

Swell Oyster Company  
Marine Aquaculture License Application

Swell Oyster Company

Russell Hilliard, Partner

196 Drinkwater Rd

Hampton Falls, NH 03844

603-498-1938

Conor Walsh, Partner

28 Auburn Street

Exeter NH 03833

203-313-5856

Amendment to Aquaculture license 2024-33

Seabrook Harbor/ Browns River Shellfish grow Area

Grow out method and Acreage Amendment

Application date 12/5/24

## 1. Applicants

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## 2. Species to be cultivated

- Eastern Oyster – *Crassostrea Virginica*
- Soft Shell Clams – *Mya Arenaria*
- Hard Shell Clams – *Mercenaria Mercenaria*
- Scallops - *Placopecten Megallenicus*, *Argopecten Irradians*
- Green Sea Urchin-*Strongylocentrotus Droebachiensus*
- European Flat- *Ostrea Edulis*
- Razor clams- *Ensis Leei*

## 3. Proposed Project description

### A. General Methods

Swell Oyster Company has two generations of experience and relationships in Hampton harbor and knows that the public right and use of the harbor come first. We want to exist in harmony and are intent on small productive plots out of the public way to slowly build a recognized and trusted industry. This is why we are trying to work with areas far from abutters, away from navigable water ways and out of view. Swell Oyster Company is seeking to amend their aquaculture license 2024-33 and add 2.1 acre of intertidal lands with a primary farming method of suspended aquaculture. In the future, Quahogs, soft shelled clams, scallops, sea urchin and additionally European flat oysters and Razor clams may be grown using the gear types approved by this license.

We have been using the 2.3 acres that is currently covered by License 33 minimally, but hope to expand production by adding the proposed 2.1 acres. There have been minimal to no impacts to the public or the ecosystem since starting the farm in Hampton/ Seabrook Harbor.

## B. Type of Culture

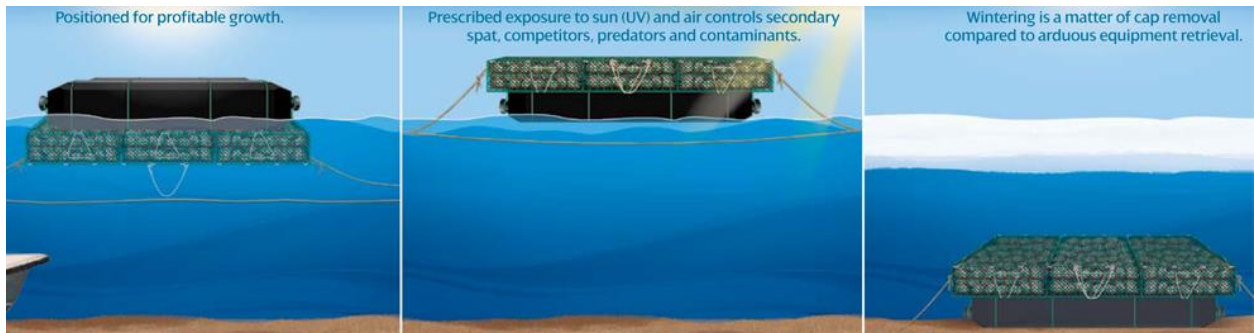
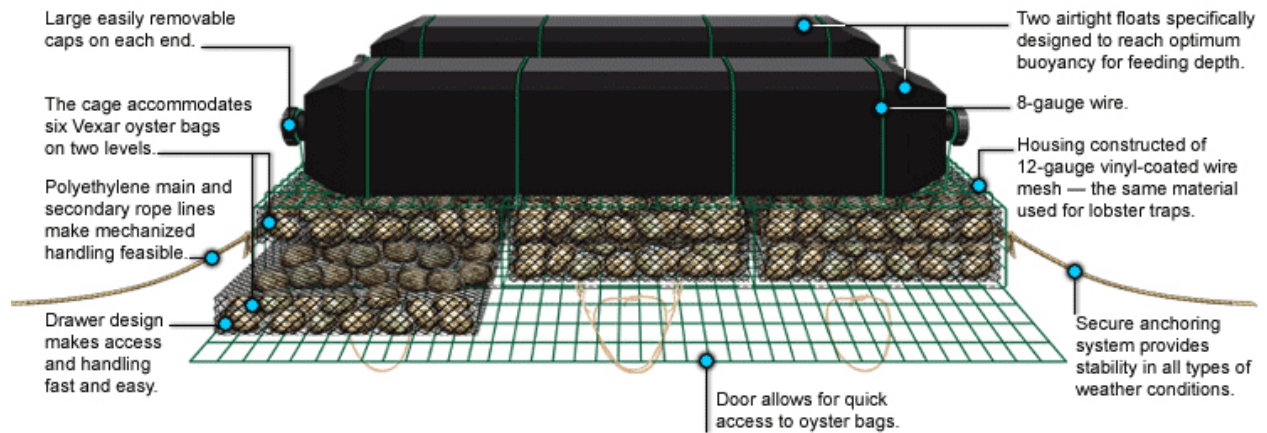
We plan to cultivate the majority of our oysters in floating cages. There will be multiple types of floating gear tried at this site including floating oyster baskets, patented oystergro gear, patented FlipFarm Systems' floating gear, flip baskets and home-made float gear. The gear will use buoys and floats to stay at the surface water column.



