

AGENDA
MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
JULY 23, 2024

**** APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

1. MINUTES of previous meeting.

2. PERMITS (Projects over \$500,000.00 with no objections and with staff recommendation for approval).

3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.

4. CLOSED MEETING FOR CONSULTATION WITH, OR BRIEFING BY, COUNSEL.

5. SHELLFISH

STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY

Oyster Aquaculture Joint Permit Application #2024-0849

Requests authorization to install a traditional oyster flip farm which contains 600 floating oyster baskets (3'x2') within 0.5 acres of Little Oyster Creek, a tributary of the Rappahannock River in Lancaster County. The request has received 188 written comments.

6. PAUL FOX, #24-0719

requests authorization to install a 60-foot extension to an existing breakwater, including beach nourishment, serving 297 Windfall Lane, situated along the Chesapeake Bay in Lancaster County. This project is protested by the adjacent property owner.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. DISCUSSION

Recreational Fishing Advisory Board recommendation on funding request from the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund.

AGENDA

PAGE 2 ITEMS

A. WILLIAM DIDLAKE, JR. #24-0822

requests authorization to replace an existing boat ramp with a 12-foot by 26-foot concrete boat ramp, construct a 12-foot rock sill extension onto an existing sill, and place one (1) cubic yard of clean sand backfill, with plantings of native wetland vegetation, landward of the sill extension along Baker's Creek at 560 Hockey's Lane in King and Queen County. The project requires a Commission wetlands and subaqueous permit.

B. GRANT ANCARROW, #24-0289

requests authorization to construct an 11-foot by 38-foot gravel boat ramp with associated timber retaining walls and a 6-foot wide by 32-foot long open pile tending pier along Piscataway Creek at the applicant's property identified as Tax Map #38-6-1 on Haile Road in Essex County. The applicant has agreed to purchase wetlands credits from the Virginia Aquatic Trust Fund to offset the tidal vegetated wetland loss of 50 square feet. The project requires a Commission wetlands and subaqueous permit.

C. KEVIN LUCK, #24-0724

requests authorization to construct a 180-foot long rock revetment along the James River shoreline at 1450 Battery Hill Drive in Henrico County. The project requires a Commission wetlands permit.

D. UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, #24-0371

requests authorization to remove an existing pier and to install a temporary cofferdam for the construction of a 16-foot by 50-foot concrete boat ramp extension and to construct a 4-foot by 36-foot aluminum gangway leading to an 8-foot wide by 40-foot-long concrete floating dock at the Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown situated along Wormley Creek in York County.

E. SMM SOUTHEAST LLC, #23-2024

requests authorization to excavate 1,078 square feet (SF) of vegetated wetlands and 235 SF of nonvegetated wetlands to minus 12 feet mean low water and to fill 1,140 SF of vegetated wetlands and 25 SF of nonvegetated wetlands for the construction of a new 228 linear-foot concrete bulkhead adjacent to property serving 4300 Buell Street situated along Milldam Creek in Chesapeake. This application requires a Commission tidal wetlands permit. Wetland credits must be purchased from New Mill Creek tidal mitigation bank to offset the proposed impacts to vegetated wetlands prior to permit issuance.

F. GAIL SMITH, #23-2056

requests authorization to construct a 136 linear-foot stone revetment channelward of an existing bulkhead and to install a 16-linear-foot and a 245-linear-foot stone sill with sand fill and wetlands plantings for the construction of a living shoreline adjacent to 4038 Tanglewood Trail situated along the Eastern Branch Elizabeth River in Chesapeake. This application requires a Commission tidal

AGENDA

wetlands permit.

19230

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

June 25, 2024

The meeting of the Marine Resources Commission was held at the Marine Resources Commission main office at 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Fort Monroe, Virginia with the following present:

Jamie L. Green	Commissioner
Lynn Kellum	
William Bransom	
James E. Minor	
Jeremy Headley	Associate Members
A.J. Erskine	
Heather Lusk	
Jeanette Edwards	
Patrick Hand	
Kelci Block	Assistant Attorney General
Jamie Hogge	Recording Secretary
Lisa Pyle	IT Specialist
Todd Sperling	Bs. Systems Manager
Rachael Peabody	Director of Coastal Policy
Herbert Bell	Deputy Chief, Law Enforcement
Gerald Pitt	1 st . Sgt., Marine Police
Zach Widgeon	Director of Communication
Justin Worrell	Deputy Chief, Habitat Management
Brad Reams	Environmental Engineer, Sr.
Adam Kenyon	Chief, Shellfish Management
Pat Geer	Chief, Fisheries Mgmt.
Brooke Lowman	Stock Assessment Scientist

Commission Meeting

**19231
June 25, 2024**

Alexa Galvan

Fisheries Mgmt. Scientist

Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS):

Lyle Varnell

Alex Sabo

Mark Luckenbach

Others present:

Dave O'Brien

Chris Moore

Nathan Reynolds

Robert Ficca

Joseph Scott

Christian Marsh

Jem Baldisimo

Daquan Morris

Kim Huskey

Bob Simon

Dale Neal

Steve Atkinson

and others.

* * * * *

APPROVAL OF AGENDA. – Commissioner Jamie Green asked if there were any changes from the Board members or staff.

Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries, requested that Item #8 is heard before Item #7 for better flow of the meeting. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Associate Member Erskine moved to approve the agenda amended. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

* * * * *

Rachael Peabody, Director of Coastal Policy, introduced Brad Reams and Kylie Harris, two new employees in the Habitat Division. Her comments are a part of the verbatim record.

* * * * *

MINUTES: Commissioner Green asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made to the May 28, 2024, Commission Meeting minutes.

Associate Member Erksine moved to approve the minutes as presented. Associate Member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0-1. Associate Member

Commission Meeting

**19232
June 25, 2024**

Hand abstained.

* * * * *

Commissioner Green swore in the VMRC staff and VIMS staff that would be speaking or presenting testimony during the meeting.

* * * * *

2. **PERMITS** (Projects over \$500,000.00 with no objections and with staff recommendation for approval).

Justin Worrell, Deputy Chief, Habitat Management, reviewed the Page 2 items 2A through 2C for the Associate Members. Mr. Worrell's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

- 2A. **ROBERT MARLIN, VMRC #24-0795**, requests authorization to install 118 linear feet of riprap, the toe of which may be installed a maximum of 7.5 feet channelward of mean high water at 713 Seabrook Lane, situated along Bells Mill Creek in the City of Chesapeake. The applicant has agreed to purchase wetlands credits from the New Mill Creek mitigation bank to offset tidal wetlands losses. This project requires a Commission tidal wetlands permit.
- 2B. **BAE SYSTEMS NORFOLK SHIP REPAIR, VMRC #23-2562**, requests authorization to maintenance dredge a maximum of 150,000 cubic yards of state-owned submerged land, on an as-needed basis, to maintain depths ranging from -36 feet to -64 feet mean low water adjacent to existing piers and dry docks at the BAE Norfolk Ship Repair facility located on Berkley Avenue, situated along the Southern Branch Elizabeth River in Norfolk. The dredged material will be transferred by barge to CIDMMA/CIRB or Shirley Plantation, or by truck to Dominion Landfill.
- 2C. **TRENT TALIAFERRO, VMRC #24-0610**, requests authorization to install two (2) 52-foot long low profile vinyl groins and a 5-foot wide riprap rock apron at the landward terminus of one of the groins at 416 Wharf Road, situated along the Rappahannock River in Essex County. The project requires a Commission tidal wetlands permit.

Commission Meeting

**19233
June 25, 2024**

No one spoke in support or opposition of the projects.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Minor moved to approve the Page 2 items 2A through 2C as presented. Associate Member Bransom seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

* * * * *

3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS –There were no consent agenda items.

* * * * *

4. CLOSED MEETING FOR CONSULTATION WITH, OR BRIEFING BY, COUNSEL. – No meeting needed

* * * * *

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dale Neal updated the commission on attempts to secure funding for a VIMS menhaden study. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Daquan Morris asked the commission to reinstate his oyster user fee after having missed one year. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Associate Member Bransom moved to approve the request for the reinstatement of the Oyster User Fee All Gear license if he pay for the previous year's license (2023). Associate Member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

Steve Atkinson spoke about the need for further menhaden research and recommended revising the bay cap on the reduction fishery. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Associate Member Headley stated that he noticed a barge, full of oyster shells, that were deploying shells on top of an oyster rock that was due to open for harvest. He asked why the spat set was being covered up being that the area at the mouth of the Great Wicomico, is due to open for harvest this season. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Commission Meeting

**19234
June 25, 2024**

* * * * *

- 6. PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4VAC20-1270-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Atlantic Menhaden", to establish a quota and license transfer system for the menhaden purse seine bait sector.

Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Geer's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Dale Neal spoke in support of the regulatory change. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Steve Atkinson spoke in support of the regulatory change. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Headley made a motion to accept staff recommendations. Associate Member Minor seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

* * * * *

ITEM # 8 HEARD PRIOR TO ITEM #7

- 7. PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4VAC20-270-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Blue Crab Fishery" to establish management measures, including season and bushel limits, for the 2024-2025 commercial crab fisheries and to amend the daily time limits for commercial harvest.

Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff's evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Geer's comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Nathan Reynolds spoke on behalf of Seaside of the Eastern Shore. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Commission Meeting

**19235
June 25, 2024**

Associate Member Hand made a motion to accept staff recommendations but allow to Seaside to work 5 am to 5 pm. Associate Member Lusk seconded the motion.

The motion was amended by Associate Member Lusk for a daily time limit of 3 am to 5 pm, for all waters of the Commonwealth. The motion carried, 8-0.

* * * * *

- 8. PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4VAC20-140-10 et seq., “Pertaining to the Identification and Location of Crab Pots, Peeler Pots, Eel Pots, and Fish Pots” to clarify the height required for identifying information on crab and eel pot buoys as described in Section 28.2-712 of the Code of Virginia.

Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff’s evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Geer’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

No one spoke in support or opposition of the regulatory change.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Bransom made a motion to accept staff recommendations. Associate Member Erskine seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

* * * * *

- 9. PUBLIC HEARING:** Proposal to amend Chapter 4VAC20-1140-10 et seq., “Prohibition of Crab Dredging in Virginia Waters” to close the December 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, winter commercial crab dredge fishing season, in accordance with the provisions of Section 28.2-707 of the Code of Virginia.

Pat Geer, Chief, Fisheries Mgmt., gave the briefing of the information provided in the staff’s evaluation, with PowerPoint slides. Mr. Geer’s comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Dave O’Brien, NOAA representative spoke in opposition of opening the crab dredge fishery season. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Commission Meeting

**19236
June 25, 2024**

Dale Neal spoke in opposition of opening the crab dredge fishery season. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Steve Atkinson spoke in opposition of opening the crab dredge fishery season. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

Nathan Reynolds spoke in opposition of opening the crab dredge fishery season. His comments are a part of the verbatim record.

The matter was before the Commission for discussion and action.

Associate Member Headley made a motion to repeal Chapter 4 VAC 20-1140-10 et seq., "Prohibition of Crab Dredging in Virginia Waters. Associate Member Kellum seconded the motion. The motion carried, 5-4. Chair voted yes. Associate Members Bransom, Lusk, Hand and Edwards were opposed.

Associate Member Bransom made a motion to for staff to bring the crab dredge regulation for a vote in September. Associate Member Erskine seconded the motion. The motion carried, 8-0.

* * * * *

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, Commissioner Green announced that the June 25, 2024, Commission Meeting will be the last meeting that Associate Commissioners Minor and Lusk will serve as their term to serve on the Commission will expire soon. Commissioner Green thanked both Associate Commissioners for their many years of service to the Commission.

* * * * *

Commission Meeting

**19237
June 25, 2024**

There being no further business, the meeting, is adjourned at 11:40 am. The next Commission meeting will be meeting on Tuesday, July 23, 2024.

Jamie L. Green, Commissioner

Jamie Hogge, Recording Secretary

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT DIVISION EVALUATION

STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY

Oyster Aquaculture Joint Permit Application #2024-0849

Requests authorization to install a traditional oyster flip farm which contains 600 floating oyster baskets (3'x2') within 0.5 acres of Little Oyster Creek, a tributary of the Rappahannock River in Lancaster County. The request has received 189 written comments.

NARRATIVE

Staff received an Oyster Aquaculture Joint Permit Application from Thomas Hyde and Callie Robinson on behalf of Steamboat Wharf Oyster Company on April 3, 2024. This application requested authorization to install a tradition oyster flip farm containing eight lines (ranging in length from 150' to 400'), with 1,225 floating aquaculture baskets (3'x2'), within a 1.5-acre installation area (64,033 ft²). The requested area is within Little Oyster Creek, a tributary of the Rappahannock River in Lancaster County.

A revision to the application was received by the agency on April 29, 2024, and was sent to all individuals who had previously submitted written comments. Another revision was received by the agency on May 10, 2024. The revised application requested a smaller installation area for the traditional flip farm containing three 270' lines, each line securing 200 baskets (3'x2'), within a 0.5-acre installation area (23,642 ft²).

The applicant's drawings depict a ~203' buffer to the closest upland property to the project area as well as an ~613' navigation area to the closest pier. The installation area is not overlapping any areas of mapped submerged aquatic vegetation and range in water depths from ~4-6 feet. The floats are proposed to be secured with Platipus screw anchors, with each line having a buoy on either end, and reflective markers at each corner for navigation.

ISSUES

The application was subjected to the required public interest review to include a newspaper public notice and notification of a nearby leaseholders and highland property owners. Staff additionally sent the revised application to all individuals who had previously submitted written comments and made the revised application available for public viewing on the agency website. Staff received 188 written comments including 98 in opposition and 91 in favor of this project.

Written comments in opposition to the project include:

- Impeding the primary waterway access
- Degradation of the viewshed of the area
- Reduced access to recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, and boating
- Reduced property values

Written comments in support of the project include:

- The importance of oysters to the local economy

- Support of small businesses in rural areas
- Positive impacts of oysters on water quality
- Minimal installation area and flip farm methodology

Staff considers each Joint Permit Application request on a case-by-case basis, considering the requirements of the Code of Virginia. The use of cages, floats, and nets, for shellfish propagation, has resulted in increased public awareness of such activity and highlighted the necessity for a comprehensive review of these methods of shellfish aquaculture propagation. Such requests in populated areas raise issues regarding public trust lands to include user conflicts, property values, aesthetics, navigation impacts, and suitable bottom types. Stewardship of public trust lands, while weighing the public and private benefits versus detriments, requires a balanced approach to the review of such permit requests.

SUMMARY

The Code of Virginia § 28.2-1205 allows the Commission to grant or deny any permit for the use of state-owned bottomlands taking into consideration the public and private benefits of the proposed project. Staff is requesting guidance from the Commission to approve or deny the application based upon the consideration of the objections raised by residents, comments concerning support of the request, and consideration of the public trust doctrine.

If approved staff recommends the permit contain the following special conditions:

1. The permit shall not be issued until proof of issuance of the surety bond in the amount of \$4,500 to cover the cost of removal of all 600 baskets in the event of failure, at a rate of \$7.50 per medium structure.
2. An annual royalty in the amount of \$118.21 based on the outline of the entire aquaculture installation area (23,642 ft²) at a rate of \$0.005 per square foot.
3. The permit and authorization to retain the structures shall be valid for a period of five years. After five years, the Permittee may request the Commission re-evaluate the project and seek authorization to continue the activity for an additional period of time.
4. The public shall not be excluded from any areas not physically occupied by the authorized structures.
5. The Permittee shall properly maintain all structures and shall remove all structures within five (5) days upon their falling into a state of disrepair or upon cessation of their use as aquaculture structures.
6. Should unforeseen conflicts arise, the Commission may elect to hold an additional public hearing, at which time they may elect to revoke the permit and direct removal of any or all of the authorized floats.
7. All commercial aquaculture activities conducted in association with the structures authorized herein shall be conducted in compliance with all relevant VMRC and Department of Health regulations.
8. The Permittee shall be required to remove or relocate any of the structures which are determined to be in the way of any approved shoreline projects requested by the adjacent upland property owner within their riparian area.

9. The permittee shall submit and implement an Operational Bird Deterrent Plan

MAP





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

380 Fenwick Road

Building 96

Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Travis A. Voyles
Secretary of Natural and Historic
Resources

Jamie L. Green
Commissioner

July 11, 2024

MEMORANDUM

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION,
SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC HEARING RESCHEDULED**
FOR STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY AQUACULTURE
PERMIT APPLICATION #2024-0849

The application for an oyster aquaculture permit, referenced above, will be heard by the Marine Resources Commission at their public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

You are receiving this notice as you have previously submitted written comments to the agency pertaining to this permit. You are invited to attend this meeting. All interested parties will be afforded the opportunity to comment. For more information pertaining to this application, please visit <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/>.

The Marine Resources Commission does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Therefore, if you are in need of reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please advise Michele Guilford, Agency Secretary, at (757) 247-2206 no less than five work days prior to the meeting time and identify your need.

An Agency of the Natural and Historic Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646

Project Description

Table of contents

1. Introduction of Flip Farm System (Page 1)
2. Project Drawings (Page 2)
3. Other considerations: Storm Events and Birds (Page 8)
4. Licenses (Page 9)

1. Introducing the Flip Farm System

The FlipFarm system is floating oyster gear that significantly reduces the labor needs for aquaculture, while increasing productivity potential for small scale oyster operations. It uses machinery, attached to the side of the boat, to flip over baskets, thus eliminating the physical need to flip heavy, metal cages typically used in floating systems. It also employs other machinery to harvest and fill baskets without backbreaking work. The system uses floating hexcyl baskets attached to a long line that is anchored on either end.



