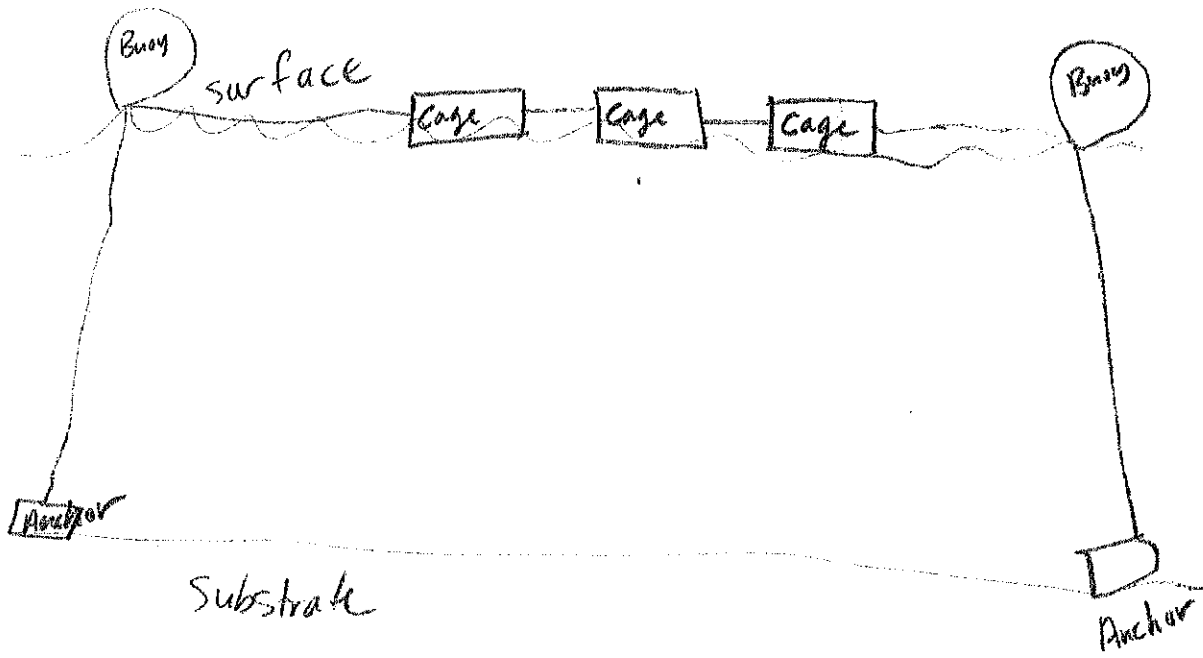
11 Hazen Drive

Concord, NH 03301

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