The bottom cages we use to rear and finish adult oysters will be built by hand and small enough to harvest and pull to the surface by hand. This minimally obtrusive culture system will be out of view to the public, except at the low tides. Cage dimensions are spanning from 3 feet by 5 feet, with no more than 6-12 inches of height, there will also be smaller cages 2 foot by 3 foot by 1 foot closed top cages for holding market size product. There will also be oyster condos used on this site for oyster storage and transport these cages are about 3.5 feet tall 40 inches wide and 40 inches long. All sizes are approximate. We also plan to have oysters planted on the bottom through out this site. This “free range” bottom culture does not require any use of cages or oyster grow out gear.



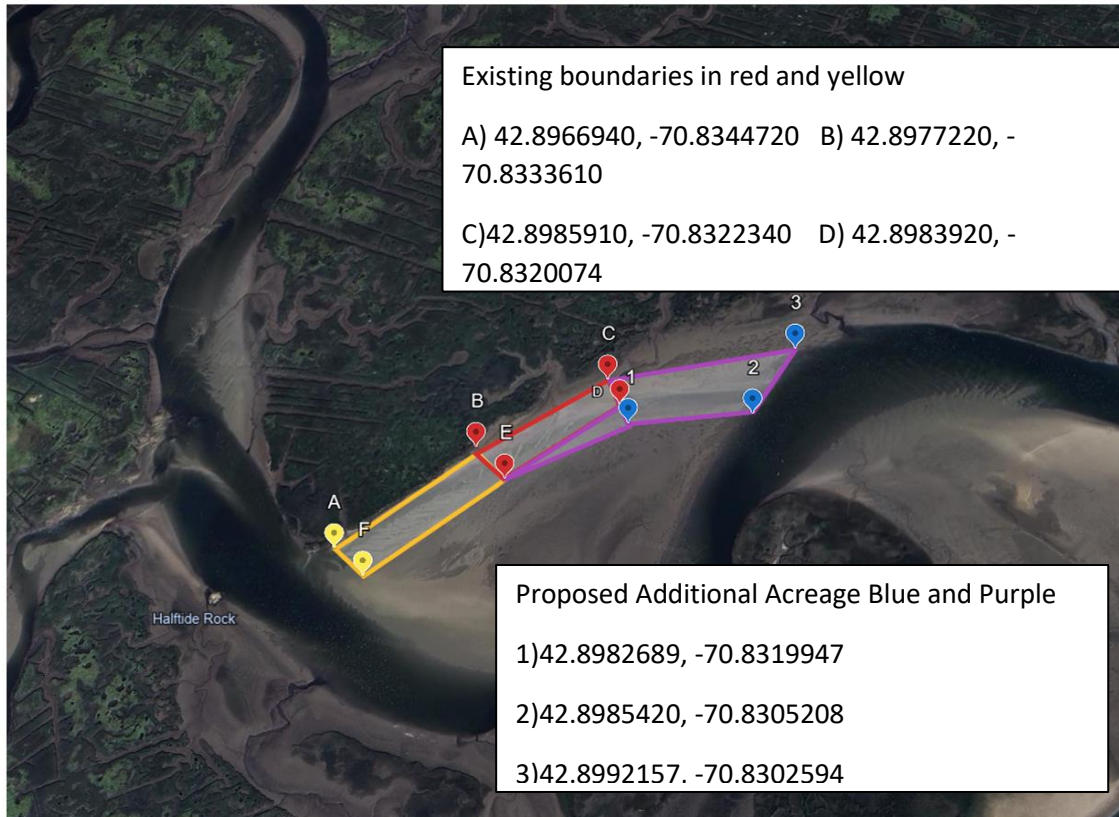
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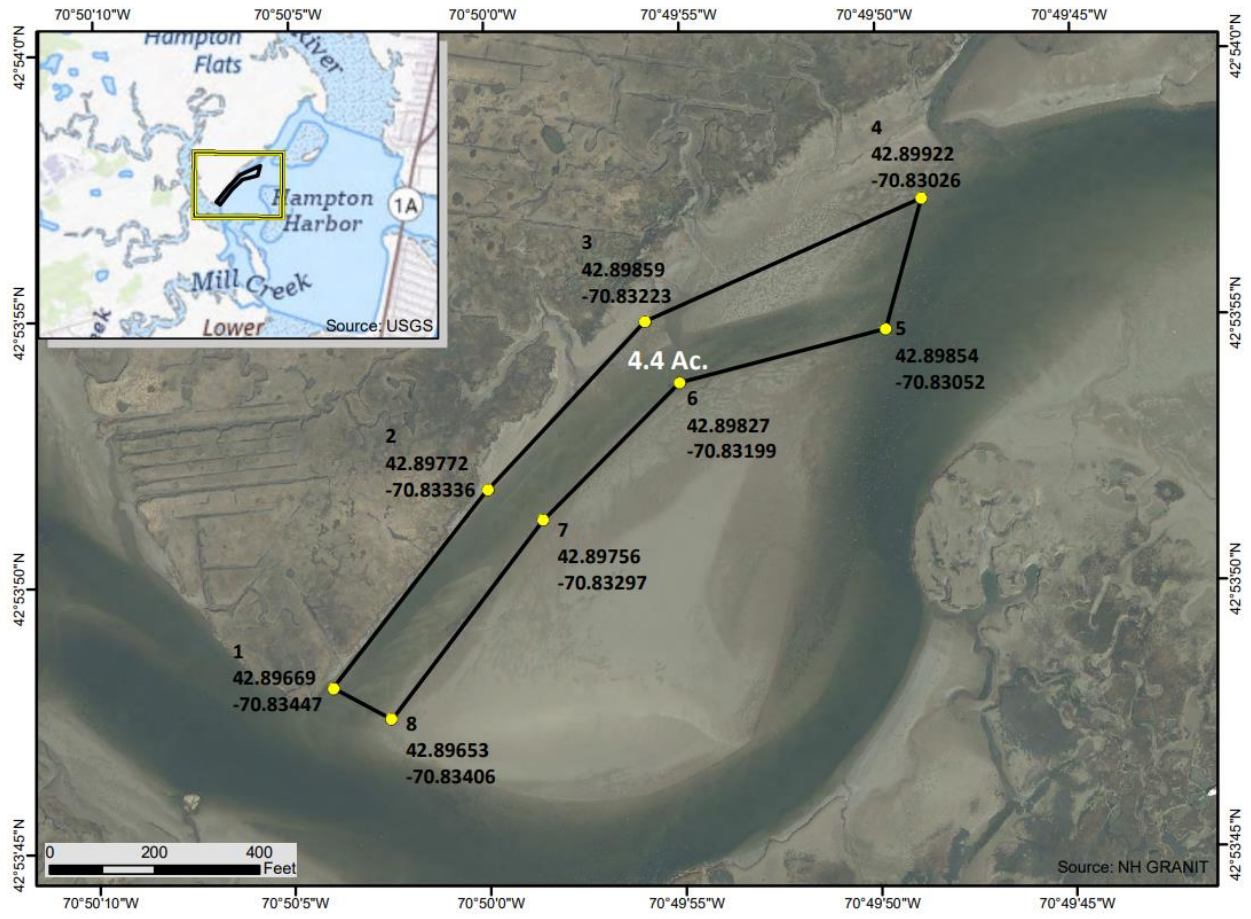
These floating cages dimensions range from 3ft X 6 ft X 9 inch with floats at 9 in X 12 in X 60 in and much smaller with simpler types at 40 in X 20 in X 6 in with 2 in X 4in X 32 in floats.