2. Project Drawings

The below drawings are of the proposed Flip Farm configuration on our lease. Eight lines will be deployed with a total of 1,225 baskets with one anchor on each end. Each line would be spaced 20 ft thus, decreasing shading of sea floor. The total acreage used is 1.47 acres with the following configuration:

1 x 400 foot line with 250 baskets ea. (250 total)

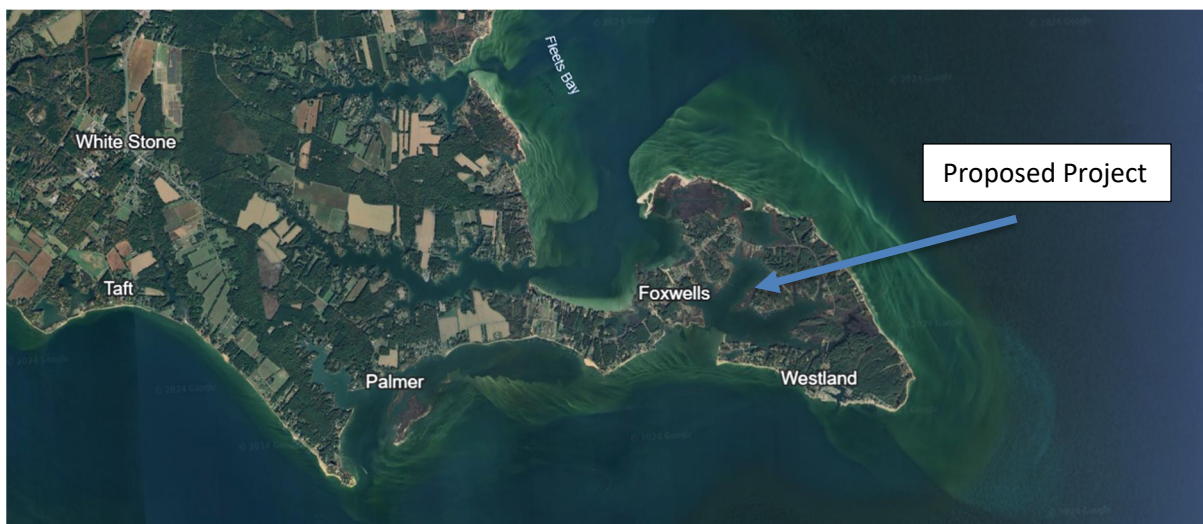
3 x 300 foot lines with 200 baskets ea. (600 total)

3 x 200 foot lines with 100 baskets ea. (300 total)

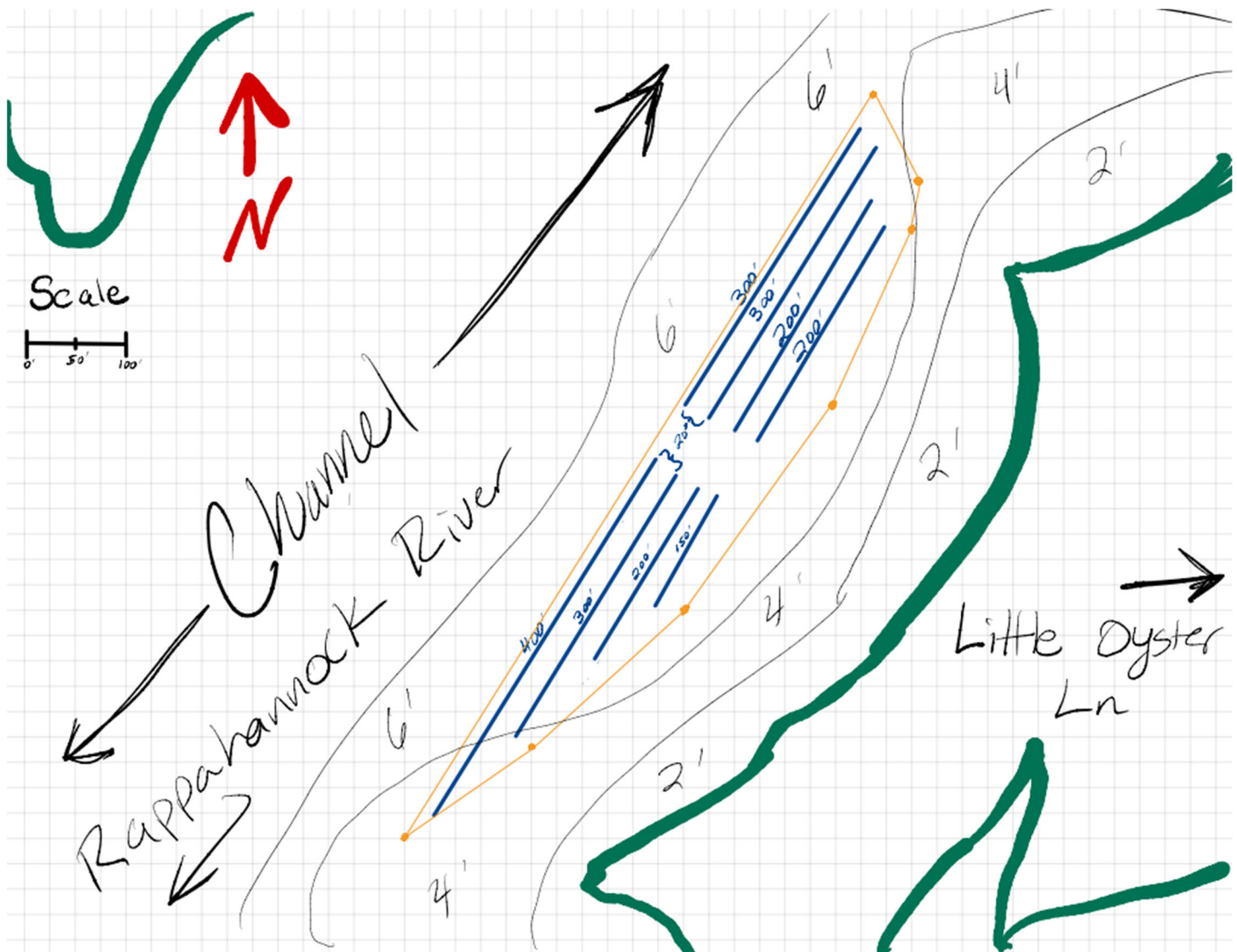
1 x 150 foot line with 75 baskets. (75 total)

For context, we currently have an established flip farm on the windward side of Mosquito island. We have discovered that the smaller seed baskets do not hold up to the waves at this location. We would like to add an additional location to deploy these seed cages, while also creating a contingency location to move them to during storms. I have consulted the VMRC web-based map, and have oriented the lines to minimize navigational hazards and interference with SAV. I have attached screenshots for reference.

A. Vicinity Map

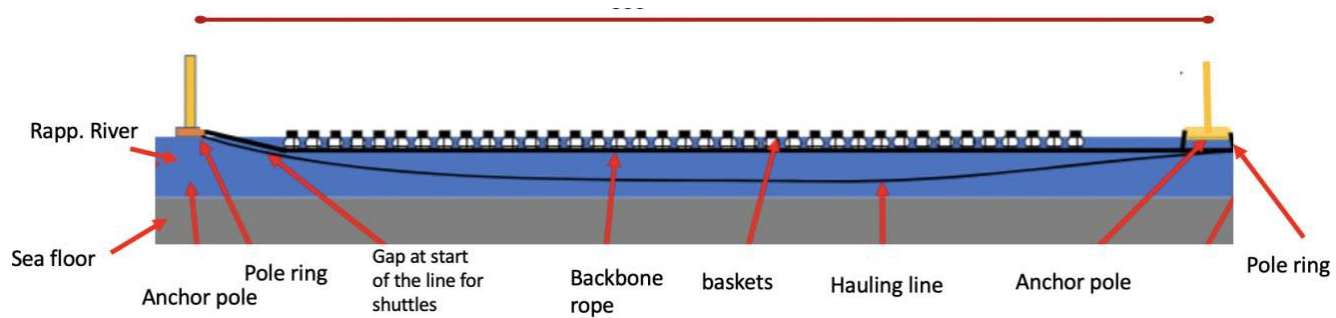


B. Plan View Drawing





C. Section View Drawing

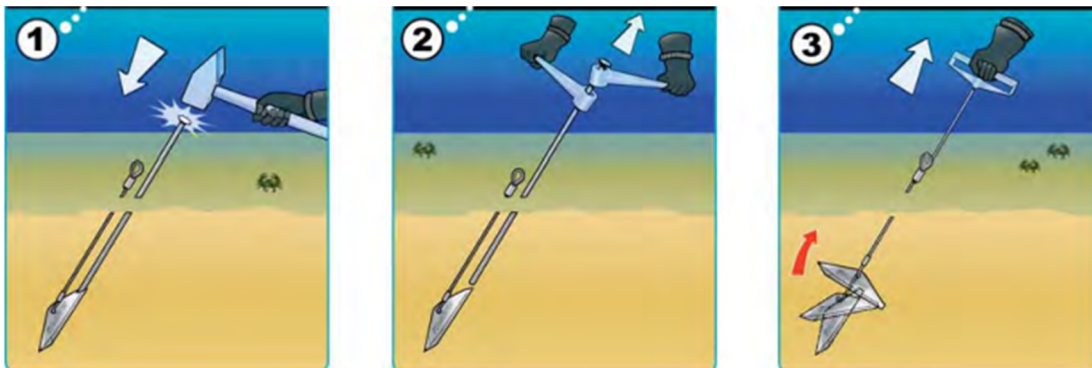


***Anchor pole replaced with Platipus anchor for this project. Lines are 300' each.**



Hexcyl Baskets with floats*

*Floats will not be foam, but HDPE alternative provided by Flip Farm



Platypus anchoring system

3. Other Considerations: Storm Events and Bird Fouling

Storm Events:

A key reason for this project is to provide a safe location for our gear during strong wind events. Our primary farm site on the windward side of Mosquito Island takes the brunt of these storms, causing damage to our baskets and oyster mortality. We would use the proposed site as a contingency location for gear in the event of a storm.

Bird Fouling:

The ease of flipping the Flip Farm cages will prevent significant build up on cages and limit the introduction of large amounts of bird feces into the water at one time. Our plan is to flip the cages two to three times a month or as needed in order to limit the bird fouling and interaction with the gear.

STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY – VMRC #20240849 AMENDMENT

Dear Neighbors,

We are writing to address some recent developments regarding our Floating Farm Application #20240849 and to provide clarity on certain matters that have caused concern within the community.

In response to the feedback we have received, and in an effort to address some of the concerns raised by the community, we have decided to submit an amendment to our project proposal. This amendment entails a significant reduction in the scale of the project.

Specifically, we have made the decision to cut the proposed acreage from 1.47 acres to 0.6 acres, and to reduce the number of baskets from 1225 to 600. This total acreage is less than 0.3% of Little Oyster Creek (Figure 1).

We truly feel that is a responsible aquaculture application: outside of the navigational channel (600' of navigable channel remain), not on top of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV), and lacks any immediate upland development such as houses or docks.

We believe that this willingness to change demonstrates our commitment to listening to the concerns of the community and to finding a solution that is mutually beneficial for all parties involved. We hope that by making this move in good faith, we can begin to rebuild trust and gain support from the community.

It is important to us that our neighbors understand that our intentions are not malicious. Our goal is to create a sustainable and environmentally conscious operation that benefits both our company, our family, and the local community.

If you have already submitted a public comment, you will be notified by Adam Kenyon, VMRC, of the amendment and will have the opportunity to withdraw or edit your comments. We hope you reconsider your opposition and appreciate our attempt to compromise.

As always, we welcome any questions or feedback you may have regarding our proposal and the amendments. Our doors are always open, and we are committed to continuing the conversation in a respectful and productive manner.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and we look forward to your continued engagement and support.

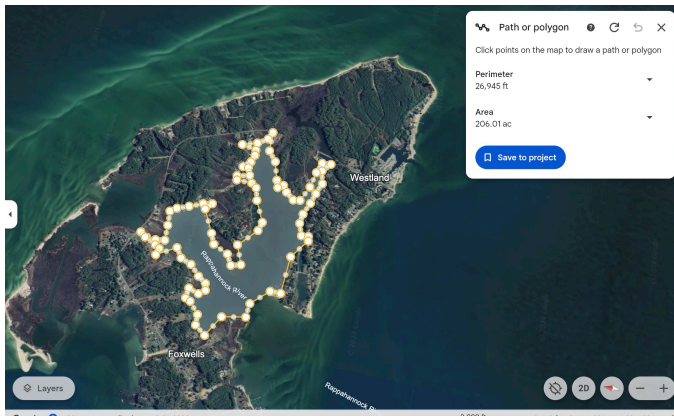
Sincerely,
Thomas Hyde & Callie Robinson Hyde
Co-Owners of Steamboat Wharf Oyster Company, (804) 761 1673

STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY

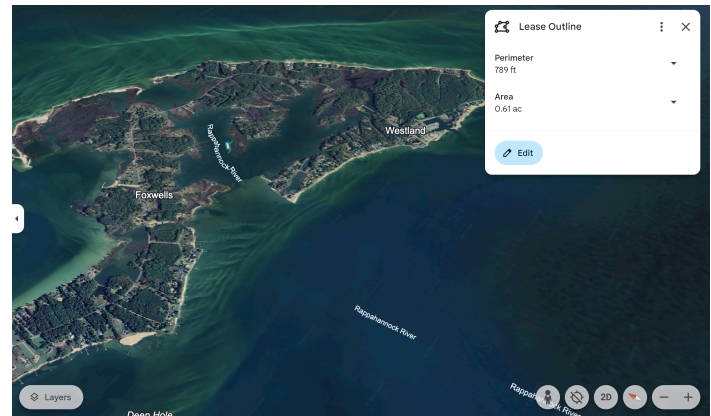
DETAILS OF AMENDMENT TO PROJECT #20240849

Changes made - Figure 1 & 2

We have reduced our proposed acreage from 1.47 down to 0.6 acres. The total acreage of Little Oyster Creek is roughly 206 acres. The new footprint will use less than 0.3% of the creek. We have also cut the number of baskets by more than half from 1,225 to 600. We are as close to shore as we can get without being on top of submerged aquatic vegetation.



Total acreage of Little Oyster Creek



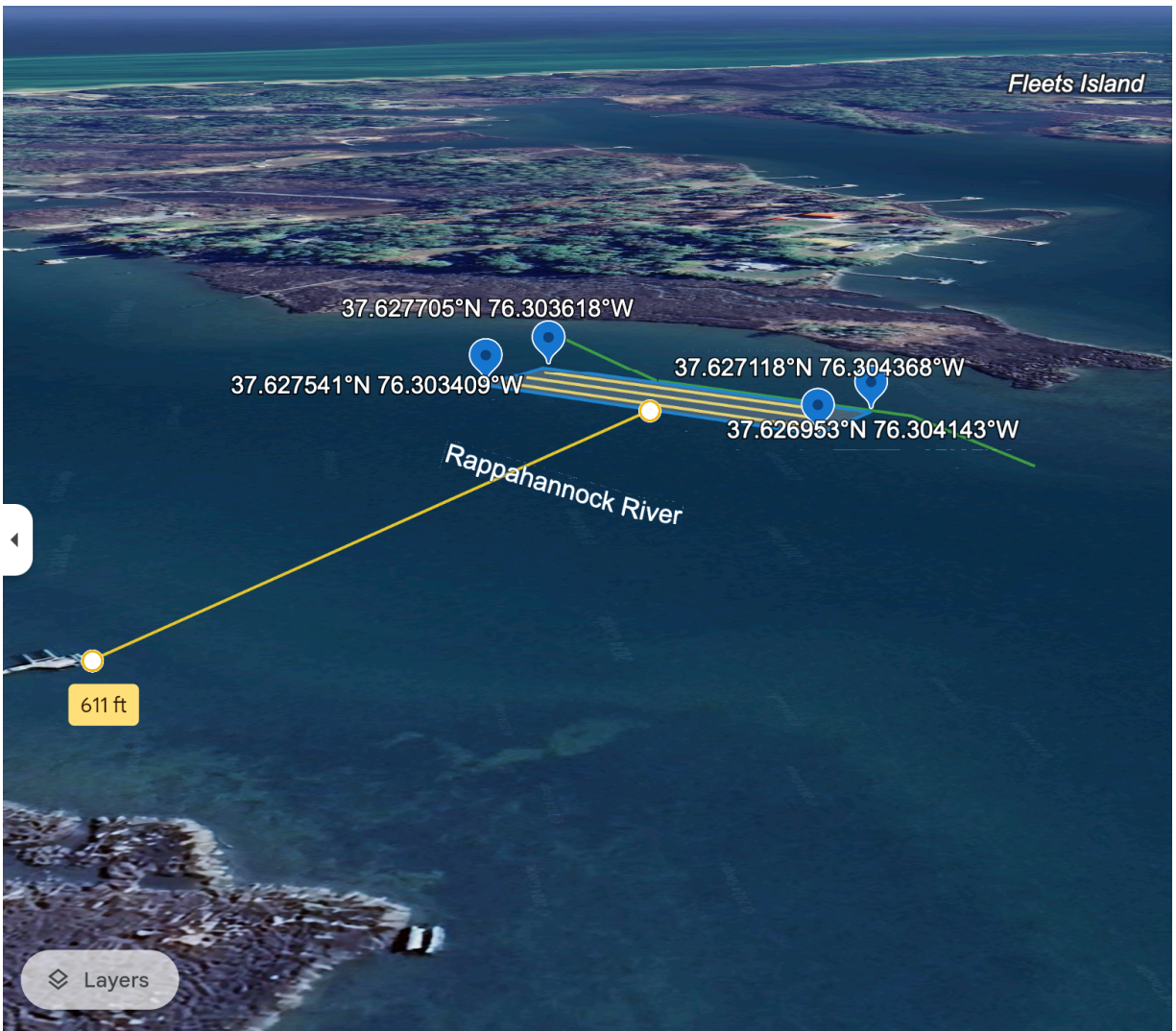
Total acreage of Proposed Farm Area

New Farm Layout Details - Figure 3

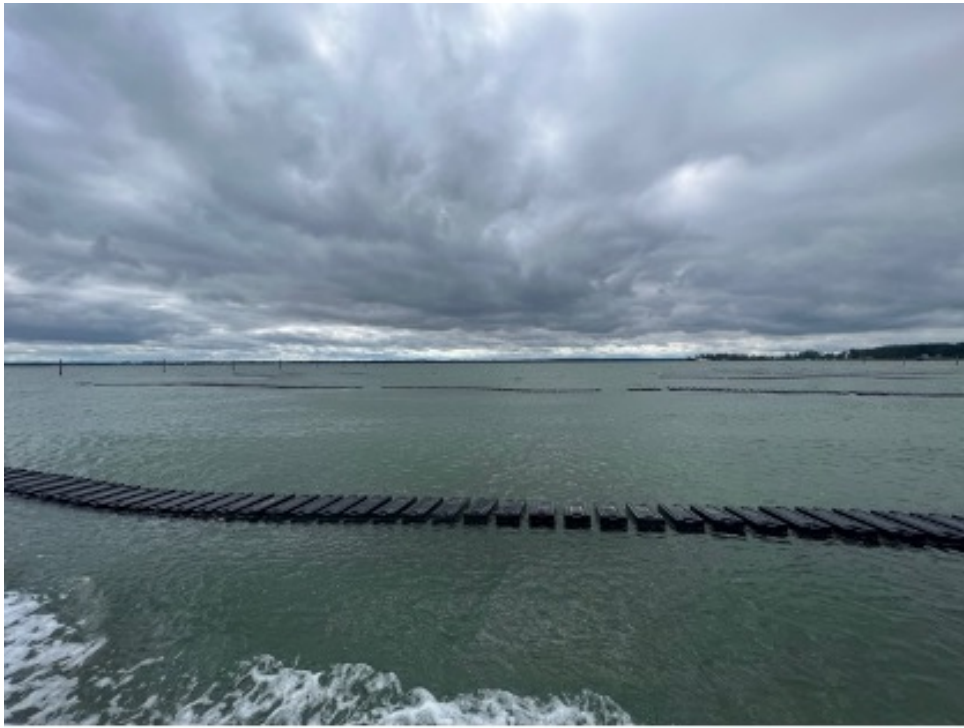
- The YELLOW lines are the three (3) 270 foot lines with 200 cages on each line.
- The GREEN demarkation line represents the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV).
- The BLUE lines is the lease outline.



