

Mr. Jack Travelstead, Deputy Commissioner  
Chief of Fisheries Management  
VMRC  
2600 Washington Ave, 3rd Floor  
Newport News VA 23607

Proposal to use temporary protective enclosures for oyster propagation:

By: Melville Enterprises LLC  
Charles M. Lewis II  
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oyster aquaculture product owner  
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I propose to place 50-500 enclosures on leased bottom in order to raise oysters for sale. On the 100 acre lease, I would be using less than an acre, located in the center of the lease on a ridge. The depth of the water in this location is 10 feet +/-.

I plan to use a stack of Aquatrays on oak 4x4 feet. Each Aquatray measures 3'x3'x4" and I would like to stack 4 trays on each stack, leaving a height of 20 inches - 2-4 inches less than a crab pot. Aquatrays are constructed of UV stabilized polypropylene. I expect to use nylon line for a 4-way bridle, tied to a buoy line and crab pot buoy for locating and retrieving. Perimeter will be marked using flag buoys.

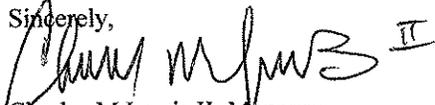
I intend to start on a small scale, planting between 25,000 and 50,000 the first year to work out the bugs and refine the enclosures. Each Aquatray is capable of handling up to 1,000 oysters to small market size, assuming removal of larger oysters as they mature. I would not expect to have more than 25 stacks of 4 trays each initially. Planted numbers will also be dependent on availability.

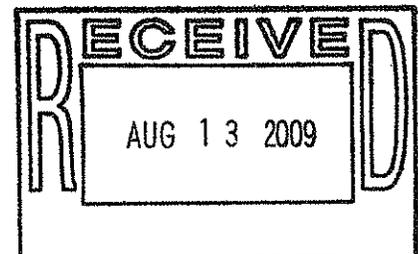
I would like to get the first oysters overboard this Fall.

Please see attached plat, map, line drawings and Aquatray information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Charles M Lewis II, Manager  
Melville Enterprises LLC



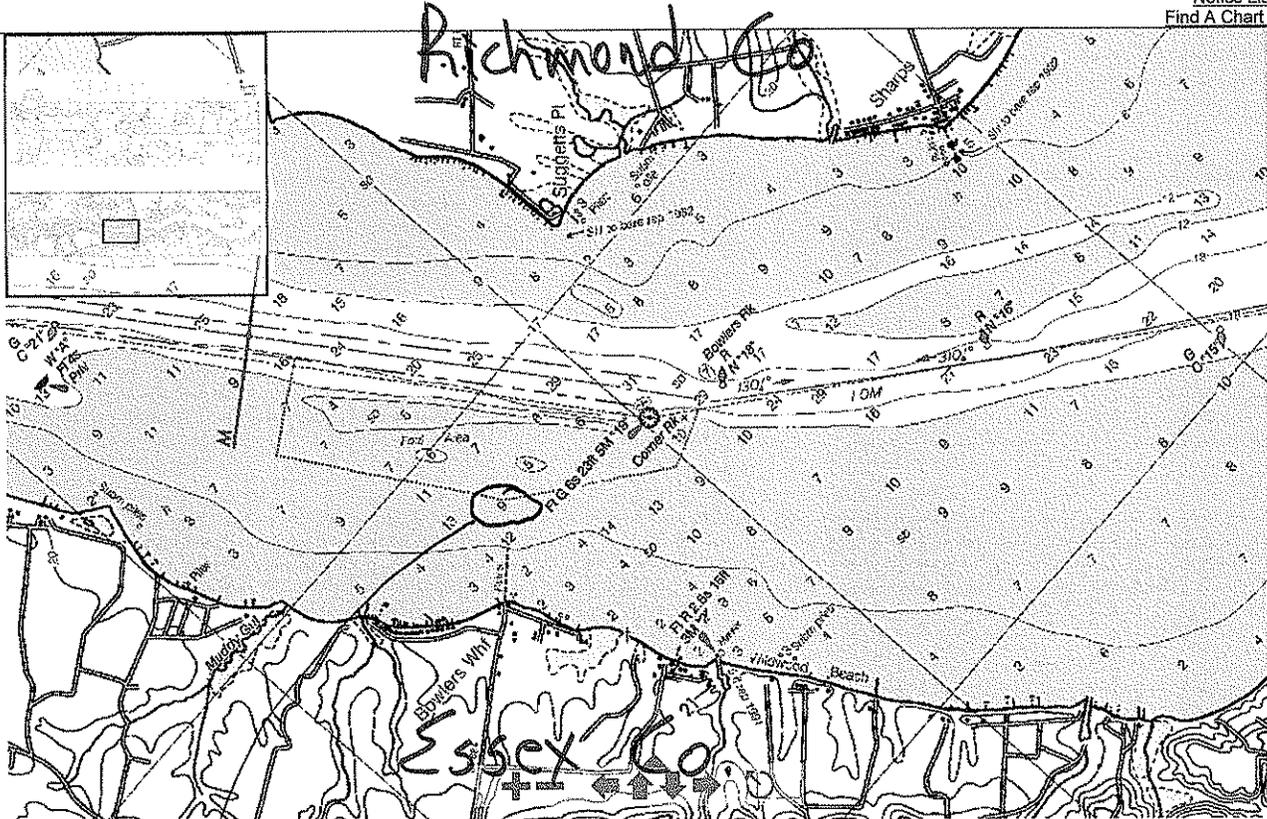
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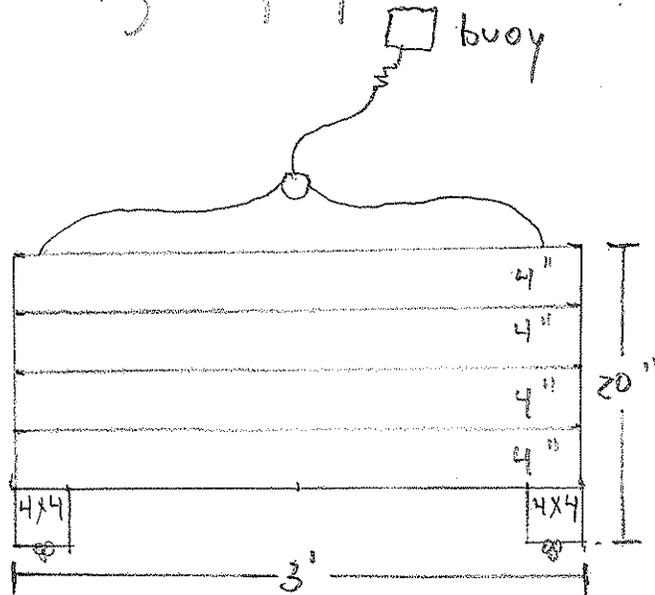
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Approximate location on lease  
1/4 to 1/2 mile from nearest shore