**C. Location and Description of the Geographic Areas**

We are proposing a 2.1 acre site within Seabrook Harbor, New Hampshire as defined below for suspended aquaculture and to amend the existing 1.3 acres of bottom culture site to suspended culture as well. The purple boundary areas delineate the 2.1 acre addition. The red boundary is existing suspended aquaculture and the yellow area is existing bottom culture.

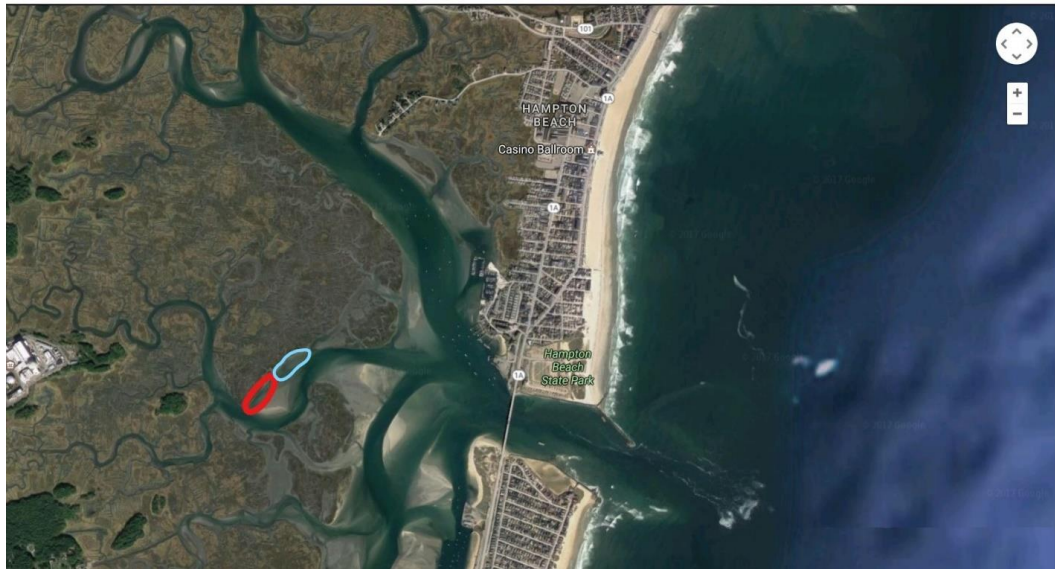


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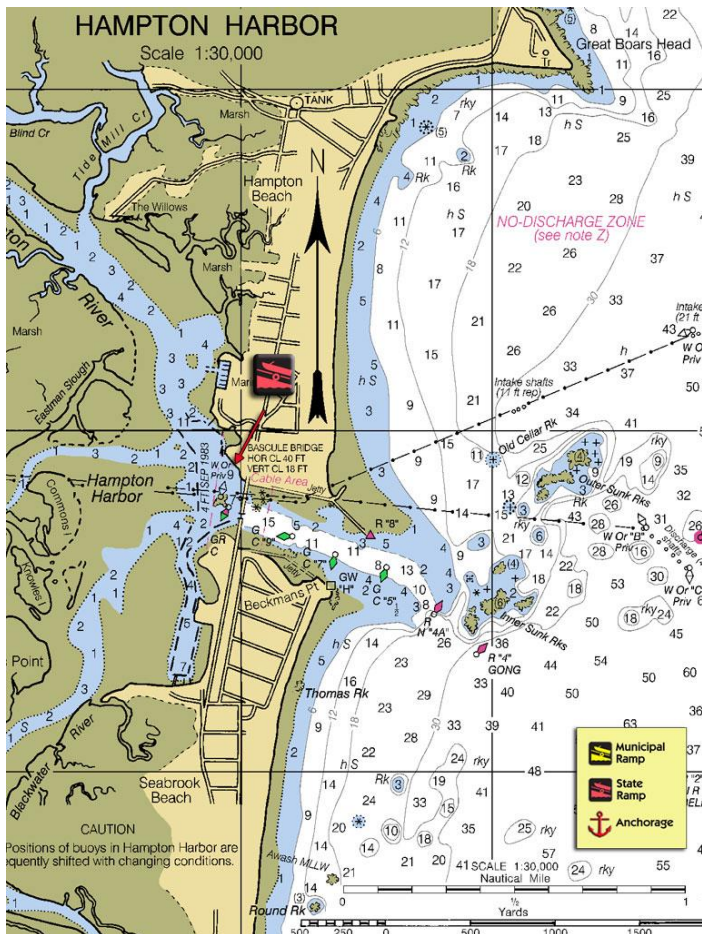


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Zoomed out view



D. Site Specific Information



**Tidal Swings-** Depths were taken from land and from a boat, but tidal swings each day range from 10' plus at the highest tides and -2 feet at lowest tides the mean low tide depths in this farm area range from fully exposed to 3 feet deep.