Additional Location Images



FLIP FARM BASKET IMAGES



15/16" Polypropylene Rope

5mm Mesh HDPE
Flip Form basket
(29" x 11" x 5 9/16")

2 1/2' Foot
Circular
Bouy

35'

1'

MLW

3-5'
Bottom of
Cage to Riverbed

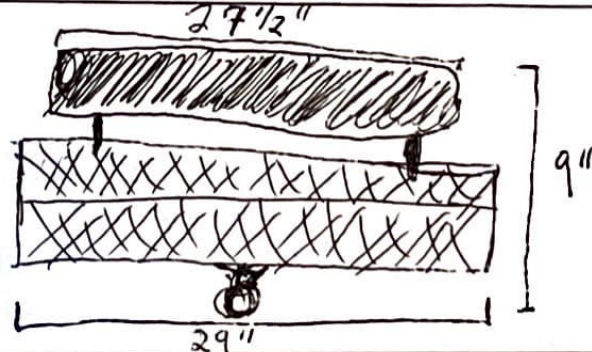
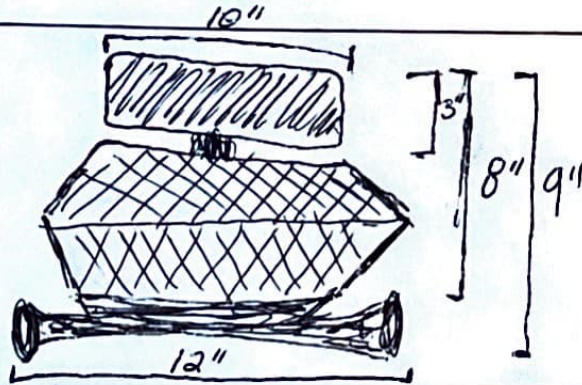
200'
Length of Line

35'
Bouy to
first cage

River Bottom

7' Depth of
Anchor

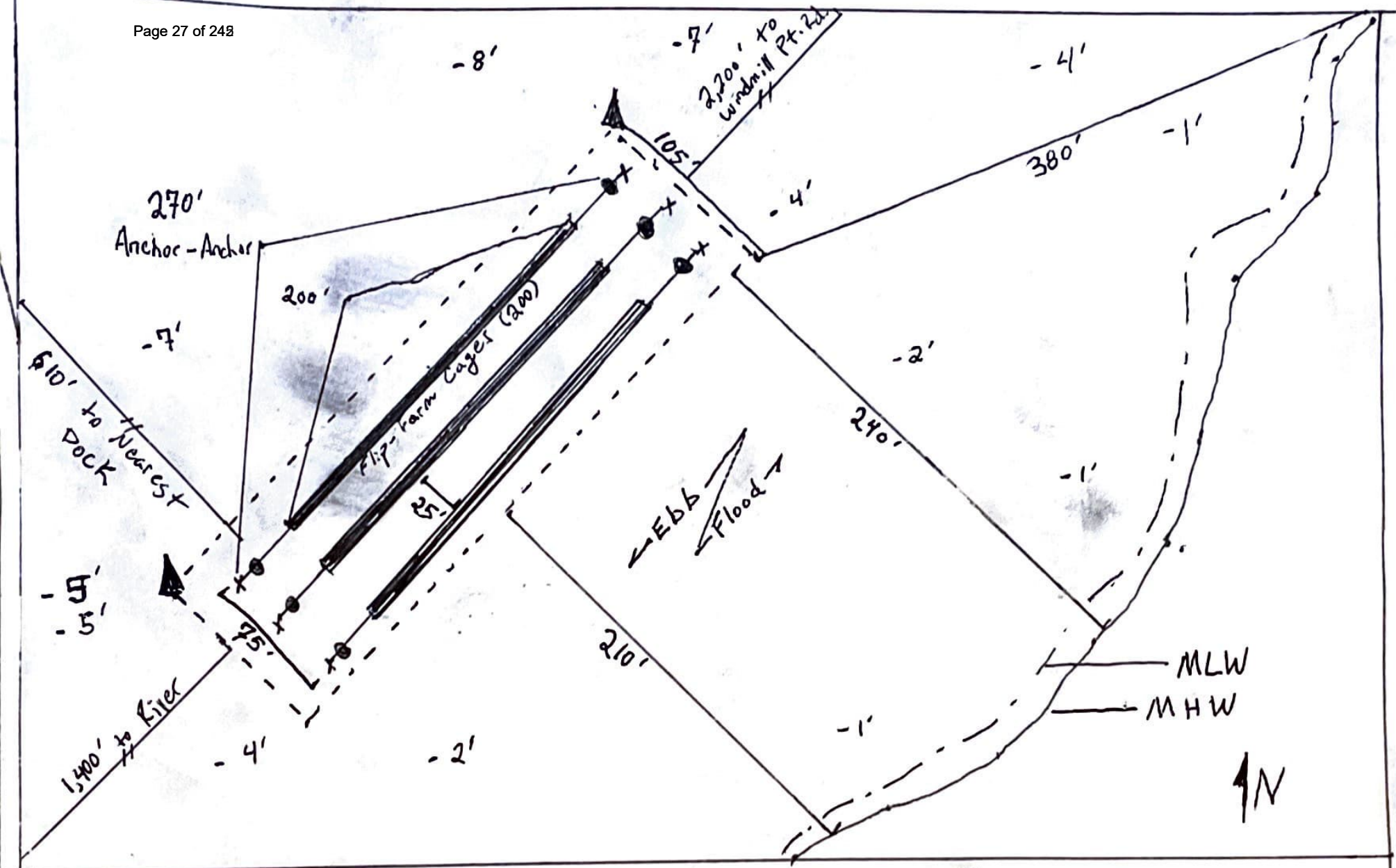
270'
Anchor to Anchor



- 5 mm HDPE Hexcyl basket With HDPE 12L Float and axle for 15/16" Polypropylene Rope.
- Anchored with Platipus stainless Steel anchors.

Applicant: Thomas Hyde
Permit: 2024-0849
Lancaster County, VA

Cross Section Drawings



Little Oyster Creek

- 1000' Wide at project site
- 600' Width of Navigable Channel
- 1400' Distance From project to Mouth.
- ~~2,200'~~ 2,200' Distance to Windmill Pt. Bridge.

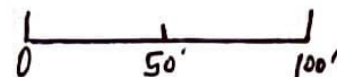
Key

- x - Anchor
- - Bouy

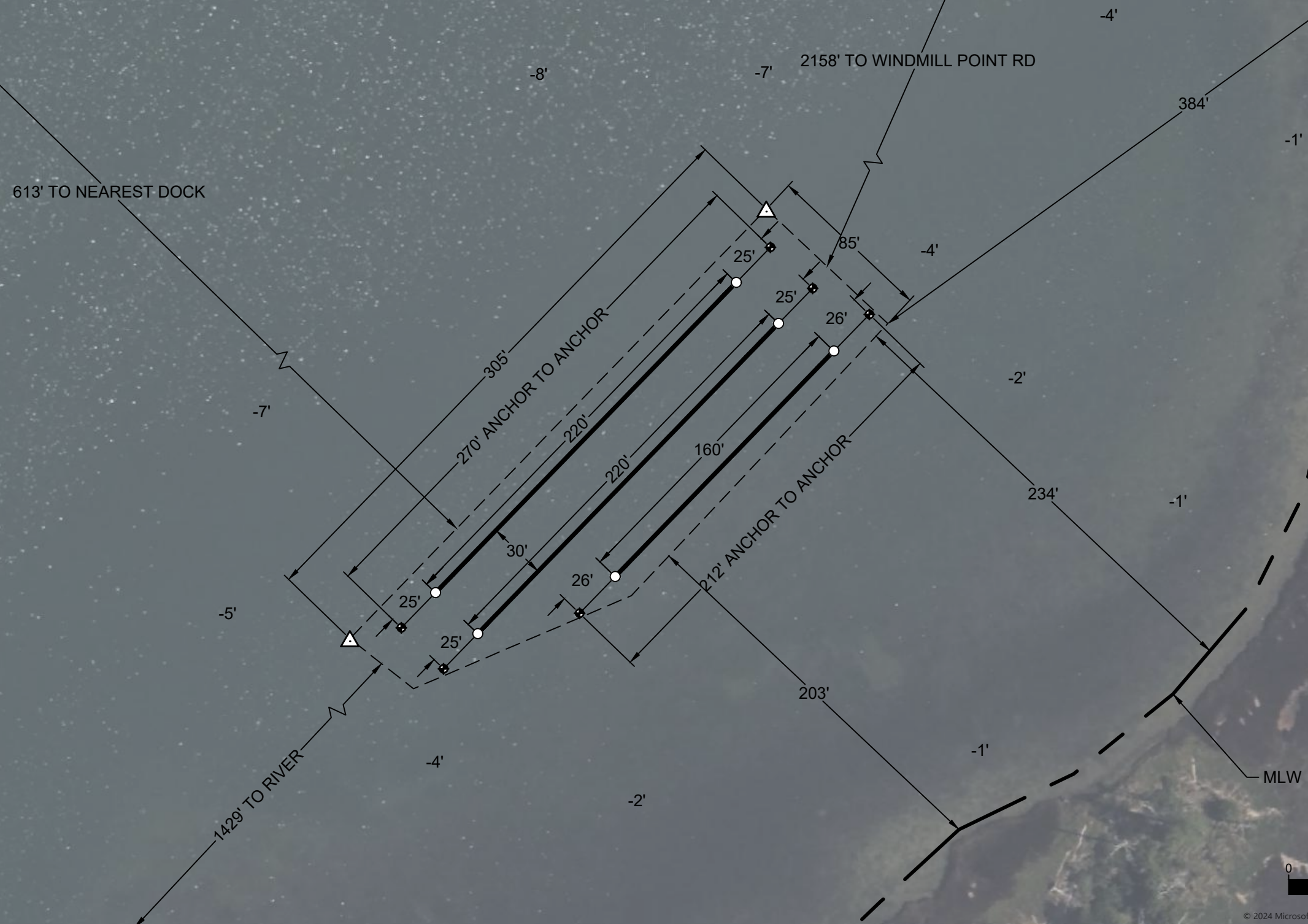
▲ - Lighted Bouy (TBD)

(---) - Lease Boundary

Scale






Applicant: Thomas Hyde
 Permit #: 2024 0849
 Lancaster County



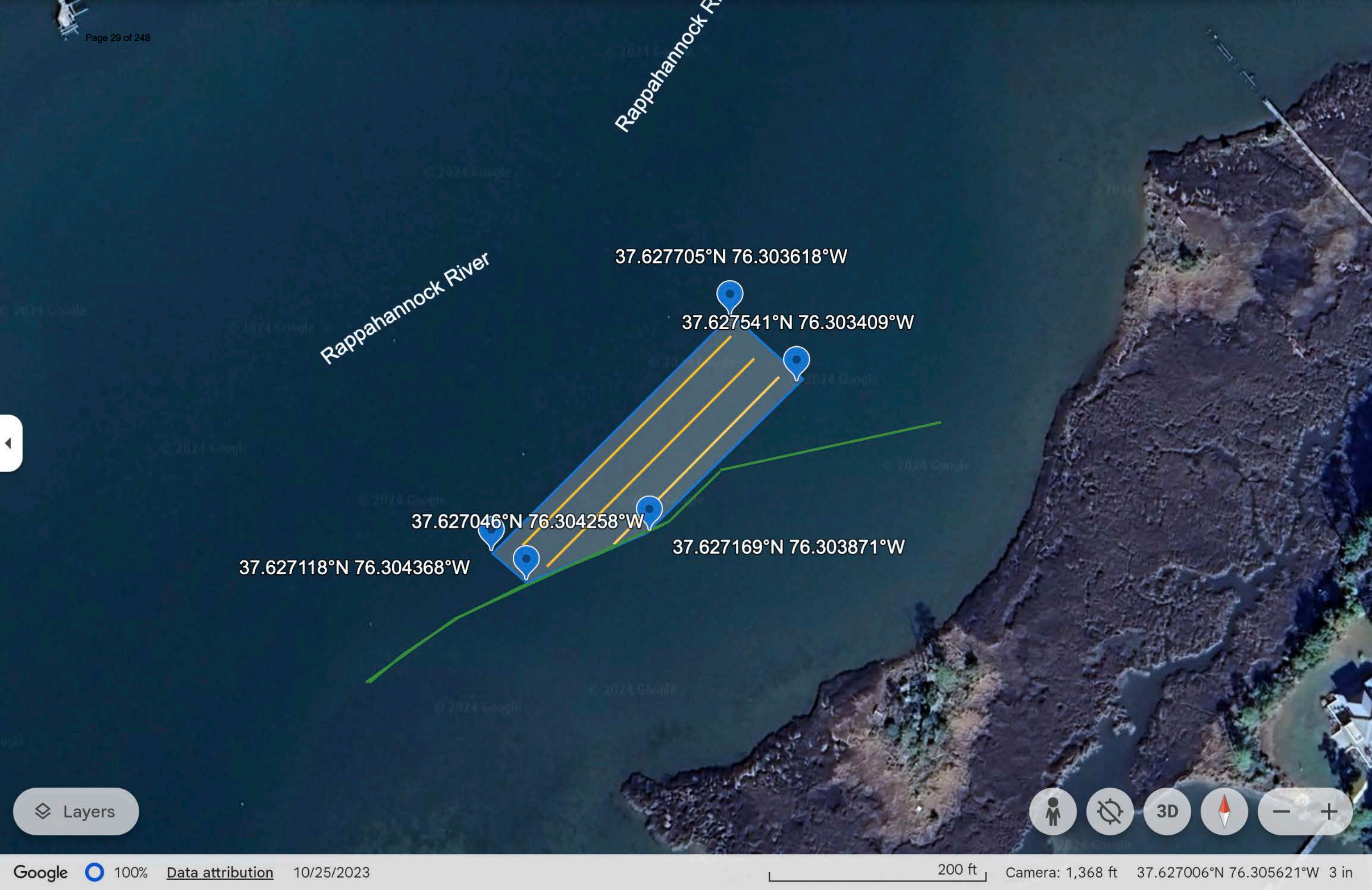
LITTLE OYSTER CREEK

- 1000' WIDE AT PROJECT SITE
- 600' WIDTH OF NAVIGABLE CHANNEL
- 1400' DISTANCE FROM PROJECT TO MOUTH
- 2200' DISTANCE TO WINDMILL PT BRIDGE

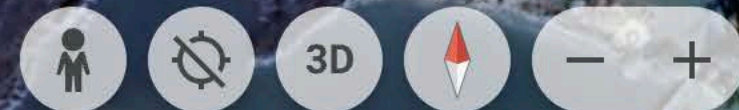
KEY

-  ANCHOR
 BUOY
 LIGHTED BUOY (TBD)
 --- LEASE BOUNDARY

APPLICANT: THOMAS HYDE
PERMIT #: 20240844
LANCASTER COUNTY



Layers



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
1	TRAVIS B WILLOW	04/15/2024 09:16:05 AM	OPPOSE

DEAR MR. KENYON,\R\N\R\NTHANK YOU FOR TAKING MY CALL TODAY. I APPRECIATE THE TIME YOU TOOK TO EXPLAIN THE PROCESS THAT PEOPLE GO THROUGH TO INSTALL FLOATING OYSTER CAGES.\R\N\R\NI WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY PROTEST THE APPLICATION FOR FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IN OUR RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY'S SMALL CREEK. THIS IS APPLICATION 20240849 FOR MR. THOMAS HYDE.\R\N\R\NOUR AREA IS SMALL. NOT ONLY WOULD FLOATING CAGES LOOK HORRIBLE FOR FOLKS THAT HAVE WORKED HARD THEIR ENTIRE LIFE TO LIVE ON THE WATER BUT IT WILL CAUSE SAFETY ISSUES FOR EVERYONE WHO IS USING THE WATERWAYS IN FRONT OF THEIR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS TO PULL KIDS ON TUBES, SKI, FISH AND ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS WITHOUT STRUCTURES GETTING IN OUR WAY.\R\N\R\NI WILL NOTIFY ALL OF MY NEIGHBORS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO GET INVOLVED. \R\N\R\NI WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO KNOW THAT THESE APPLICATIONS ARE EVEN BEING CONSIDERED. THEN ONCE YOU FIND OUT... VERY HARD TO KNOW HOW TO SPEAK OUT. THAT IS A SHAME. FOLKS THAT LIVE ON THE WATER PAY A MESS TO BUY WATERFRONT HOMES AND CONTINUALLY PAY A MESS OF TAXES TO DO SO. WHY? WATER ACCESS AND VIEWS. \R\N\R\NWE ALL LIVE, LOVE AND OWN VIRGINIA TOGETHER! IT IS GOOD THAT FOLKS WANT TO UTILIZE VIRGINIA'S RESOURCES TO MAKE A LIVING. I SUPPORT THAT. IF YOU WANT TO DO IT UNDER THE WATER... GREAT! \R\N\R\NSINCE VIRGINIA'S RESOURCES ARE RESOURCES OWNED BY ALL VIRGINIA TAXPAYERS, ONE MAN'S FINANCIAL GAIN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED WHEN IT AFFECTS A WHOLE ISLAND COMMUNITY! \R\N\R\NPLEASE HAVE MR. HYDE OPERATE HIS BUSINESS AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC... AWAY FROM FOLKS HOMES AND THEIR FAMILY'S RECREATIONAL AREAS. \R\N\R\NWHEN THERE IS A HEARING... WE WILL BE THERE!\R\N\R\NTHANKS FOR YOUR TIME,\R\N\R\NTRAVIS B. WILLOW

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
2	COURTNEY STEELE	04/15/2024 09:17:01 AM	OPPOSE