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Line drawing - proposed enclosures



I propose to group enclosures together on a hard-bottom ridge in the center of the lease in 10' +/- of water. Initially, enclosures will be placed diagonally across the current in a single line. Bottom used would be less than an acre.

## THE AQUATRAY<sup>®</sup> SYSTEM

Tooltech PTY LTD. takes great pride in molding the AQUATRAY<sup>®</sup> system for the aquaculturists' growing needs. We have listened to growers tell us that you wanted a tray system that would be usable in calm and rough waters, cold and temperate climates, low and high fouling water area. This is why the present day AQUATRAY<sup>®</sup> system has evolved as a result of listening to farmers from all parts of the world. Our Australian farmers told us to keep it lightweight, while the Scottish farmers told us about the heavy fouling problems in certain areas, the Americans said that handling in cold weather and a metal cage presented problems, while the Canadians wanted a stocking density to give a large area of growout. New Zealanders wanted a tight tray so as not to have crop loss in rough seas when harvesting. Therefore, taking all the conditions into account, we have developed a tray that everyday is gaining wider and wider acceptance in many industries. food or otherwise that needs a dependable, rugged, lightweight tray.

We at Tooltech are pleased to offer to the world market four major components that make up the AQUATRAY<sup>®</sup> system. All of the components assembled in this system are molded from black UV stabilized polypropylene. The resin selected is NSF approved and will not leach, harm, or taint marine life and can be stored in or out of sunlight.

**TOP LID:** The "Lid" is a 20 mm mesh with 20 mm locating prongs on all four sides. The overall length is 890 mm by 890 mm wide. The 20 mm Lid weighs 1.4 kgs. As an option, we now offer a clip-in finger partition divider for the cover. This allows a grower to completely separate his four section tray. (See detail A). The "Lids" fit both the standard and XL trays. In addition to lids having the 20 mm prongs on all four sides, we also have studs to hold down the lids on the sides of the XL tray. (See detail B)

**TRAYS:** The standard Aquatray<sup>®</sup> comes in 930 mm X 930 mm (3'-0" x 3'-0") square which is nestable (See detail C) and when they are utilized for growout you have two depths to select from: 25 mm and 50 mm. The depth of the the tray is 100 mm.

The most common methods of setting out the AQUATRAY<sup>®</sup> for grow out are:

### DEEP WATER - Long Line

- Double Trays in multiple stack to any height  
(See economical pontoon farming)  
14 high X 2 trays X 10 units to a pontoon raft = 72,000 oysters.
- Single Tray with suspenders. 5 to 10 trays.  
Heavy swells - calm waters.
- Single Trays x 15 high on longline with floats
- Single Tray with steel rack holding brackets

### SHALLOW WATER - Tidal Flats

- Post and Rails
- Single high - two wide - "Tomato Stake" on straight cables
- Stacks of single trays on rebar racks