**Proximity to natural resources-** A site survey conducted during low tide on 9/18/2017 showed no evidence of eel grass. There were no natural oyster or clam beds present in the proposed sites along with any other critical species.

**Characterization of Sediment-** Sand.

**Recreational commercial and navigational aspects-** The area is largely surrounded by un-navigable water ways and lands to the west and the closest moorings to the east are over 1500 feet away.

**Zone Clearance-** the approved site will be marked as the state requires along with a floating sign.

#### **E. Type, size and configuration of gear**

**Containment-** Mesh bags will be used with a variety of different sized meshes depending on the oysters age at dimensions approximately 40" X 20" with little more than 6" heights. The vast majority of adult oysters grown in this plot will be in floating gear. These floating cages dimensions range from 3ft X 6 ft X 9 inch with floats at 9 in X 12 in X 60 in and much smaller at simpler types at 40 in X 20 in X 6 in with 2 in X 4nin X 32 in floats.

**Harvesting-** Harvesting methods may include hand rakes, tongs, a towable rake, or any other traditional oyster harvesting method for bottom cultured oysters. Other wise oysters in cages will be harvested straight from cages using a hauler on one of our boats.

#### **4. Sources of Organisms to be Used:**

Shellfish seed will only be acquired from approved hatcheries with certified disease free stocks. Alternatively, 1-1.5 inch oysters will be acquired from existing approved operations from NH, MA and ME and transferred to the proposed site. Import permits will be obtained from the NH Fish and Game prior to importation of any seed. The first few years will be about networking and finding small batches of seed stock to see what shellfish grow the best. This list is a work in progress.

#### **Sources for stock:**

##### **Muscongus Bay Aquaculture**

Nellie Brylewski  
(207) 529-4100  
24 Seal Ledge Lane  
Bremen, ME 04551

##### **Mook Sea Farm**



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Bill Mook  
321 ME Route 129  
Walpole, ME 04573  
(207) 563-1456

**Fat Dog Shellfish**

Kyle Pfau and Jay Baker  
Great Bay New Hampshire  
(413) 579-4459

**Virgin Oyster Company**

Brian Gennaco  
(781) 367-6294

**5. Disposition of Oysters during various phases**

The spat is to be grown out in cages or bags in the first years, with plans for a small Floating Up Weller System (FLUPSY) after proven growth. We hypothesize, their first year will be spent up harbor and their adulthood spent closer to the mouth of the harbor, finishing them with a more brine forward flavor.

**6. List of any chemicals used:**

None

**7. Descriptions of restrictions to public use of proposed area:**

Any harvesting or tampering with/of Swell Oyster Company oyster farming property.

**8. Written statement to substantiate that the applicant either owns the land or has the owner's permission for use or access:**

State owned tidal lands with permission via approved License

**9. List of all Agencies to whom copies of the completed application will be sent:**

**Shellfish Inspection and Licensing Division of Public Health Services**

**Wetlands Program NHDES Wetlands Bureau**

**New Hampshire Port Authority**

**United States Coast Guard**

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**Army Corps of Engineers USACE Regulatory Division**

**New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Marine Fisheries Division and Executive Director**

**10. List of Abutters**

**Town of Hampton NH**

**Town of Hampton Falls, NH**

**Town of Seabrook, NH**

**11. Benefits of Proposed Activities:**

The proposed oyster farm presents the possibility to benefit every area that it gets involved in. The environment, society, and the business market all have close positive ties to an oyster farm. The fact that there has never been anything in this area like this before presents challenges, but also many unforeseen opportunities. With close transparent relationships and science based decision making, oyster farming in Hampton Harbor could greatly increase water quality, ecosystem development, fulfilling farm oriented jobs, branch off businesses, local healthy sustainable food systems, taxable revenues, and increase the focus on building businesses that regenerate and revitalize the environment.