I'M WRITING TO OBJECT TO THE OYSTER PERMIT THOMAS HYDE IS REQUESTING. LITTLE OYSTER CREEK HAS BEEN CALLED HOME FOR MANY OF US, FOR YEARS. OUR KIDS, GRANDKIDS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS, ALL USE THE LITTLE COVE FOR RECREATION, AND FOR RELAXING AND TAKING IN OUR SPECTACULAR VIEWS. WE HAVE ALL WORKED VERY HARD TO BE ABLE TO MOVE TO PARADISE FOR OUR RETIREMENT YEARS. WE HAVE MANY NEIGHBORS SURROUNDING THE BANKS AND INLAND THAT PURCHASED HERE IN THIS LITTLE PROTECTED COVE TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE PRISTINE LAND AND WATERS SURROUNDING US. THE FLOATS WOULD BE AN EYESOAR, AND BRING IN ALL KINDS OF BIRDS AND THEIR GUANO INTO OUR WATER WHERE WE SWIM AND FISH. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING I WANT MY FAMILY EXPOSED TO. ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORS HAS HIS GRANDDAUGHTER EVERY SUMMER, AND HE TAKES HER OUT TO SKI BEHIND HIS BOAT ALMOST EVERY DAY. IT'S SO MUCH FUN TO WATCH THEM TOGETHER. THESE FLOATS WOULD HINDER THEM AS WELL. NAVIGATING THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT FROM THE CREEK TO THE RIVER IS TRICKY AT TIMES. ON A HIGH TIDE YOU CAN COME STRAIGHT OUT, BUT WHEN THE TIDE IS LOW YOU ACTUALLY HAVE TO HUG THE SHORE SIDE WHERE THE FLOATS WILL BE. \R\N\R\N\R\N THERE ARE MANY OTHER AREAS AWAY FROM COMMUNITIES MR. HYDE CAN PLACE HIS FLOATS. HE ALREADY HAS SOME IN FRONT OF MOSQUITO ISLAND/ POINT. THESE SHOULD ALSO HAVE BEACONS ON THEM AT NIGHT, MANY PEOPLE HAVE ALMOST RUN INTO THEM. HE SHOULD FIND MORE OPEN WATERS AWAY FROM DENSELY POPULATED AREAS TO GROW HIS BUSINESS. EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHTS TO OUR WATERS IN VIRGINIA, WE JUST NEED TO RESPECT OUR NEIGHBORS AND THEIR LAND AND DREAMS. \R\N\R\N\R\N THANKS YOUR CONSIDERATION, \R\N COURTNEY STEELE

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
3	BARBARA AND GREG CARROLL	04/15/2024 09:18:08 AM	OPPOSE

WE OPPOSE OYSTER GROUNDS APPLICATION/LEASE 20240849 UNDER THE NAME OF THOMAS HYDE ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK, LANCASTER COUNTY VIRGINIA. \R\N AS RESIDENTS OF THE AREA, WE AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OYSTER FARMING MAY HAVE ON OUR ENVIRONMENT. THESE INCLUDE: DISTURBING NATURAL HABITATS, CONTRIBUTING TO POLLUTION, PHYSICALLY DISTURBING THE SEABEDS WITH MACHINERY AND STRUCTURES, AS WELL AS COLLECTION EQUIPMENT HARMING LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS. \R\N WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT PRESERVING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF OUR WATERWAYS. THIS CREEK IS HOME TO MANY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL BE IMPACTED GREATLY BY OYSTER FARMING/CAGES. THE BEAUTY OF THIS AREA SHOULD BE PRESERVED AT ALL COSTS AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AS ONE OF OUR OF STATES MOST TREASURED NATURAL RESOURCES AND NOT USED FOR COMMERCIAL ENDEAVORS. \R\N PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED ON THIS MATTER \R\N BARBARA AND GREG CARROLL

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
4	SAMUEL AND PATRICIA WOOD	04/15/2024 09:20:14 AM	OPPOSE

THIS EMAIL IS TO LET YOU KNOW I AM A PROPERTY OWNER ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND AM IN OPPOSITION TO THE 1225 PROPOSED OYSTER FLOATS THOMAS HYDE OF STEAMBOAT OYSTER COMPANY WANTS TO PUT IN OUR CREEK!\R\NTHE PROPERTY OWNERS ENJOY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON THIS CREEK AND DO NOT WANT THESE FLOATS!!\R\NI WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY WE FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS THROUGH FACEBOOK AND WERE NOT NOTIFIED BY VMRC!\R\NOR BY OUR \"NEIGHBOR\" THOMAS HYDE OF HIS INTENTION!\R\NMY NAME IS PATRICIA WOOD, *** LITTLE OYSTER LANE, WHITE STONE, VA. I CAN BE REACHED AT *** *-****. WE WORKED HARD TO BE ABLE TO LIVE ON THE WATER AND I DO NOT WANT THESE OYSTER FLOATS AS MY VIEW!!\R\NI STRONGLY OPPOSE!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
5	KEVIN HUSSEY	04/15/2024 11:24:06 AM	OPPOSE

THIS EMAIL IS MEANT TO FORMALLY EXPRESS DISAPPROVAL AND OBJECTION TO THOMAS HYDE'S APPLICATION 20240849 IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK- WHITE STONE, VA. I HAVE MET WITH THOMAS AND CALLIE, SPENDING A DAY WITH THEM AT THEIR FARM ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK NEAR MOSQUITO POINT. WHILE THEY ARE CLEARLY PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR COMPANY AND TO BE CONSIDERED AS INDIVIDUALS OF OUTSTANDING CHARACTER, THIS NEW APPLICATION IS DISAPPOINTING TO SEE. WITH APPROVAL, VIRTUALLY ALL BENEFITS OF THE FLOATING CAGES INSIDE OUR CREEK WILL BE REALIZED BY A PRIVATELY HELD COMPANY, WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THE ALL NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TYPE OF FARMING WILL BE ABSORBED BY THE PUBLIC COMMUNITY THAT RECREATES WITHIN THE CREEK. RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE UTILIZE THE PROPOSED LOCATION EXTENSIVELY YEAR-ROUND. WATER SKIING, TUBING, WIND SURFING, KAYAKING, SWIMMING, AND FISHING ENTHUSIASTS ARE ALL RISK LOSING ONE OF THE BEST AND ONLY PROTECTED AREAS TO FOR WATERSPORTS AT WINDMILL POINT. IT IS NOTORIOUSLY WINDY WITH ROUGH SEAS AT FLEET'S ISLAND. OFTEN TIMES, LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS THE ONLY PLACE TO ENJOY THESE ACTIVITIES SAFELY. LIKE MOST OF THE AREA, THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR INCREASE IN VESSEL TRAFFIC ON OUR CREEK IN RECENT YEARS. WITH IT HAS COME AN INCREASE IN VESSEL-TO-VESSEL OR VESSEL-TO-PERSON ENCOUNTERS. SWIMMERS, KAYAKERS, AND POWER BOATERS ALL SHARE THE LIMITED SPACE WITHIN THE CREEK, AND WHILE THERE HAS NOT BEEN A MAJOR ACCIDENT RECENTLY, THERE IS A LOT OF TRAFFIC IN A RELATIVELY SMALL SPACE. RESTRICTING THE USABLE AREA OF THE CREEK AND FURTHER CONCENTRATING THE INCREASED TRAFFIC WILL ONLY SERVE TO INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A TRAGIC ACCIDENT WHEN THOMAS AND CALLIE OPTED TO MOVE DOWN TO FLEETS ISLAND FROM THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION IN MORATTICO, THEY DID NOT SHARE WITH THE INTENTION TO BUILD A COMMERCIAL OYSTER FACILITY WITH RETAIL SALES. LITTLE OYSTER LANE IS A SMALL GRAVEL ROAD MAINTAINED BY ITS RESIDENTS THAT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN COMMUNITY. DUE TO THE LOW SPEED LIMIT, IT SERVES AS ONE OF THE ONLY ROADS TO SAFELY WALK A DOG IN THE AREA AND IS USED BY MY WIFE DAILY. THE INCREASE OF TRAFFIC THAT ACCOMPANIES A RETAIL BUSINESS WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ROAD—COSTING THE RESIDENTS ON THIS ROAD EVEN MORE TIME AND MONEY TO KEEP IT IN ORDER. STEAMBOAT WHARF'S CURRENT MOSQUITO POINT FARM DOES NOT OPERATE AT FULL CAPACITY. THOMAS AND CALLIE HAVE A LARGE OYSTER NURSERY AT THEIR DOCK INSIDE THE CREEK. THEY ALSO HAVE CAGES AND LEASED GROUND IN MORATTICO. BETWEEN MORATTICO AND THE EXISTING DOCK-SIDE NURSERY IT APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE THE CAPACITY TO BOTH PROTECT CAGES IN STORMS AND ALSO GROW WITH THE SMALL SEED BASKETS THAT DO NOT HOLD UP WELL IN THE WAVES AS MENTIONED IN THEIR APPLICATION. THE PROPOSED LOCATION FOR THIS APPLICATION IS OUT OF VIEW FROM THE PROPERTY THAT THEY PURCHASED. IT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE—THIS LOCATION WAS INTENTIONALLY SELECTED TO PRESERVE THE WATER VIEW AND ASSUMED VALUE OF THE PROPERTY THAT THEY OWN. AGAIN, THOMAS AND CALLIE ARE BOTH GOOD PEOPLE WITH A CLEAR PASSION FOR OYSTERS. THEY HAVE THE DRIVE, KNOWLEDGE, AND RESOURCES TO GROW THEIR OYSTER COMPANY SIGNIFICANTLY. WHILE THIS APPLICATION IS A STEP TOWARD GROWING THEIR COMPANY- APPROVAL OF THIS APPLICATION WILL COST THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEARLY. RESPECTFULLY, KEVIN P HUSSEY

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
6	SAMUEL DEANE	04/16/2024 08:15:45 AM	OPPOSE

ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY FAMILY I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH ANY APPROVAL OF APPLICATION 20240849. I GREW UP IN OYSTER CREEK AND PLAN ON HAVING MY CHILDREN GROW UP THERE AS WELL, THIS COMMERCIAL OYSTER FISHING OPERATION WOULD IMPOSE ON OUR SMALL CREEK AND MAKE IT DANGEROUS FOR RECREATIONAL USE.\R\NTHANK YOU,\R\NSAMUEL DEANE

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
7	NIKKI HENDERSON	04/16/2024 10:46:32 AM	OPPOSE

I AM AGAINST TOM HYDE OF STEAMBOAT OYSTERS COMPANY 20240849 APPLICATION TO PUT IN OYSTER
FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK..THANK YOU\R\R\R\NNIKKI HENDERSON

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
8	TALBERT S DEANE	04/16/2024 10:49:05 AM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING YOU IN RESPONSE TO APPLICATION 20240849 MADE BY THOMAS HYDE MY WIFE AND I OWN PROPERTY ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND RAISED OUR TWO SONS SPENDING WEEKENDS AND SUMMER VACATIONS ON THE WATER. FISHING, CRABBING, SKIING, AND TUBE RIDES HAVE BEEN, AND CONTINUE TO BE ENJOYED BY ALL. AND NOW WITH THE ADDITION OF FIVE GRANDCHILDREN WE HOPE TO CONTINUE THE TRADITION.\R\n LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS A SMALL, PROTECTED AREA WITH JUST ENOUGH SPACE TO SAFELY NAVIGATE A BOAT WHILE PULLING TUBES OR SKIS. ANY ADDED IMPEDIMENTS TO THIS AREA WOULD CREATE A DANGER TO THESE ACTIVITIES THERE ARE AROUND 30 PROPERTY OWNERS ON LITTLE OYSTER AND ANOTHER 40 OR SO ON THE BRIGHTWATER SIDE THAT IS CONNECTED BY WINDMILL CREEK WHERE THE APPLICANT HAS HIS BUSINESS. ALL WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.\R\n I SEE THAT SOME LETTER WRITERS FEEL THE NEED TO COMPLEMENT THESE FOLKS ON THEIR PASSION AND HARD WORK. I DO NOT. THIS IS A BUSINESS, PLAIN AND SIMPLE, THAT SEEKS TO PROFIT FROM THE SACRIFICE AND EXPENSE OF ALL OF THE AFORE MENTIONED PROPERTY OWNERS. AND ALL THE WHILE, AS POINTED OUT BY BY ANOTHER LETTER WRITER, THE APPLICANT HAS SEVERAL OTHER LEASES THAT ARE NOT BEING FULLY UTILIZED.\R\n THEREFORE WE STRONGLY APOSE AN APPROVAL OF THIS APPLICATION

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
9	GARY GRABB	04/16/2024 11:08:34 AM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO PROTEST THOMAS HYDE'S APPLICATION 20240849, REQUESTING TO PLACE 1225 FLOATING OYSTER CAGES OVER 1.49 ACRES OF STATE BOTTOM IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. THE HISTORIC NATURE AND INTRINSIC VALUE OF THIS LITTLE CREEK IS EVIDENT IN THE NAME. KNOWN FOR IT'S NATURALLY BREEDING POPULATION OF CRASSOSTREA VIRGINICA OYSTERS THAT SERVE AS A RESERVOIR FOR FUTURE POPULATIONS OF NATIVE OYSTERS, IT ALSO HAS BENEFITTED FROM THE VERY SHALLOW ENTRANCE CHANNEL INTO THE CREEK, LIMITING POTENTIAL OVER HARVESTING FROM COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. THE CREEK IS ALSO UNIQUE IN THAT IT IS OPEN TO AN ALMOST CONSTANT TIDAL FLOW AND FLUSHING ACTION, DUE TO OPENINGS ON BOTH THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY. THE SMALL SIZE OF THE CREEK, PLUS THE EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL HOMES ALONG IT'S BANKS AND THEIR ACCOMPANYING BOATING, SAILING, WINDSURFING, KAYAKING AND FISHING ACTIVITIES BRINGS INTO SERIOUS QUESTION ANY COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA. THERE ARE ALREADY A FEW BOTTOM CAGES THAT HAVE BEEN PLACED HERE THAT DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VMRC, IN THAT THEY ARE INSTALLED IN LESS THAN 5 FT. MEAN LOW WATER AND ARE NOT PROPERLY MARKED AS PER THE REGULATIONS. WATER SKIERS, BOATERS AND WAKEBOARDERS HAVE BEEN WAVED AWAY FROM THE AREA, BUT I FEAR IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE IS INJURED.

INSPEAKING SPECIFICALLY TO MR. HYDE'S APPLICATION, I FIND AN ESSENTIAL CONFLICT IN STATED PURPOSE.

"PRIMARY PURPOSE FOR THIS PROJECT IS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY POTENTIAL FOR THIS OPERATION".

THEN HE STATES UNDER OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: "A KEY REASON FOR THIS PROJECT IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE LOCATION FOR OUR GEAR DURING STRONG WIND EVENTS. OUR PRIMARY FARM SITE ON THE WINDWARD SIDE OF MOSQUITO ISLAND TAKES THE BRUNT OF THESE STORMS, CAUSING DAMAGE TO OUR BASKETS AND OYSTER MORTALITY. WE WOULD USE THE PROPOSED SITE AS A CONTINGENCY LOCATION FOR GEAR IN THE EVENT OF A STORM".

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT YOU CANNOT HAVE CAGES IN THE PROPOSED AREA AND ALSO PROVIDE SHELTER FOR YOUR OTHER CAGES DURING HIGH WIND STORM EVENTS. HOW MANY CAGES DOES HE CURRENTLY HAVE IN THE EXISTING LEASE? WHAT IS THE PRACTICALITY OF MOVING ALL OF THESE TO A SPOT IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK? AT WHICH POINT WOULD HE CONSIDER MOVING THE CAGES? IS HE BASING THIS ON FORECASTED WIND SPEED A DAY IN ADVANCE OR WOULD HE WAIT UNTIL IT IS ALREADY HAPPENING? UNDER STORM CONDITIONS IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MOVE THESE CAGES TO SAFETY.

LAST POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IS THAT HIS COMMERCIAL SITE IS LOCATED IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD, NEAR THE END OF A SINGLE LANE GRAVEL ROAD THAT EXPERIENCES FREQUENT FLOODING. WHAT STARTED AS A PROPOSED LIMITED COMMERCIAL USE HAS EXPANDED SIGNIFICANTLY AS STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER CO. BUSINESS HAS GROWN. I AM HAPPY FOR HIS SUCCESS BUT AM NOW QUESTIONING HIS INITIAL DECISION TO LOCATE ON LITTLE OYSTER LANE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER.

RESPECTFULLY,

GARY GRABB

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
10	DIANNA GUENSBERG	04/16/2024 12:00:57 PM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY CONCERNS REGARDING THOMAS HYDE'S APPLICATION TO INSTALL OYSTER FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. IN REVIEWING THE PROPOSAL, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE INSTALLATION OF WELL OVER 1,000 FLOATS WOULD GREATLY IMPEDE OUR ABILITY TO NAVIGATE IN THE WATERWAY AND TO FISH IN THE WATERS. FURTHER, AS A RESIDENT ON THE CREEK, IT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE BEAUTY, SERENITY, AND PROPERTY VALUE OF OUR HOME. \R\N\R\N\I APPRECIATE YOUR CONSIDERATION OF MY OBJECTIONS REGARDING MR. HYDE'S ILL-ADVISED APPLICATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
11	SUSAN GRABB	04/16/2024 12:03:00 PM	OPPOSE

I AM OPPOSED TO THOMAS HYDE'S PROPOSED NEW OYSTER LEASING GROUNDS, 20240849. I AM MY HUSBAND AND I OWN A HOME ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. IN ADDITION TO DISTURBING AND DESTROYING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE MARSH WITH PLASTIC CAGES AND PVC MARKING POLES, SAFETY IS AN ENORMOUS CONCERN, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF CAGE PLACEMENT, BUT THE RESTRICTED WATERWAY THAT WOULD BE FORCED ON THE PUBLIC. THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES OCCUR ON OUR CREEK: TUBING, KAYAKING, PADDLE BOARDING, WAKE BOARDING, WINDSURFING, WATERSKIING, WAVE RIDING, BOATING, FISHING AND VIEWING BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS. IN ADDED TO THE IMPACT TO THIS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, THE STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY OPERATES ON LITTLE OYSTER LANE AT THE END OF THE LANE WITH DELIVERY TRUCK USE. AS THIS BUSINESS EXPANDS, SO WILL THEIR TRAFFIC. AND, RECENTLY, THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER STATED OYSTER LOVERS "CAN ORDER AND GO PICK THEM UP AT STEAMBOAT'S LAND OPERATION ON LITTLE OYSTER LANE". SO, NOT ONLY IS THE RECREATIONAL WATERWAY ACTIVITY IMPACTED NEGATIVELY, BUT SO IS OUR LITTLE OYSTER LANE. THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MY CONCERN. RESPECTFULLY,

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
12	JOHN MILFORD	04/18/2024 09:00:41 AM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO YOU ABOUT THE RECENT APPLICATION 20240849 BY THOMAS HYDE FOR OYSTER FARMING IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF OYSTER FLOATS AT THIS LOCATION. THE CREEK IS USED CONSTANTLY BY THE SURROUNDING HOMEOWNERS FOR RECREATION AND TRAVEL INTO THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER AND CHESAPEAKE BAY. THERE ARE MANY THAT USE THEIR BOATS, WATER SKI, PULL TUBES, JET SKI, AND WINDSURF IN THIS SMALL LAGOON. THE INTRODUCTION OF OYSTER FLOATS IN THIS AREA WILL GREATLY RESTRICT THE RECREATION FOR THE RESIDENTS, IMPEDE TRAVEL TO THE RAPPAHANNOCK, AND CAUSE A SERIOUS SAFETY ISSUE. I IMPLORE YOU TO REJECT THIS APPLICATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
13	MARK AND KAREN ROLAND	04/19/2024 07:39:58 AM	OPPOSE

