

**Bayside Oysters Farm LLC.  
Request for Marine Aquaculture Permit 2023**

**Applicants:**

**Jonathan Bunker**  
**165 West Leyden Road**  
**Colrain Ma 01340**  
**413-834-3148**  
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**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.

***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. 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-on-bottom” techniques.

**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.

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	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

### *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.

#### **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. 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.

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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 can also supply oyster spat using their upweller located at Great Bay Marine, Newington NH.

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 begs 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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**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**

NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office  
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  
508-457-3211

**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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