

OFFICE OF  
SELECTMEN

# The Town Of Newington New Hampshire

Established 1713

Honorable Scott Mason  
Executive Director  
NH Fish & Game Department  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

April 22, 2024

Re: Town of Newington Letter in Opposition to Bayside Oysters Farm, LLC Application for use of Broad Cove, Little Bay site for floating shellfish cages

Dear Executive Director Mason,

On behalf of the Town of Newington, please accept this letter in opposition to Bayside Oysters Farm, LLC application to modify a portion of an existing 3.5 acre site for the use of **floating** shellfish cages in Broad Cove, Little Bay, Newington, NH. The application modification presented would have an impact on navigation, state and town resident livelihood, recreational uses of the area, bird roosting, viewshed and property values. This is a proposed commercial operation with impacts on a residential and conservation area of Little Bay.

Little Bay and Great Bay are used by residents of the State and Newington for their livelihood, specifically fishing. By allowing floating cages fishermen would no longer be able to troll across this area.

Navigation would be limited in this proposed area and boaters will be forced to traverse around an area they have previously been able to go through. With nearby boat mooring areas at Great Bay Marine and the Newington Town dock constant navigation will be risky. On weekends such as Thunder Over the Bay (Pease Air Show), navigation by boaters unfamiliar with the floating shellfish cages will be jeopardized. Liability will be increased as boaters hit floating apparatus when lights and markers malfunction or are destructed.

Recreational uses of the area will be severely impacted. Currently State and town residents use Little Bay to windsurf, skimboard, snorkel, paddleboard, kayak, canoe, waterski and jet ski. All of these activities will be limited should this permit modification be approved.

Newington is a very business-friendly community. Ninety-four percent of the town's shoreline along the Piscataqua River is zoned waterfront industrial. We have never objected to one oyster farming application. But Newington deserves to have recreational area in Little Bay around our conservation park, Fox Point. If Little Bay is turned into a floating oyster farm, our residents and those of the whole state will no longer be able to use a large section of the Bay.

Bird concentrations on such floating apparatus will pose a threat to water and oyster quality. Bird exclusion devices and submerging of shell stock for a period of time before harvest to direct consumer market would need to be implemented. These have not been proposed.

Floating oyster cages will decrease property values as demand for waterfront homes will decline in light of the lack of view and ability to use our water resource. One of our State's natural treasures will become an eyesore.

For all the above reasons we strongly oppose the referenced application modification and request you deny same.


Thank you for your time and consideration,

Board of Selectmen



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Brandon Arsenault, Chair



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Christian Wayss, Selectman



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Robert Blonigen, Selectman

Copy: Meggan Hodgson, Vice Chair, NH Fish and Game Commission-Rockingham County