WE ARE FOLLOWING UP TO OBJECT TO THOMAS HYDE'S APPLICATION FOR 1,225 OYSTER FLOATS FLIP FARM SYSTEM ON 1.47 ACRES IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO OUR TWO PROPERTIES. WE RELOCATED TO THE NORTHERN NECK INTENTIONALLY TO PURCHASE OUR DREAM HOME ON THE WATER. WE PAID A PREMIUM TO LIVE ON THE WATER AND WE PAY MORE IN VA TAXES AS WELL. WE LOVE THE VIEWS, BOUNTIFUL WILDLIFE IN OUR MARSH, EASY WATER ACCESS AND SERENITY. WE ALSO VALUE THE PRIVACY AND BEAUTY OF THE CREEK AND MARSH. SO MUCH SO, WE RECENTLY PURCHASED AN ADJACENT LOT TO FURTHER PROTECT ALL THAT WE CHERISH. WE ALSO ENJOY THE QUIET COMMUNITY WITH GREAT NEIGHBORS WHO EMBRACED US WARMLY FROM THE START. THIS COMMUNITY IS NOW FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY. WHEN MR. HYDE MOVED TO THE COMMUNITY, HE SENT A LETTER DATED JANUARY 2021 TO NEIGHBORS, COMMITTING TO "BUILDING A NEIGHBORLY RELATIONSHIP BUILT ON TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION." IN THE SAME LETTER HE STATED HIS ACTIVITIES AS FOLLOWS: "OUR ACTIVITIES ON THE PROPERTY WILL BE LIMITED TO BOAT STORAGE, GEAR MAINTENANCE, AND OYSTER STORAGE CONFINED TO AROUND AND BENEATH DOCK AREA. WE WILL BE OPERATING SMALL MACHINERY POWER WASHERS, AIR COMPRESSORS OCCASIONALLY DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS M-F 9-5. THE BULK OF THE FARMWORK WILL BE DONE ON OUR OFFSHORE LEASE, 3 MILES FROM THE PROPERTY. WE PLAN ON INSTALLING A MODERATE-SIZED SHELTER BETWEEN 400 AND 600 SQ. FT. TO STORE GEAR AND BOATS DURING STORMS. THE TRAFFIC ON THE PROPERTY WILL BE LIMITED TO OURSELVES AND OUR VEHICLES. WE PLEDGE TO UPDATE YOU IN A TIMELY MANNER OF ANY CHANGES TO THE PLANS STATED IN THIS MEMO." WE HAVE ATTACHED THE LETTER IN ITS ENTIRETY. WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATION TO NEIGHBORS, WE NOW SEE FLOATING OYSTER CRATES INSTALLED OFF HIS LOT, EQUIPMENT SCATTERED ABOUT, LARGE TRUCKS TRAVELING BACK OUR QUIET PRIVATE GRAVEL ROAD WHICH IS MAINTAINED BY NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS AND A LARGE REFRIGERATION BUILDING CURRENTLY BEING BUILT. AND NOW WITHOUT WIDESPREAD COMMUNICATION TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD, THERE IS A PROPOSAL FOR A LARGE OYSTER FLOAT SYSTEM THAT WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT ALL OF US. THERE IS A FEELING OF MISTRUST AND DISBELIEF. AS A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, WE ARE NOT SURE HOW THIS WAS PERMITTED IN THE FIRST PLACE, LET ALONE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. GIVEN THE SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION OF HIS NEIGHBORS, WE HAD HOPED THAT MR. HYDE WOULD HAVE ABANDONED HIS EFFORTS FOR THIS PERMIT, BUT CLEARLY, HE HAS NOT. THE OYSTER FLOAT SYSTEM PROPOSED WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT ALL THE POSITIVES THAT DREW US HERE, NOT TO MENTION SIGNIFICANTLY DIMINISHING OUR FINANCIAL INVESTMENT. WE STRONGLY OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL FOR SEVERAL REASONS, SPECIFICALLY IN THAT IT WILL: IMPEDE OUR VIEWS IMPAIR OUR ABILITY AND OTHERS TO NAVIGATE THE CHANNEL INCREASE NOISE DUE TO FLIPPING OF OYSTER FLOATS ROUTINELY INCREASE SMELL DUE TO INCREASED BIRD WASTE INCREASE TRAFFIC ESPECIALLY LARGE COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATED TRUCKS ON THE GRAVEL ROAD THAT WE AND NEIGHBORS PAY TO MAINTAIN SIGNIFICANTLY DEVALUE OUR PROPERTIES WHILE WE APPRECIATE AND SUPPORT MR. HYDE'S EFFORTS AS A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, WE DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE TO SACRIFICE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC VALUE THROUGH LOSS OF PROPERTY VALUE TO SUPPORT HIS BUSINESS EFFORTS. IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT MR. HYDE'S PRIMARY FARM SITE ON THE WINDWARD SIDE OF MOSQUITO ISLAND, CHOSEN DUE TO ITS "PRISTINE WATER QUALITY," IS NOW NOT SUFFICIENT HOWEVER, HIS BUSINESS GOALS SHOULD NOT COME AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LOCAL PROPERTY OWNERS IN OYSTER CREEK BY RELOCATING HIS OYSTER

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

FARM. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ALL SHARE VIRGINIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES. WE KAYAK, PADDLE BOARD AND FISH REGULARLY " AS DO OUR NEIGHBORS " RIGHT OFF OUR PROPERTY IN THE PROPOSED OYSTER FARM AREA. AND, WITH OUR RECENT PURCHASE OF AN ADJACENT LOT, THIS PROJECT ALSO DEVALUES THAT PARCEL AS WELL, AND POTENTIALLY LIMITS FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS. HAVING JUST CLOSED ON THE PARCEL LAST MONTH, WE ARE JUST STARTING THE PROCESS TO OBTAIN A PERMIT TO BUILD A DOCK. THIS FLOATING OYSTER FARM WOULD INTERFERE DIRECTLY WITH OUR PLANS TO DO THAT. OVERALL, THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IF THIS OYSTER FARM MOVES FORWARD IN THIS NARROW CHANNEL. WE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF OYSTER FARMING, BUT BELIEVE WE NEED TO BALANCE BUSINESS NEEDS VS. PERSONAL RIGHTS. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OUR RIPARIAN RIGHTS WILL ALSO BE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR AS YOU EVALUATE THIS PROPOSAL, AS WE BELIEVE THIS INFRINGES ON THEM. IN FACT, MR. HYDE'S PROPOSAL COULD ALSO IMPEDE OUR UNIQUE RIGHT TO APPLY FOR RIPARIAN OYSTER-PLANTING GROUNDS VA. CODE 28.2-600 TO 602 , SINCE WE OWN MORE THAN 205 FEET OF SHORELINE AT THE LOW-WATER MARK. DO KNOW THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF OYSTER FARMING, NOT ONLY IS IT IMPORTANT TO THE VIRGINIA ECONOMY, BUT ALSO IT IS VITAL IN IMPROVING VIRGINIA'S WATERS. THAT'S WHY WE ARE ACTIVE IN VOLUNTEERING LOCALLY IN SHELL REPLACEMENT AND OYSTER SEEDING. IN CLOSING, WE ASK FOR CONSIDERATION TO PROTECT OUR RIGHTS AND OUR NEIGHBORS' RIGHTS AS TAX-PAYING VIRGINIANS AND OUR PERSONAL INVESTMENTS THAT WE'VE WORKED SO HARD TO ACHIEVE. PUBLIC TRUST IN THE VMRC IS IMPORTANT AND WE BELIEVE THE VMRC TAKES THAT SERIOUSLY. AS SUCH, WE SEEK YOUR SUPPORT IN STOPPING THIS JOINT PERMIT APPLICATION. WE ARE ALSO HOPEFUL THAT VMRC CAN WORK WITH MR. HYDE TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION WHICH DOES NOT NEGATIVELY IMPACT THIS COMMUNITY YET MAXIMIZES HIS BUSINESS GOALS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU TO DISCUSS OUR MANY CONCERNS.

Attachments:

https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/pc_pdfGet.php?id=880

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
14	DAVID L WILLIAMS	04/19/2024 12:46:21 PM	FAVOR

OYSTERS ARE SO IMPORTANT FOR THE LOCAL ECONOMY AS WELL AS FOR THE HEALTH OF THE ENTIRE CHESAPEAKE BAY.

CANâ€™T IMAGINE A BETTER USE FOR THAT AREA. IT WONâ€™T BE UNSIGHTLY, OR IMPEDE BOAT TRAFFIC. I WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE WATER.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
15	ASHLEY M WILLIAMS	04/19/2024 13:27:09 PM	FAVOR

AS A FULL TIME NORTHERN NECK RESIDENT, I SUPPORT THOMAS HYDE'S APPLICATION FOR A FLOATING OYSTER FARM IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.

WHILE THE METHODS OF WORKING THE WATER MAY BE DIFFERENT IN OUR PRESENT DAY, THE IDEOLOGY AND RESULTS ARE THE SAME TO OUR CENTURIES OLD TRADITION. WE ARE A WATERMAN COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE JOBS AND HELP TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THE RIVER AND SURROUNDING CREEKS IS A RESOUNDING "YES!". STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER CO IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF PROVIDING OYSTERS TO OUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND BEYOND. THOMAS HYDE IS AN UPSTANDING, LIFELONG MEMBER OF THE NORTHERN NECK COMMUNITY AND HE RUNS HIS BUSINESS WITH RESPECT TO THE ENVIRONMENT, PRECISION, AND CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS. ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN SAID OTHERWISE IS DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER AND SIMPLY NOT TRUE. AS A COMMUNITY WE ARE FACED WITH MULTI GENERATIONAL OPINIONS AND ULTIMATELY DECISIONS THAT NEED TO BE MADE. THIS ENDEAVOR IS ONE ROOTED IN OUR HERITAGE, UPHOLDS TRADITION, AND HAS MINIMAL IMPACT BEYOND WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR A WORKING WATERFRONT. I STAND IN SUPPORT OF THE DECISION TO APPROVE THOMAS HYDE'S APPLICATION AND I IMPORE VMRC AND OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY TO DO THE SAME.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
16	JENNIFER R GOLDMAN	04/19/2024 17:19:17 PM	FAVOR

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THOMAS HYDE'S FLOATING FARM APPLICATION IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.

AS RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN NECK, WE IMPORE THE VMRC TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THAT MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY RELY ON WORKING ON THE WATER AS A MEANS OF INCOME. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE INTEGRAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, PROVIDING JOBS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE VITALITY OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE REALIZE THAT HOMEOWNERS CAN OFTEN FIND THESE FARMS AS UNATTRACTIVE AND INCONVENIENT, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THIS AREA WAS BUILT BY OUR WATERMEN LONG BEFORE THEY BOUGHT WATERFRONT HOMES IN THE AREA.

WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROTECTING OUR WORKING WATERFRONT. THIS APPLICATION PRESENTS US WITH A CHANCE TO PRESERVE OUR AREA'S HERITAGE. BY SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT, WE CAN ENSURE THE CONTINUED LIVELIHOODS OF OUR LOCAL WATERMEN AND MAINTAIN A VIBRANT WATERFRONT THAT HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS.

LASTLY, I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO ADDRESS THE DISHEARTENING PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THOMAS HYDE'S CHARACTER. THOMAS AND HIS WIFE ARE STAND UP MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ARE DEVOTED TO MAKING A LIVING BY GROWING A SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO BETTERING THEIR LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD AND ANY INSINUATION OTHERWISE IS SIMPLY UNTRUE.

WE HOPE YOU APPROVE HIS APPLICATION TO PRESERVE OUR WORKING WATERFRONT AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

SINCERELY,
JENNIFER GOLDMAN

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
17	ASHLEY GERCZAK	04/19/2024 18:17:05 PM	FAVOR

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THOMAS HYDE'S FLOATING FARM APPLICATION IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.

AS RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN NECK, WE IMPORE THE VMRC TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THAT MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY RELY ON WORKING ON THE WATER AS A MEANS OF INCOME. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE INTEGRAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, PROVIDING JOBS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE VITALITY OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE REALIZE THAT HOMEOWNERS CAN OFTEN FIND THESE FARMS AS UNATTRACTIVE AND INCONVENIENT, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THIS AREA WAS BUILT BY OUR WATERMEN LONG BEFORE THEY BOUGHT WATERFRONT HOMES IN THE AREA. THEIR BUSINESS RUNS YEAR ROUND TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY, FELLOW BUSINESS OWNERS AND FULL TIME RESIDENTS SUCH AS MYSELF.

WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROTECTING OUR WORKING WATERFRONT. THIS APPLICATION PRESENTS US WITH A CHANCE TO PRESERVE OUR AREA'S HERITAGE. BY SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT, WE CAN ENSURE THE CONTINUED LIVELIHOODS OF OUR LOCAL WATERMEN AND MAINTAIN A VIBRANT WATERFRONT THAT HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS.

LASTLY, I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO ADDRESS THE DISHEARTENING PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THOMAS HYDE'S CHARACTER. THOMAS AND HIS WIFE ARE SOME OF THE BEST PEOPLE I KNOW - SALT OF THE EARTH. THEY ARE DEVOTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO MAKE A LIVING IN AN INDUSTRY THAT IS TYPICALLY UNFORGIVING BUT PROVIDES SUCH AN IMPORTANT RETURN TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND A CLEAN SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN. THEY DO THE RIGHT, HARD THING WITH INTEGRITY AND THAT IS RARE. WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE THEM IN THIS AREA AND TO HAVE THEM CHAMPIONING FOR THIS INDUSTRY IN THE WAY THAT THEY ARE. I'VE WORKED WITH THEM IN VARIOUS SETTINGS AS A FELLOW BUSINESS OWNER AND IN ORDER FOR MINE TO FLOURISH WE NEED MORE PEOPLE LIKE THEM. THEY BRING AN HONEST SUPPORTIVE VIVACIOUS VITALITY TO WHAT THEY DO. ANY INDICATION OF THEM BEING ANYTHING BUT THE BEST OF THE BEST IS SIMPLY UNTRUE AND I WOULD PUT MYSELF AND MY BUSINESS BEHIND THAT.

WE HOPE THEIR APPLICATION IS APPROVED SO THEY CAN CONTINUE TO DO THE GOOD WORK THEY ARE DOING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION,

ASHLEY GERCZAK
OWNER OF BLUE HONEY IRV, VA

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
18	ABBY ROBBINS	04/19/2024 21:42:30 PM	FAVOR

I AM IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT TO ADD FLOATING OYSTER CAGES ON A SMALL PORTION OF LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. THIS PARTICULAR FARMER/HARVESTER IS A LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER WHO HAVE PROVEN TO BE EXCELLENT STEWARDS OF THE SURROUNDING WATERS. THEY ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND KNOW THEIR CRAFT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WILL DISTURB THE CURRENT STATE OF THE CREEK AND WILL ONLY BE A BENEFIT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
19	CARROLL A RUTTER IV	04/19/2024 22:41:24 PM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION BECAUSE OF THE BENEFITS IT BRINGS THE CHESAPEAKE BAY ECOSYSTEM AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT OYSTERS BENEFIT THE BAY ECOSYSTEM, AND THERE SHOULD ALSO BE NO QUESTION THAT SUPPORTING LOCAL, SMALL BUSINESSES BENEFITS THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND PRESERVES THE AMERICAN DREAM. AN OYSTER FARM BENEFITS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING CLEANER WATER AND BETTER AQUATIC HABITAT FOR MANY MARINE SPECIES, IT'S ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS ARE UNDENIABLE. A FLOATING OYSTER FARM ALSO HAS THE BENEFIT OF BEING SAFER THAN A BOTTOM OYSTER FARM, BECAUSE A FLOATING OYSTER FARM IS MORE VISIBLE TO BOATERS THAN REGULAR OYSTER CAGES. THIS VISIBILITY IS RELATIVELY MINOR AND OF NO CONSEQUENCE TO NEIGHBORS ON THE WATER WHO CAN STILL ENJOY THEIR VIEW OF THE RIVER, BUT WITH EVEN MORE AQUATIC LIFE AND A HIGHER QUALITY ECOSYSTEM IN THEIR BACKYARDS. TOM AND CALLIE ARE ALSO EXCELLENT STEWARDS OF THE WATER, BOTH HAVING GROWN UP ON THE WATER AND BEEN RAISED TO TREAT IT WITH RESPECT AND TO LEAVE IT BETTER THAN THEY FOUND IT. THERE IS NO BETTER STEWARD OF THE WATER THAN STEAMBOAT WHARF AND I FULLY SUPPORT THEM IN THIS APPLICATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
20	ANNIE ARNEST	04/20/2024 07:41:53 AM	FAVOR

TOM & CALLIE HAVE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB OF STARTING AN OYSTER BUSINESS IN THE NORTHERN NECK. BY NETWORKING WITHIN THEIR INDUSTRY AND SUPPORTING OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES IN OUR REGION, THEYâ€™VE HELPED SHARE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR LOCAL OYSTER CULTURE AND ECONOMY.

