

Rising Tide Oyster Company-2.8 Acre Bellamy Site Marine Aquaculture License Application

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Summary

This is an amendment to our existing license requesting an increase in the acreage of our original site from two to 2.8 acres. Below you will find the requested changes extending both the northeast and southeast boundaries of our existing site with proposed area used exclusively for bottom seeding, no gear (e.g. condos) will be in this area, just shellfish placed directly on the substrate.

Species to be cultured: American Oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*
Soft Shell Clam, *Mya arenaria*
Northern Quahogs *Mercenaria mercenaria*

Description of the Proposed Project

A. General methodology

With appropriate approvals, Rising Tide Oyster Company intends to use this site to initiate oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), Northern Quahogs (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) and Soft Shell Clam (*Mya arenaria*) aquaculture with various aquaculture techniques. Methods used for oysters will be rack and bag, bag and tray, cage culture and bottom seeding (oysters placed directly in substrate). Methods for Northern Quahogs and Soft Shell Clams will be and bag on bottom and/or bottom culture where they will be placed directly in the substrate. This will all conducted in accordance with the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association Best Management Practices.

B. Location:

On the east side of the channel at the mouth of the Bellamy River in Little Bay, New Hampshire, see Figure 1.

GPS Coordinates:

Point	Lat	Long.
NW	43.128321°	-70.847874°
NE	43.128250°	-70.846960°
SW	43.127189°	-70.847283°
SE	43.127435°	-70.846459°
N mid-point	43.128300°	-70.847433°
S mid-point	43.127306°	-70.846918°
New NE point Bottom Seed	43.1281583	-70.846333
New SE point Bottom Seed	43.127708	-70.846097

C. Site specifics:

Identified site: 2.8 Acre

Field surveys were conducted at low tide on and depth at site ranged from 2 to 12 feet at low tide. Substrate is comprised of mud and firm sand/clay mixture.

Natural Resources:

No eelgrass beds are present at the site according to UNH eelgrass monitoring program and limited diving at site at low tide. Signs of shellfish in this area were noted to be minimal as we did not observe an abundance of razor clams nor were any siphon holes from soft shell clams visible during site visits.

Critical Habitats: None

Recreational activities: limited sport fishing, kayaking, pleasure boating

Commercial activities: No lobster buoys were observed during two separate visits to this site. Most of the commercial lobster fishing appears to be greater than 100 yards from the proposed site.

D. Navigational aspects: The proposed site will be on the east side of the channel running under the Scammel Bridge. All of our proposed aquaculture activities will be done to the east of this channel and navigational aspects of this area will not be compromised. The distance to the center of the channel from the western side of our site is approximately 170 ft.

E. Oyster farms in the vicinity: Measurements were conducted using the “ruler tool” in Google Earth.

Virgin Oyster Company->150 feet to the west on the opposite side of the channel

Dover Point Oyster Company-153 feet to the southeast

F. Trap, size and configuration of gear:

Oyster seed will be stored in mesh bags within one or two tier oyster cages. Oyster cages are typically made of similar material that lobster pots are made of and usually measure 3’W x4’L x 15”H with a capacity to hold up to 2000 oysters. The cages will have legs to keep the bottom of the cage 4” off the substrate. From the mid-point coordinates towards shore gear will be awash at mean low tide, from the mid-point towards the channel gear will be 2 feet below the surface at mean low tide.

Soft Shell Clams and Quahogs would be stored in mesh bags to settle on the bottom allowing them to burrow into the substrate. These would also be brought up periodically to be inspected for predator damage and to be cleaned and graded.

The farm will be serviced by a 16-24 foot boat. Gear will be periodically hauled to be inspected and cleaned with pressure washers and brushes as needed. Yellow marker buoys will be placed at the corners of the site marked with reflective tape to clearly mark the area and avoid navigational conflicts.

Source of organisms to be utilized for project:

All oyster spat will be acquired from a certified, disease free hatchery or from a licensed supplier. Importation permits will be acquired by NH Fish and Game for all imported seed.

Disposition of organisms:

Oysters will be maintained in cages until ready for sales. Eventually they will be transferred for sale directly to wholesalers and select restaurants in accordance with NH Fish and Game regulations and with approval of NHDHHS Food Protection Branch. Soft shell clams and quahogs will be raised in mesh bags on bottom for the entirety of time until market size when they will be removed for sale to restaurants and wholesalers.

No chemicals will be used on this farm.

Restricted uses proposed by this site: We request that the harvest of shellfish within the licensed area be restricted to our company.

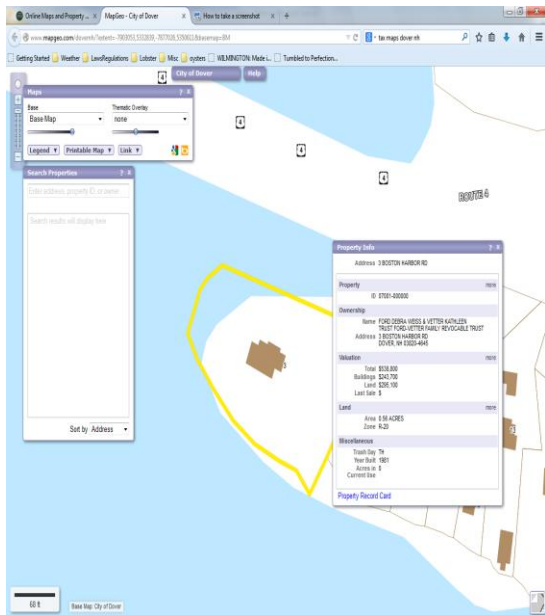
Permission of owner to exercise littoral rights: N/A

Agencies cc'd to this application:

NH Fish and Game
NH DES
DHHS Food Protection Branch
US Coast Guard New Castle NH
NH Port Authority
US Army Corps of Engineers

List of Abutters (see tax map below):

Angela K Engel & Paul L Sapienza
3 Boston Harbor Road
Dover NH, 03820



Dover Tax Maps for Abutting Parcel ID-070001-000000



Figure 1. Map showing location of licensed 2 acre aquaculture site with proposed 0.77 acre addition (red polygon area) near the mouth of the Bellamy River in Little Bay,