I RUN A MARINA AND CLUB IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY, AND REALLY APPRECIATE TOM AND CALLIEâ€™S INVOLVEMENT IN OUR EVENTS. THEY COME OUT TO SHUCK OYSTERS BUT ALSO EDUCATE GUESTS ABOUT OYSTER FARMING, OFFER FARM TOURS, AND PROMOTE LOCAL BUSINESSES. THEY GRACIOUSLY SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE, WHICH IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT AND UNIQUE WAY OF LIFE HERE IN THE NORTHERN NECK, AND I KNOW THEY WILL THOUGHTFULLY GROW STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTERS AND CONTINUE TO BE AN ASSET TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Attachments:

Submitted photos for this comment will begin on next page.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1713613430.jpg



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
21	KELLIE MEGA	04/20/2024 12:47:17 PM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO FORMALLY DISPUTE THE APPLICATION BY THOMAS HYDE TO INSTALL 1225 OYSTER FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. AS A HOMEOWNER ON THIS WATERWAY, DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE INSTALLATION SITE, I AM OPPOSED TO DISRUPTING OUR ABILITY TO USE THE WATERWAY FOR RECREATION WITHOUT HAZARD. THAT AREA SPECIFICALLY IS USED FOR JET SKIING, BOATING, SWIMMING, KAYAKING, AND FISHING. THERE ARE SEVERAL HOMES THAT USE THIS AREA BEYOND OUR FAMILY AND IT GETS VERY BUSY IN WARMER WEATHER. THIS WOULD CAUSE A HAZARD TO NUMEROUS BOATERS AND SWIMMERS BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY BY FORCING NON-BOATING INDIVIDUALS INTO THE CHANNEL CAUSING DANGEROUS CONDITIONS. THE 2 ACRE FOOTPRINT CONSUMES A LARGE PORTION OF THE CREEK AND THE ADDITION OF 1200+ FLOATS IN THIS TIGHT SPACE WILL CERTAINLY BE AN EYESORE AND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO IMPACT PROPERTY VALUES AND SUBSEQUENTLY PROPERTY TAX REVENUES. I HAVE AN ADDITIONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE BIRD POOP THAT COLLECTS ON THESE UNITS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY PLAN TO COME FLIP THEM EVERY FEW WEEKS, HOWEVER, THIS IS SHALLOW WATER NOT OPEN WATER WHERE THE CONCENTRATION OF CONTAMINANTS PRESENTS A PROBLEM ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE SO MANY MANY SWIMMERS IN THIS CREEK. IT ADDS A NEW INFLUX OF CONCENTRATED BACTERIA AND RISK FOR US RESIDENTS HERE AND OUR FAMILY AND YOUNG ONES.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
22	MATT MEGA	04/20/2024 12:48:44 PM	OPPOSE

AS A PROPERTY OWNER IN THE BRIGHTWATERS NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATED ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK I'M WRITING TO NOTE MY OBJECTION TO APPLICATION 20240849. \R\N\R\NTHE REQUESTED PLACEMENT OF 1200+ OYSTER FLOATS POSES A SIGNIFICANT SAFETY HAZARD TO ALL USERS OF THE WATER. THE AFFECTED AREA IS ROUTINELY USED FOR LOW DRAFT BOATING, SWIMMING, KAYAKING, PADDLE BOARDING, AND FISHING. LOSS OF ACCESS TO THIS WATER WILL FORCE ALL PARTIES INTO THE NARROW CHANNEL USED FOR LARGER BOATS AND INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF A SERIOUS ACCIDENT.\R\N\R\NTHE LITTLE OYSTER CREEK WATER WAY IS A SMALL SPACE WITH MOSTLY SHALLOW WATERS AND IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARMS.\R\N\R\NTHANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS CONCERNING APPLICATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
23	ROBERTO M SARMENTO	04/21/2024 10:58:10 AM	OPPOSE

AS A VIRGINIA RESIDENT AND ADVOCATE FOR PROTECTING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AREA WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS APPLICATION. LAST SUMMER WE SOLD OUR PROPERTY AT 652 LITTLE OYSTER LANE, WHITE STONE VÃ• 22578 TO MARK AND KAREN ROLLAND. PRIOR TO THE SALE, WE OWNED THE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE PROSED PROJECT FOR 15 YEARS. DURING THAT 15-YEAR PERIOD WE HAVE SEEN IMPRESSIVE NATURAL RESTORATION OF SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION IN THE PROPOSED AREA. THE PROPOSED 1,225 OYSTER FLOATS AND CAGES WILL DESTROY THE PROGRESS OF THE NATURAL RESTORATION PROGRESS THAT WE HAVE SEEN BY OUR OWN EYES. THE SHADE FROM THE OYSTER CRATES WILL BLOCK SUNLIGHT AND DESTROY THE SAV. FURTHERMORE, THE MARSH AREA ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS HOME TO A FAMILY OF NESTING EAGLES WHOM DEPEND UPON THE FISH WHOM HIDE AND FEED UPON THE SAV. THIS PROPOSED PROJECT WILL DESTROY THE SAV, WHICH WILL REDUCE THE MARSHLAND FISH POPULATION AND DRIVE AWAY THE PROTECTED NESTING EAGLES. AS A 25-YEAR TAX PAYING RESIDENT IN VIRGINIA WE STRONGLY OPPOSE TO THIS PROPOSED PROJECT WHICH IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE SAV, AQUATIC LIFE AND EAGLES ALL OF WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY THE FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT AREA. WE HAVE ATTACHED PHOTOS OF AN EAGLE FAMILY THAT REGULARLY LIVE AND USE THIS HABITAT FOR THEIR HOME IN A TREE ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

Attachments:

Submitted photos for this comment will begin on next page.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1713711576.jpg



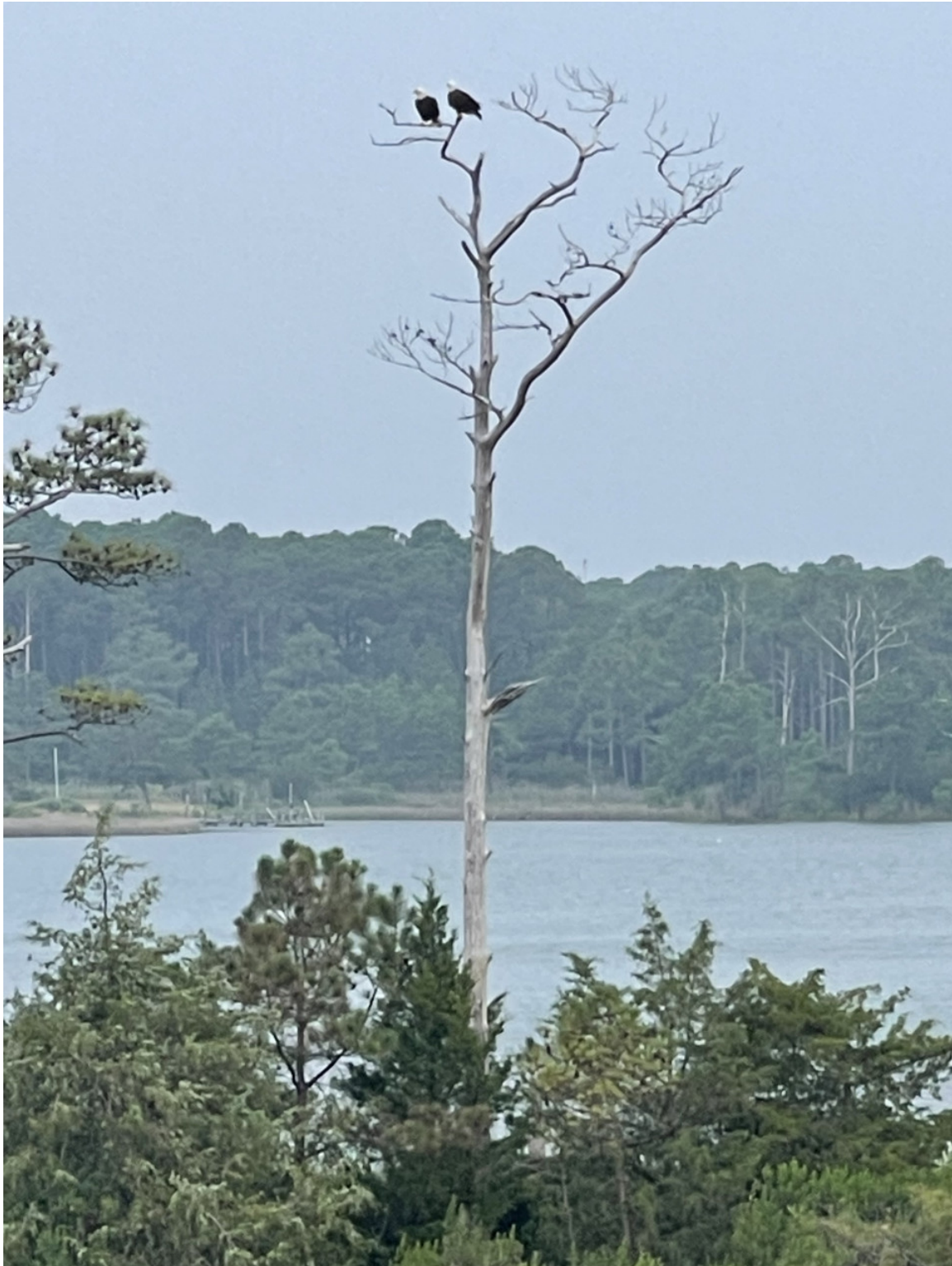
1713711577.jpg



**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Public Comments
Application Number 20240849**

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1713711578.jpg



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
24	TRAVIS B WILLOW	04/26/2024 10:24:43 AM	OPPOSE

IT IS SAD THAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THE FOLKS THAT LIVE IN AND AROUND LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AS BEING PEOPLE THAT DEFAME THE CHARACTER OF THE OWNERS OF STEAMBOAT OYSTERS. THAT IS NOT TRUE! IT IS SAD THAT WE ARE ALL BEING PORTRAYED AS FOLKS THAT DO NOT CARE ABOUT OR SUPPORT LOCAL WATERMEN. THAT IS NOT TRUE! THAT WE DO NOT CARE ABOUT KEEPING THE BAY CLEAN. THAT IS NOT TRUE! THAT WE SHOULD SELL OUR HOMES AND MOVE TO FLORIDA... HOLY SMOKES! WOW! I HAVE NOT MET THE OWNERS OF STEAMBOAT OYSTERS FACE TO FACE BUT I HAVE TALKED EXTENSIVELY WITH THOMAS ON THE PHONE AND THROUGH TEXT. I BELIEVE HE IS A GREAT GUY!!! I BELIEVE THAT HE LOVES THE NNK! I BELIEVE HE WANTS THE BEST FOR THE RIVER! I PERSONALLY CARE ABOUT HIM AND WANT HIM TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL! I BELIEVE THAT OYSTERS CLEAN THE WATER WHETHER THEY SIT ON THE BOTTOM OR FLOAT ON TOP ! I LOVE OUR WATERMEN! I USED TO DREAM OF BEING ONE AS A KID GROWING UP HERE. I PURCHASE AND EAT TONS OF LOCAL SEAFOOD! I HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS AND CLOSE FRIENDS THAT I LOVE WITH ALL OF MY HEART THAT ARE WATERMEN! WE LOVE WATERMEN! IT IS JUST NASTY AND WRONG FOR ANY OF US TO LIE ABOUT OTHER FOLKS AND MANIPULATE THE CONVERSATION JUST TO WIN A DEBATE. IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, WE ALL NEED TO JUST STOP TRYING TO PROVE OUR POINTS AND CUT TO THE CHASE. IF WE DO I THINK WE CAN ALL SEE THAT THIS ISSUE IS VERY SIMPLE. IT IS A "ZONING ISSUE". THERE IS ENOUGH WATER FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY AND MAKE A LIVING OFF OF. RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CAN RESIDE ON THE SAME WATERWAYS. JUST LIKE THE COUNTY IS NOT GOING TO ALLOW AMAZON THE BUILD A WAREHOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOOD, UNLESS AMAZON WANTS TO BUY EVERYONE OUT, FLOATING COMMERCIAL CAGES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO JUST START POPPING UP IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS. THIS ISSUE IS JUST THAT SIMPLE! THERE IS ENOUGH WATER FOR BOTH. IT JUST NEEDS TO BE SEPARATED. IT PROTECTS HOMEOWNERS AND THEIR INVESTMENT AND ALSO SETS BOUNDARIES THAT ALLOW COMMERCIAL FISHING AND OYSTERING TO THRIVE! IF THIS WAS A GROUND LEASE FOR FARMING ON THE BOTTOM... IT WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM FOR ME. I AM AGAINST OYSTER FLOAT FARMING IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK BECAUSE IT IS UGLY, STINKY AND WILL BE IN THE WAY OF OUR VIEWS, BOATING AND FISHING ACTIVITIES. IT WILL NOT BE A SAFE AREA FOR NAVIGATION AND RECREATION. THAT IS ALL! THIS IS NOT AN ATTACK ON ANYONES CHARACTER. THIS IS NOT BASHING THE WATERMEN PAST, PRESENT OR FUTURE! THERE ARE A LOT OF MY FELLOW CITIZENS IN THIS FORUM THAT BELIEVE THESE FLOATS ARE AMAZING TO PLACE IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE! REALLY??? THEY WILL EVEN BE ATTRACTIVE! REALLY??? IF I FIGHT AGAINST THIS... I DO NOT LOVE THOMAS, WATERMEN OR THE ENVIRONMENT! I NEED TO JUST SELL MY HOUSE AND MOVE! I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FOR ONE MINUTE ANYONE WOULD FEEL THAT WAY IF IT WAS BEING PROPOSED TO FLOAT THESE CAGES IN FRONT OF THEIR HOUSES. IF I AM WRONG... PROVE IT! LET THOMAS PROPOSE TO PUT 1225 CAGES IN FRONT OF HIS OWN HOUSE, HIS NEIGHBOR'S HOUSES, HIS FRIEND'S HOUSES, HIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATES BUSINESSES OR HOUSES, HIS FAMILY'S HOUSES. ARE THERE NOW ANY VOLUNTEERS OUT THERE?!?! ALL I ASK IS JUST PLEASE THOMAS... PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE... I BEG YOU TO NOT PUT THEM IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE... OR IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD! I TRULY LOVE OUR SHARED COMMUNITY, OUR SHARED WATERS AND I WISH EACH OF YOU THE VERY BEST!!!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
25	JILL H SHORES	04/21/2024 12:34:56 PM	FAVOR

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THOMAS HYDE'S FLOATING FARM APPLICATION IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.

AS RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN NECK, WE IMPORE THE VMRC TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THAT MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY RELY ON WORKING ON THE WATER AS A MEANS OF INCOME. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE INTEGRAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, PROVIDING JOBS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE VITALITY OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE REALIZE THAT HOMEOWNERS CAN OFTEN FIND THESE FARMS AS UNATTRACTIVE AND INCONVENIENT, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THIS AREA WAS BUILT BY OUR WATERMEN LONG BEFORE THEY BOUGHT WATERFRONT HOMES IN THE AREA.

WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROTECTING OUR WORKING WATERFRONT. THIS APPLICATION PRESENTS US WITH A CHANCE TO PRESERVE OUR AREA'S HERITAGE. BY SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT, WE CAN ENSURE THE CONTINUED LIVELIHOODS OF OUR LOCAL WATERMEN AND MAINTAIN A VIBRANT WATERFRONT THAT HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS.

LASTLY, I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO ADDRESS THE DISHEARTENING PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THOMAS HYDE'S CHARACTER. THOMAS AND HIS WIFE ARE STAND UP MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ARE DEVOTED TO MAKING A LIVING BY GROWING A SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO BETTERING THEIR LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD AND ANY INSINUATION OTHERWISE IS SIMPLY UNTRUE.

WE HOPE YOU APPROVE HIS APPLICATION TO PRESERVE OUR WORKING WATERFRONT AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

SINCERELY,
JILL SHORES

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
26	SARA WALDEN	04/21/2024 17:44:01 PM	OPPOSE

MY PRIMARY RESIDENCE IS WATERFRONT ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. THE REASON WHY I CHOSE MY HOME IS BECAUSE IT WAS A QUIET CREEK, ALBEIT IN SUMMER THERE ARE BOATERS, FLOATERS AND JET SKIERS. NOT ONLY WOULD THESE OYSTER FLOATS IMPEDE MY OWN BOATING AND QUIET LIFESTYLE, BUT THEY ALSO POSE A RISK TO ALL OF THE SEASONAL VISITORS WHO OFTEN DO NOT KNOW HOW TO SAFELY NAVIGATE THE CREEK WITHOUT THE ADDITION OF FLOATING OBSTACLES. IT WOULD FALL ON THE COMMUNITY OF LITTLE OYSTER CREEK TO HELP THESE SEASONAL VISITORS WHEN SOMETHING GOES WRONG. IT IS WHO WE ARE, TO HELP. THE BOATS COMING IN AND OUT TO HARVEST THE OYSTERS WOULD BE A GREAT DISTURBANCE TO THE PEACE OF THE CREEK AS WELL. SINCE MY HOME WOULD BE DIRECTLY IN VIEW OF THE PROJECT, MY ENTIRE HOME AND PEACE WOULD BE COMPROMISED. BY ALLOWING THIS PROJECT TO GO THROUGH, YOU WOULD BE FOREVER DISRUPTING THE TRANQUILITY OF THE CREEK AND CAUSING UNDUE STRESS ON THE RESIDENTS AND SURROUNDING WILDLIFE. PLEASE CONSIDER NOT ALLOWING THIS KIND OF DEVELOPMENT TO PASS AND POTENTIALLY PUSH OUT THOSE WHO CAME IN SEARCH OF QUIET AND BEAUTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Attachments:

Submitted photos for this comment will begin on next page.

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Public Comments
Application Number 20240849**

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1713735936.jpg



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
27	MICHAEL PEMBERTON	04/21/2024 21:39:14 PM	OPPOSE

WE ARE RESIDENTS OF LITTLE OYSTER LANE AND THIS PROJECT AFFECTS OUR NEIGHBORS AND COMMUNITY. WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE BEST WAY OF BALANCING THE BUSINESS NEEDS OF THE WATER MEN WITH THE RIGHTS OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS IN MAINTAINING THE VALUE AND PLEASURE THAT THEY HAVE PURCHASED IN THE FORM OF THEIR WATERFRONT PROPERTY. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T SEE THIS PROJECT AS A FAIR BALANCE. OUR FINAL DECISION HAS COME DOWN TO "WOULD WE WANT IT ON OUR CREEK?", AND THE ANSWER IS NO.

THE FLOATS ARE NOT SOMETHING WE WOULD WANT IN OUR BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF THE WATER. WE PURCHASED THIS PROPERTY SPECIFICALLY FOR ITS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. NOR WOULD WE WANT SOMETHING OF THIS SIZE TO MANEUVER AROUND ON THE WATER.

WHILE FAVORABLE RESPONSES HAVE NOTED THAT THE AREA WAS BUILT BY WATER MEN, AND WE HAVE AN APPRECIATION FOR THAT AS WELL AS FOR ANY STRIVING SMALL BUSINESS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT PROVIDES THEM AN INFINITE RIGHT TO IMPACT THE VALUE AND ENJOYMENT OF OTHERS WHEN THEY HAVE PURCHASED THEIR PROPERTY UNDER CURRENTLY EXISTING CONDITIONS.

THOMAS AND CALLIE ARE OUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS AS WELL AS OUR FRIENDS. THEY ARE GOOD, HARDWORKING PEOPLE THAT WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE SUCCEED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE HAD ANY ILL INTENT AT ALL AND REGRET THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO PERSONAL ATTACKS IN THIS SITUATION. HOWEVER, WE STILL FEEL THAT WE MUST OPPOSE THIS APPLICATION AS IT IS NOT SOMETHING WE WOULD WANT NEAR OUR PROPERTY AND THEREFORE DO NOT WISH TO SEE OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY NEGATIVELY IMPACTED. ADDITIONALLY, IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED, IT SEEMS THAT THE BAD OUTWEIGHS THE GOOD.

UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE PROBABLY MANY FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN SELECTING A SITE FOR THEIR OPERATION, AND THEIR OPTIONS MAY BE LIMITED IN SUITABLE SPOTS, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THEY COULD FIND SOMEWHERE THAT IS NOT SO STRONGLY OPPOSED BY SO MANY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
28	JASON C SMITH	04/22/2024 08:29:35 AM	OPPOSE

WHEN THOMAS AND CALLIE APPLIED FOR AN AREA OF BASIC SEAFOOD PROCESSING IN THE AREA, I HAD MY RESERVATIONS. AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE COUNTY AND THE APPLICANTS I WAS TOLD THAT THEIR BUSINESS WOULD NOT PUT CAGES IN THE CREEKS. GIVEN THAT AND A FEW OTHER ASSURANCES I GAVE MY SUPPORT TO THEIR APPLICATION. I REALIZE I AM JUST A SINGLE CITIZEN AND THE OYSTER BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY, BUT I FEEL THAT ALLOWING THIS APPLICATION TO BE APPROVED WILL JUST LEAD TO MORE CAGES AND AQUACULTURE MOVING FORWARD. THIS WILL IMPACT ALL THE HOME OWNERS ON THE CREEK AND WILL IMPACT OUR RECREATION USE BOATING, SKIING, FISHING, ETC AND DIMINISH OUR VIEWS. IN TURN THIS WILL LEAD TO DECREASED PROPERTY VALUES AND EVENTUALLY PROPERTY TAX REVENUE. I APPRECIATE THE CONSIDERATION OF MY COMMENTS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
29	DANIEL SCHIAVO JR.	04/22/2024 11:02:15 AM	OPPOSE

OPPOSE BECAUSE PROJECTS IN THE PAST WERE ILL MAINTAINED. UNSIGHTLY FOR RESIDENTIAL AREAS . FLOATS COVERED IN BIRD SHIT . FLOATS BROKE OFF AND FLOATED TO SHORELINE AND WERE NEVER PICKED UP . DEAD OYSTERS STUNK AND ATTRACTED HORDES OF FLIES. THIS WAS OUR EXPERIENCE WITH LAST FLOATING OYSTER FARM OFF HENRYâ€™S ISLAND SUBDIVISION. ALSO THEIR PLAN TO REMOVE DURING VIOLENT WEATHER WAS NEVER FOLLOWED THROUGH ON AND MANY OYSTER CAGES FLOATED TO SHORE DURING STORM

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
30	SOPHIA WOODS	04/24/2024 14:31:19 PM	FAVOR

I FULLY SUPPORT THE PROJECT TO INSTALL FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER BECAUSE OF THE ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF HAVING OYSTERS CLEANING OUR WATERWAYS, THE INCREASED SAFETY OF FLOATING CAGES VERSUS METAL BOTTOM CAGES, AND SUPPORTING LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES WITH FULL TIME RESIDENCY IN THE NNK IS ESSENTIAL TO THE ECONOMY AND THE COMMUNITY CULTURE OF OUR AREA.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, OYSTERS ARE NATURE'S INCREDIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANERS. A SINGLE OYSTER CAN FILTER UP TO 50 GALLONS OF WATER A DAY, REMOVING POLLUTANTS, NITROGEN, AND OTHER HARMFUL ELEMENTS. BY INSTALLING FLOATING OYSTER CAGES, WE'RE ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTING TO THE HEALTH AND CLEANLINESS OF OUR WATERWAYS, SUPPORTING THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM, AND PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT. IT'S AN ECOLOGICAL WIN-WIN.

ADDITIONALLY, FLOATING CAGES ON THE SURFACE ARE MUCH SAFER COMPARED TO METAL BOTTOM CAGES. THEY POSE FEWER HAZARDS TO BOATERS AND OTHER WATERWAY USERS, REDUCING THE RISK OF ACCIDENTS OR DAMAGE TO WATERCRAFT. THIS ASPECT IS CRUCIAL FOR MAINTAINING SAFETY WHILE FOSTERING THE GROWTH OF OUR LOCAL OYSTER INDUSTRY.

MOREOVER, SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT ALIGNS WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO BACKING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND OUR WORKING WATERFRONT. THE NORTHERN NECK HAS A RICH MARITIME CULTURE, WITH MANY FULL-TIME RESIDENTS DEPENDING ON THESE WATERWAYS FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD. THESE FLOATING CAGES CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, ALLOWING THEM TO THRIVE AND CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITY'S UNIQUE CULTURE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

FINALLY, LET'S NOT FORGET THE DEDICATION OF THOSE WHO USE THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YEAR-ROUND. THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR LOCAL MARITIME ECONOMY AND ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT MAINTAINING THE AREA'S VIBRANT SPIRIT. BY EMBRACING THIS PROJECT, WE'RE RECOGNIZING THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION WHILE ENSURING THAT OUR WATERFRONT REMAINS A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND PROSPERITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

IN CONCLUSION, SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION OF FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IS NOT JUST ABOUT ENHANCING OUR ENVIRONMENT IT'S ABOUT UPLIFTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY, PROMOTING SAFETY, AND BACKING THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE NORTHERN NECK A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
31	KRISTIAN T PRIMDAHL	04/22/2024 11:58:21 AM	OPPOSE

THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TURN INTO MORE POLLUTION ON OUR SHORELINES. THE BENEFIT FOR ONE DOESNâ€™T EQUATE TO THE LOSS FOR EVERYONE ELSE.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
32	JON BERGER	04/22/2024 13:01:17 PM	OPPOSE

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE COMMERCIALIZATION AND DESTRUCTION OF A OUR RESIDENTIALLY ORIENTED NEIGHBORHOOD. IT HAS NO BUSINESS IN AN INTERNAL RESIDENTIAL BAY OF WATER TO SAY NOTHING OF THE COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC TO THE MAIN AND SIDE ROADS. IT WOULD LOWER EVERYONE'S QUALITY OF LIFE WITH THE UNSIGHTLY VIEWS AND TRAFFIC BOTH MARINE AND LAND. IT WOULD LOWER EVERYONE PROPERTY VALUES AND CREATE GREATER RISK OF ACCIDENTS, AGAIN BOTH ON LAND AND IN THE WATER.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
33	STEPHANIE DAVIS	04/22/2024 16:12:01 PM	FAVOR

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THOMAS HYDE'S FLOATING FARM APPLICATION IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.

AS A RESIDENT OF THE NORTHERN NECK, I IMPORE THE VMRC TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THAT MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY RELY ON WORKING ON THE WATER AS A MEANS OF INCOME. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE INTEGRAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, PROVIDING JOBS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE VITALITY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

WE REALIZE THAT HOMEOWNERS CAN OFTEN FIND THESE FARMS AS UNATTRACTIVE AND INCONVENIENT, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THIS AREA WAS BUILT BY OUR WATERMEN LONG BEFORE THEY BOUGHT WATERFRONT HOMES IN THE AREA. WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROTECTING OUR WORKING WATERFRONT. THIS APPLICATION PRESENTS US WITH A CHANCE TO PRESERVE OUR AREA'S HERITAGE. BY SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT, WE CAN ENSURE THE CONTINUED LIVELIHOODS OF OUR LOCAL WATERMEN AND MAINTAIN A VIBRANT WATERFRONT THAT HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS.

LASTLY, I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO ADDRESS THE DISHEARTENING PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THOMAS HYDE'S CHARACTER. THOMAS AND HIS WIFE ARE STAND UP MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ARE DEVOTED TO MAKING A LIVING BY GROWING A SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO BETTERING THEIR LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD AND ANY INSINUATION OTHERWISE IS SIMPLY UNTRUE. WE HOPE YOU APPROVE HIS APPLICATION TO PRESERVE OUR WORKING WATERFRONT AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
34	HOPE SMITH	04/22/2024 16:19:44 PM	FAVOR

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THOMAS HYDE'S FLOATING FARM APPLICATION IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.

AS A RESIDENT OF THE NORTHERN NECK, I IMPORE THE VMRC TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THAT MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY RELY ON WORKING ON THE WATER AS A MEANS OF INCOME. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE INTEGRAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, PROVIDING JOBS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE VITALITY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

WE REALIZE THAT HOMEOWNERS CAN OFTEN FIND THESE FARMS AS UNATTRACTIVE AND INCONVENIENT, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THIS AREA WAS BUILT BY OUR WATERMEN LONG BEFORE THEY BOUGHT WATERFRONT HOMES IN THE AREA. WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROTECTING OUR WORKING WATERFRONT. THIS APPLICATION PRESENTS US WITH A CHANCE TO PRESERVE OUR AREA'S HERITAGE. BY SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT, WE CAN ENSURE THE CONTINUED LIVELIHOODS OF OUR LOCAL WATERMEN AND MAINTAIN A VIBRANT WATERFRONT THAT HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS.

LASTLY, I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO ADDRESS THE DISHEARTENING PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THOMAS HYDE'S CHARACTER. THOMAS AND HIS WIFE ARE STAND UP MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ARE DEVOTED TO MAKING A LIVING BY GROWING A SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO BETTERING THEIR LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD AND ANY INSINUATION OTHERWISE IS SIMPLY UNTRUE. WE HOPE YOU APPROVE HIS APPLICATION TO PRESERVE OUR WORKING WATERFRONT AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
35	GEORGE B WILLIAMS	04/22/2024 18:05:13 PM	OPPOSE

LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS A SMALL CREEK ADJOINING WINDMILL POINT CREEK WHERE I LIVE. INGRESS AND EGRESS WILL BE FURTHER LIMITED FOR WINDMILL POINT CREEK, LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND BIG OYSTER CREEK. IS THERE A REASON WHY THIS FARMING CANNOT BE DONE IN THE RIVER OTHER THAN WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE MUCH MORE OBTRUSIVE. THIS FARMING WILL ALSO DETRACT FROM THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE CREEKS FOR THOSE OF US, LIKE MYSELF,, WHO HAVE INVESTED IN OUR HOME, AND USE THE CREEK FOR FISHING AND OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
36	DONITA L HARLOWE	04/22/2024 18:55:39 PM	OPPOSE

MY MAIN CONCERN IS THE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC ON A SINGLE LANE GRAVEL ACCESS ROAD WITH MINIMAL PULL OFF LOCATIONS DUE TO WET CONDITIONS. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THE GRAVEL ROAD WITH THE HEAVY DELIVERY TRUCKS AND ADDED TRAFFIC DUE TO THEIR CUSTOMERS COMING TO PICK UP THEIR OYSTERS. THIS GRAVEL ROAD IS MAINTAINED BY A RESIDENT THAT LIVES ON THE ROAD FREE OF CHARGE AND THE REMAINING PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS PAY FOR THE ADDITIONAL GRAVELâ€"IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO A FAIR CALCULATION OF THE ADDED EXPENSE THEIR PATRONS AND BUSINESS HAS ADDED TO THE DETERIORATION OF THE GRAVEL ROAD TO MAKE IT A FAIR EXPENSE OF NEW GRAVEL WHEN NEEDEDâ€"THEREFORE COSTING THE PROPERTY OWNERS ON THE GRAVEL ROAD ADDITIONAL MONEY TO SUPPORT THEIR BUSINESSâ€"

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
37	ELIZABETH ROLAND	04/22/2024 21:18:00 PM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO FORMALLY OPPOSE THOMAS HYDE'S APPLICATION 20240849 FOR 1225+ OYSTER CAGES ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. AS MANY OTHERS WHO LIVE ON WINDMILL POINT ROAD AND LITTLE OYSTER LANE HAVE VOICED, I BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD NOT ONLY OBSTRUCT A BEAUTIFUL AREA, BUT PROPOSE A SIGNIFICANT SAFETY HAZARD AS WELL. IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR BOAT TRAFFIC, JET SKIS, WATER SKIERS, SWIMMERS AND MORE TO USE THIS CREEK TO ENJOY. WITH THIS OPERATION IN THE CREEK, ALL OF US WHO USE THE CREEK NOW FACE POSSIBLY GETTING INJURED, OR OUR VESSELS GETTING STUCK IN TRYING TO MANEUVER AROUND THE OPERATION. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT MYSELF, MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND MORE IN THE COMMUNITY ARE INCREDIBLY THANKFUL AND FULLY SUPPORT WATERMEN AND ALL THAT THEY DO TO MAKE A LIVING AND PROVIDE FRESH FOOD FOR NOT ONLY THEIR OWN FAMILIES AND ALL OF US IN THE COMMUNITY. ADDITIONALLY, NONE OF US ARE STRANGERS TO THE HEALTH OF THE BAY, AS MANY OF US LIVE ON THE WATER, OF COURSE WE WANT THE WATER TO BE HEALTHY- WE ARE THE ONES SWIMMING IN IT AND USING IT! MY FAMILY IS HEAVILY INVOLVED TO THE PROTECTION AND UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF OYSTERS, BUT MR. HYDE'S OPERATION HOLDS IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE MOVING FORWARD. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER PLACES THAT MR. HYDE CAN PLACE HIS OPERATION THAT ARE AWAY FROM THE PEACEFUL NEIGHBORHOOD ON LITTLE OYSTER LANE THAT WE ALL LIVE IN AND HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
38	BRANDY BECKER	04/23/2024 08:21:00 AM	OPPOSE

I WAS RECENTLY MADE AWARE OF AN APPLICATION TO PUT 1225 OYSTER FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I AM HIGHLY OPPOSED TO THIS. THE PERMIT NUMBER IS 20240849 AND WAS APPLIED FOR UNDER THOMAS HYDE. MY HUSBAND AND I OWN PROPERTY AT 753 BRIGHTWATERS DR IN WHITE STONE. OUR HOUSE IS DIRECTLY ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND ACROSS FROM WHERE THESE CAGES WILL BE. HAVING THESE FLOATING BASKETS WILL AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO BOAT, KAYAK, JET SKI, AND TUBE WITH OUR CHILDREN IN THIS CREEK. AGAIN, WE ARE HIGHLY OPPOSED TO THESE CAGES AND THIS PERMIT BEING APPROVED.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
39	JUDY AND TOM PACE	04/23/2024 08:22:59 AM	OPPOSE

WE ARE PROPERTY OWNERS AT WINDMILL CREEK LANE, WHITE STONE VA. WE PURCHASED OUR PROPERTY APRIL 2020, EXACTLY 4 YEARS AGO.\R\N\R\N\I WRITE TO OPPOSE THE APPROXIMATELY 1225 FLOATING FLIP FARM BASKETS. HONESTLY WE PURCHASED OUR PROPERTY CAREFULLY AND WAS LOOKING FOR QUIET CREEKS TO KAYAK, PADDLE BOARD FISHING AND JET SKI. KNOWING THAT THE COUNTY FUNDED AND INSTALLED A KAYAK LAUNCH JUST BELOW US ON WINDMILL CREEK, WE FELT CERTAIN OUR CREEK AND THE OTHER CREEKS ADJOINING WOULD BE QUIET FOR ALL OF OUR ENJOYMENT. \R\N\R\N\WE FEEL THAT THE FLOATING BASKETS WILL PROHIBIT MANY OF THOSE ACTIVITIES AND THEREFORE STRONGLY OPPOSE THEM. WE AS WELL AS MANY NEIGHBORS WOULD LIKE OUR CREEK AND ADJOINING CREEKS BE A QUIET REFUGE FOR FISH, BIRDS, AND WATER SPORTS NOT ENJOYED ON THE BIG RIVER.\R\N\R\N\THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING OUR REQUEST!\R\N\FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT IF WE NEED TO MAKE DO ANYTHING MORE TO OPPOSE THIS PERMIT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
40	MERRY-LYNN SHEETZ	04/23/2024 08:24:19 AM	OPPOSE

I LIVE ON FLEETS ISLAND AND I ADAMANTLY OPPOSE THOMAS HYDE'S PROPOSAL, 20240849, TO INSTALL UP TO 1,225 FLOATING FLIP FARM BASKETS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IN LANCASTER COUNTY, VA.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
41	JANET DUNHAM	04/23/2024 08:26:37 AM	OPPOSE

I HAVE A HOUSE ON LITTLE OYSTER LANE IS RESIDENTIAL DONâ€™T KNOW HOW A BUSINESS CAME IN THERE AN WANTS TO PUT OUT 1200 OYSTER FLOATS AN SELL OYSTERS FROM HOUSE PUTTING WEAR ON OUR ROAD THIS NEEDS BE CHANGED IT WAS A QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD AN NOW ITâ€™S NOT Iâ€™M EMAILING TO COMPLAIN

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
42	GUY MILLER	04/23/2024 09:42:24 AM	OPPOSE

THIS IS A LARGE AREA OF FLOATS IN A NARROW WATERWAY THAT IMPACTS THE SAFETY OF THOSE USING SAID WATERWAY. IT ALSO IMPACTS THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE AREA. HOMEOWNERS IN THIS REGION PAID A PREMIUM ON THEIR PROPERTY PURCHASE AND THEREFORE ALSO THEIR TAXES TO BE ABLE TO VIEW, USE, AND ENJOY THIS NATURAL HABITAT. THIS PROJECT WILL BE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THESE PROPERTIES AND PROPERTY VALUATIONS. FURTHER ONGOING OPERATIONS TO MAINTAIN AND HARVEST THESE CAGES WILL CREATE NOISE AND OTHER NUISANCES. WHILE I SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF LOCAL FISHERMEN TO EARN A LIVING FROM THE WATER, I CANNOT SUPPORT EITHER THIS LOCATION OR THE SIZE OF THE PROJECT,

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
43	ANNIE HUDNALL	04/23/2024 10:40:30 AM	FAVOR

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THOMAS HYDE'S FLOATING FARM APPLICATION IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.

AS RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN NECK, WE IMPORE THE VMRC TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THAT MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY RELY ON WORKING ON THE WATER AS A MEANS OF INCOME. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE INTEGRAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, PROVIDING JOBS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE VITALITY OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE REALIZE THAT HOMEOWNERS CAN OFTEN FIND THESE FARMS AS UNATTRACTIVE AND INCONVENIENT, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THIS AREA WAS BUILT BY OUR WATERMEN LONG BEFORE THEY BOUGHT WATERFRONT HOMES IN THE AREA.

WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROTECTING OUR WORKING WATERFRONT. THIS APPLICATION PRESENTS US WITH A CHANCE TO PRESERVE OUR AREA'S HERITAGE. BY SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT, WE CAN ENSURE THE CONTINUED LIVELIHOODS OF OUR LOCAL WATERMEN AND MAINTAIN A VIBRANT WATERFRONT THAT HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS.

THOMAS AND HIS WIFE ARE STAND UP MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ARE DEVOTED TO MAKING A LIVING BY GROWING A SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO BETTERING THEIR LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD AND ANY INSINUATION OTHERWISE IS SIMPLY UNTRUE.

WE HOPE YOU APPROVE HIS APPLICATION TO PRESERVE OUR WORKING WATERFRONT AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

SINCERELY,
ANNIE

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
44	LEE B CEPERICH	04/23/2024 11:27:01 AM	OPPOSE

THE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THIS AQUACULTURE PROJECT IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK SHOULD BE DENIED FOR SEVERAL REASONS INCLUDING SCALE, WILDLIFE, SAV, AND IMPACT ON RESIDENTS WHO ENJOY THE COMMUNITY SPACE AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE CREEK.

THE CREEK CHANNEL IS TOO NARROW TO SUPPORT THE SCALE OF FARMING PROPOSED. THERE IS ALREADY A LOT OF BOAT TRAFFIC IN THE AREA AND 1,225 FLOATING FLIP FARMS WILL FURTHER SQUEEZE THE NAVIGABLE PORTION OF THE CREEK. IN ADDITION, THE LARGE SCALE EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO FLIP AND HARVEST THE TRAPS WOULD BE A FURTHER HINDERANCE AND DOES NOT BELONG IN THE NARROW WATERWAY.

AFTER REVIEWING THE AREA ON THE WATER IN PERSON, I CAN SAY THAT THERE IS MORE SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION SAV BEYOND THE TWO MARKERS TOWARDS THE CHANNEL AREA, OVER WHICH THE TRAPS WOULD BE PLACED. ALSO THERE COULD BE AN IMPACT TO WILDLIFE. THE HOG NOSE RAY MIGRATION THAT OCCURS EACH SPRING WOULD BE IMPEDED SOMEWHAT, AND A PAIR OF SWANS FREQUENTLY CONVEINE IN THE EXACT AREA IN WHICH THE TRAPS WOULD SIT.

LASTLY, OYSTER TRAPS ARE AN EYESORE AND SHOULD NOT BE DEPLOYED NEAR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OR IN A NARROW WATERWAY WHICH IS USED PRIMARILY FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AND IS A SHARED SPACE OF PEACE AND BEAUTY.

STEAMBOAT OYSTER COMPANY IS AN ESTEEMED LOCAL BUSINESS AND I WISH THEM WELL BUT THIS PROJECT IS NOT A GOOD FIT FOR THIS LOCATION. PERHAPS THEY COULD ADD TRAPS TO THE LARGE AREA THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN LEASED OFF MOSQUITO POINT WHICH IS A PERFECT LOCATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
45	RUTH H FULLER	04/26/2024 12:05:00 PM	FAVOR

I WOULD THINK THE COMMUNITY WOULD LEAP AT THE CHANCE TO TAKE US TO OUR ROOTS WHILE STILL ADHERING TO OUR MODERN VACATION LIFESTYLE. OYSTERS PUT THIS AREA ON THE MAP CENTURY + AGO AND IS HOW MUCH OF THIS "FAMILY LAND" I. THE AREA CAME TO BE, ON THE BACKS OF HARD WORKING BLUE COLLAR WATER FAMILIES.

PLUS OYSTERS ARE UNDISPUTEDLY GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND A BIG INITIATIVE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ENCOURAGE. HAVING FLOATING CAGES ON THE SURFACE LIKE THIS APPLICATION IS MUCH SAFER THAN METAL BOTTOM CAGES FOR THE SILT AND LOCAL ECOSYSTEM.

GIVEN STRUGGLES PEOPLE HAVE HAD WITH FINDING ROUTINE SERVICES AND CARE SUCH AS DENTISTRY OR GENERAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS MEANS WE NEED TO SUPPORT NOT BEING A SEASONAL ONLY PLACE TO LIVE. WE HAVE TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO WANT THE HARD WORK OF OUR WORKING WATERFRONT AND SMALL BUSINESSES AS FULL TIME RESIDENTS OF THE NNK. IF THERE IS A STABLE THRIVING LOCAL POPULATION THEN SEASONAL RESIDENTS WILL THRIVE ALL THE MORE!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
46	SONIA AND JACK MOURIS	04/23/2024 14:14:15 PM	OPPOSE

WE ARE WRITING TO FORMALLY EXPRESS OUR OBJECTIONS TO THE APPLICATION FOR OYSTER CAGES TO BE PUT INTO LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IN WHITE STONE, VIRGINIA APPLICATION 20240849 . AS DIRECT NEIGHBORS OF THOMAS AND CALLIE HYDE, WE WANT NOTHING BUT THEIR CONTINUED SUCCESS AND THINK THEY ARE OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS. THEY HAVE EASED OUR CONCERNS OVER INCREASED TRAFFIC, ROAD MAINTENANCE, AND THE PLACEMENT OF A RETAIL LOCATION ON OUR LANE- NONE OF WHICH WILL CAUSE ANY ISSUES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. THAT BEING SAID, WE MUST OBJECT TO THIS PARTICULAR APPLICATION AND VENTURE IN THEIR BUSINESS. THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF OVER 1,000 OYSTER CAGES 64,000+ SQUARE FEET WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT NUMEROUS FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ENJOYED THIS AREA FOR YEARS, MAKING VARIOUS POPULAR WATER ACTIVITIES LESS SAFE AND IMPACTING THE UNTOUCHED NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SO BELOVED. CONSIDERING THESE FACTORS, APPROVAL OF THIS APPLICATION WOULD COME AT A SIGNIFICANT COST FOR THE OVERALL COMMUNITY. THANK YOU, SONIA AND JACK MOURIS OF LITTLE OYSTER LANE

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
47	DEBRA L CORNS	04/25/2024 11:58:48 AM	OPPOSE

I HIGHLY OPPOSE THIS PROJECT BEING ONE OF THE RESIDENTS ON LITTLE OYSTER LANE. LITTLE OYSTER LANE IS A SINGLE LANE GRAVEL ROAD WITH FEW AREAS TO PULL OFF WITH ONCOMING TRAFFIC! WE PAY TO HAVE THE ROAD GRAVELED AND MAINTAINED. WE ALREADY HAVE MORE TRAFFIC FROM RENTERS COMING IN AND OUT ALL DAY AT HIGHER SPEED LIMITS THAN POSTED. ADDING THESE CAGES WOULD INCREASE THE TRAFFIC OF CUSTOMERS ON THIS ROAD. I ALSO OPPOSE THIS PROJECT FOR MY NEIGHBORS ADJACENT AND ACROSS FROM THE PROPOSED AREA OF THE CAGES, BECAUSE NOT EVERYONE WANTS THIS VISUAL!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
48	ANDREW CLARK	04/23/2024 13:45:47 PM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO OPPOSE THE 1,225 FLOATING FLIP FARM BASKETS THAT ARE BEING APPLIED FOR ON APPLICATION 20240849. THE AREA WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED IS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF OUR FAMILY HOME. THE CREEK IN THAT AREA IS NOT VERY DEEP LEAVING A NARROW CHANNEL. THESE FLOATS WOULD COVER UP A LOT OF THE NAVIGATION AREA NEEDED. THIS IS ALSO A PRIME FISHING SPOT FOR MANY RECREATIONAL ANGLERS WHICH WOULD NO LONGER BE FISHABLE. FINALLY THAT AREA IS GREAT FOR WATER SPORTS AND IS USED BY MANY PEOPLE EACH SUMMER TO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN HOW TO WATER SKI, TUBE AND WAKEBOARD. IF THESE FLOATS ARE INSTALLED THEY WOULD TAKE UP THE SPACE FOR SAFELY TURNING AROUND IN THE CREEK AND WOULD PREVENT PEOPLE FROM SAFELY PARTICIPATING IN WATER SPORTS. ONE PERSON'S GAIN SHOULD NOT OUTWEIGH THE COMMUNITIES USAGE OF A PARTICULAR AREA.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
49	KEVIN C RILEY	04/23/2024 14:07:31 PM	OPPOSE

I WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY OPPOSE THE PLACEMENT OF OYSTER FLOATS IN THAT LOCATION. I LIVE CLOSE BY AND USE THE AREA FOR BOATING AND FISHING. AND JUST AS IMPORTANT, IT WOULD DETRACT FROM THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE AREA.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
50	BRIDGET MURRELL	04/23/2024 18:36:26 PM	OPPOSE

THIS IS PROPERTY THAT DOES NOT NEED TO BE TOUCH, LEAVE IT ALONE! LET NATURE BE NATURE! THIS BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE THAT OWN THE PROPERTY TO ENJOY NOT GOVERNMENT OR VIRGINIA MARINE PEOPLE

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
51	PAUL FOX	04/23/2024 21:22:09 PM	OPPOSE

MY FAMILY BOATS AND ENJOYS THE WATERS IN THIS AREA. MAJOR OBSTACLE AND EYE SORE. DO WE REALLY NEED THIS?

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
52	LELAND K CURRIER	04/24/2024 08:25:21 AM	OPPOSE

I HOPE THIS EMAIL FINDS YOU WELL. I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY DEEP CONCERNS REGARDING THE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR A FLOATING AGRICULTURE OYSTER FARM ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. AS A PARTY WITH AN INTEREST IN THE CREEK, MY FAMILY HAS OWNED PROPERTY ACROSS FROM THE PROPOSED LOCATION SINCE 1948. I AM TROUBLED BY THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THIS PROPOSED FARM, PARTICULARLY ITS IMPACT ON THE NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE CREEK, DISRUPTION TO WILDLIFE, AND CONCERNS WITH THE LEASES PLANS ALTOGETHER.

THE PLACEMENT OF THE FARM RAISES SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT OBSTRUCTION AND DISRUPTION TO THE NATURAL FLOW OF THE CREEK.

1. OVER THE PAST DECADE, THERE HAS BEEN NOTICEABLE SHOALING BETWEEN TWO POINTS OF LAND, WITH SAND SHIFTING FROM THE CREEK ENTRANCE AND SETTLING ACROSS FROM THE PROPOSED FARM LOCATION. MOREOVER, THE PROVIDED WATER DEPTH DATA DOES NOT ACCURATELY DEPICT THE BOTTOM CONTOUR, INDICATING POTENTIAL DISCREPANCIES IN THE PROJECT'S PLANNING.

2. THE PROPOSED LOCATION IS GOING TO GREATLY DECREASE THE WIDTH ON THE NAVIGABLE WATERWAY BY APPROXIMATELY 1/4 OF THE CURRENT NAVIGABLE AREA, WATER DEPTH OF AT LEAST 4'™. THE PLANS ARE TO HAVE THE FLOATS 200'™ FROM THE SHORELINE WITH 8 ROWS SPACED 20'™ APART CREATING A DISTANCE OF 360'™ FROM EASTERN SHORELINE. THE DISTANCE FROM SHORELINE TO SHORELINE, USING AQUA MAPS IS 960'™.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FLOATING AGRICULTURAL FARM IN VIRGINIA COULD INADVERTENTLY LEAD TO VIOLATIONS CONCERNING THE HABITATS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BALD EAGLE POPULATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH VIRGINIA'S GUIDANCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BALD EAGLE NESTS, CONCENTRATION AREAS, AND COMMUNAL ROOSTS IN VIRGINIA: A GUIDE TO LANDOWNERS. BALD EAGLES, EMBLEMATIC SYMBOLS OF AMERICAN PRIDE AND CONSERVATION SUCCESS, RELY HEAVILY ON UNDISTURBED HABITATS FOR BREEDING, FEEDING, AND COMMUNAL ROOSTING. IF SUCH A FARM IS PLACED WITHOUT THOROUGH CONSIDERATION OF EAGLE NESTING SITES AND CONCENTRATION AREAS, IT RISKS DISRUPTING THE BREEDING AND FEEDING PATTERNS OF A BREEDING PAIR OF BALD EAGLES, THESE EAGLES PERCH ON A DEAD TREE DIRECTLY ABOVE WHERE THE FLOATING STRUCTURES ARE BEING PROPOSED. THE EAGLES MAY PERCEIVE THE FLOATING STRUCTURES AS THREATS OR INTRUSIONS, ALTERING THEIR BEHAVIOR AND POTENTIALLY CAUSING THEM TO ABANDON NESTS OR SEEK ALTERNATIVE, LESS SUITABLE HABITATS. FURTHERMORE, DISTURBANCES TO COMMUNAL ROOSTING AREAS COULD DISRUPT THE SOCIAL DYNAMICS AND COMMUNAL BEHAVIORS VITAL FOR EAGLE SURVIVAL. THUS, CAREFUL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES ARE IMPERATIVE TO ENSURE THE COEXISTENCE OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND THE PROTECTION OF BALD EAGLE POPULATIONS IN VIRGINIA.

THE REQUESTER OF THIS APPLICATION HAS PROVIDED A COPY OF THEIR APPLICATION TO THE RESIDENTS AND OTHER PARTIES WITH INTEREST IN THE CREEK. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WITHIN THE APPLICATION IS QUITE CONFUSING REGARDING THE PURPOSE OF THIS FARM. IN PART 3 OF THIS APPLICATION, THEY STATE THAT THIS WILL BE A FULL-SCALE FARM WITHIN THE PERIMETER IDENTIFIED, BUT IN PART 3 SECTION 3, OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, THEY STATE THAT THIS SITE IS FOR A CONTINGENCY LOCATION FOR THEIR FARM THAT EXISTS NEAR MOSQUITO ISLAND. SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS APPLICATION REQUESTING? IF THEY REQUEST A FARM CONSISTING OF 8 ROWS SPACED 20'™ PERMANENTLY FIXED TO THE SEABED, WHERE DO THEY PLAN TO LOCATE THE FARM THAT WOULD BE BROUGHT IN FROM THE BAY DURING A WEATHER EVENT? ALSO, IF TRAPS ARE BROUGHT IN ON A TEMPORARY BASIS DUE TO WIND, THEY WILL BE TEMPORARILY FIXED TO THE SEA FLOOR WHICH WILL LEAD TO A HIGHER RISK OF BREAKING FREE AND

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Public Comments
Application Number 20240849**

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

CAUSING DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY.\R\nLASTLY, APPROXIMATELY 1000 FEET FROM THE PROPOSED POSITION, PERMANENT SIGNS WARNING AGAINST CONSUMING SHELLFISH FROM THE CREEK WERE ONCE POSTED. HOWEVER, THESE SIGNS HAVE SINCE VANISHED DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, INCLUDING ICE AND THE USE OF GALVANIZED POSTS IN A BRACKISH WATER ENVIRONMENT. THIS UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSIDERING HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENTAL DATA IN EVALUATING THE SUITABILITY OF THE PROPOSED LOCATION FOR AN OYSTER FARM.\R\nIN LIGHT OF THESE CONCERNS, I URGE YOU TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THIS OYSTER FARM ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS. MOREOVER, I REQUEST IMMEDIATE STEPS BE TAKEN TO RECTIFY THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND ENSURE THAT ALL AFFECTED RESIDENTS ARE PROPERLY INFORMED AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.\R\nTHANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER. I EAGERLY ANTICIPATE YOUR RESPONSE AND TRUST THAT APPROPRIATE ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN TO-ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS PROMPTLY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
53	JEFFREY TAYLOR	04/24/2024 08:26:52 AM	OPPOSE

I'M AM THE PROPERTY OWNER OF BRIGHTWATERS DRIVE WHITESTONE VIRGINIA. I AM OPPOSED TO THE PERMIT APPLICATION BY MR. THOMAS HYDE NUMBER 20240849. THE SITE IS SURROUNDED BY WATERFRONT HOMES WHOSE VIEWS WILL BE DIMINISHED AND PROPERTY VALUES DECREASED BY THE ARRAY OF FLOATING CAGES. THERE ARE HUGE ALTERNATE AREAS OF SHALLOW WATER IN THE RAPPAHANNOCK NEARBY WHERE THE CAGES COULD BE SITED FARTHER FROM THE SHORE TO MITIGATE THEIR NEGATIVE IMPACT. FURTHERMORE THE NARROW CHANNEL SELECTED FOR THE PROPOSED SITE IS HEAVILY USED BY BOATERS, FISHERMAN, KAYAKERS AND FOR WATER-SKIING AND TUBING. I REQUEST THE APPLICATION BE REJECTED.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
54	CARY CARRINGTON	04/24/2024 08:33:12 AM	OPPOSE

I AM OPPOSED TO THE THOMAS HYDE OYSTER APPLICATION 20240849 ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK WHITE STONE, VIRGINIA. I AM A RESIDENT OF THE CREEK I DO NOT WANT A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS TO TAKE OVER THE QUIET NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE CREEK.

Attachments:

https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/pc_pdfGet.php?id=893

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
55	JOHN W WOODS III	04/24/2024 11:33:48 AM	OPPOSE

I OPPOSE THIS PROJECT ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS PROPOSED BODY OF WATER IS SURROUNDED BY HOMES WHOSE OWNERS ENJOY THE UNOBSTRUCTED PEACE AND QUIET OF THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA OF NATURE. THE WATER IN THIS LITTLE COVE OYSTER CREEK IS MORE OR LESS A RESIDENTIAL AREA, BEING USED BY NON-RESIDENT AND RESIDENT ALIKE KAYAK FISHERMEN, KAYAKERS, PADDLE BOARD ENTHUSIASTS, PLEASURE BOATERS, WATER SKIERS, ETC. THIS COVE IS ALSO HOME TO GEESE, SWANS AND OTHER WATER FOWL. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER WATER RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THIS "ON-TOP-OF-THE-WATER" COMMERCIAL OYSTER ENTERPRISE OUTSIDE OF THE OYSTER CREEK COVE PARTICULARLY, ON THE LARGER EXPANSES OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER WHERE IT WILL NOT BE AN OBSTRUCTION TO THE PEACEFUL ENJOYMENT OF NATURE IN ITS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THANK YOU.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
56	CHRIS R HANLEY	04/24/2024 12:31:08 PM	FAVOR

WORKING ON THE WATER IS WHAT BUILT THIS AREA FROM ITS FOUNDATION. I HAVE NEVER SUBSCRIBED TO THE NOT IN MY BACKYARD MENTALITY. WHILE I DO NOT KNOW THESE YOUNG WATER MAN IT SEEMS THEY ARE TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING THE CORRECT WAY. I AM SURE BOATERS WILL HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM TO NAVIGATE AROUND THE FLOATS. I DO NOT SEE WHY SUCH A BIG DEAL IS BEING MADE OF THIS. I DO NOT LIVE ON FLEETS ISLAND HOWEVER MY MATERNAL SIDE OF THE FAMILY DATES BACK AT LEAST THE LAST 200 YEARS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
57	GIOVANNA CASTELLAT	04/24/2024 13:50:07 PM	FAVOR

SMALL FARMS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN LOCAL ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT. THEY CREATE LOCAL JOBS, BRING MONEY TO THE COMMUNITY, AND, IN THIS CASE, BETTER THE WATER QUALITY. IT IS GETTING PROGRESSIVELY HARDER TO FIND FARM FRESH PRODUCTS DUE TO THE LACK OF SUPPORT FROM LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE FARMERS CANNOT AFFORD TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES WITHOUT APPROPRIATE SUPPORT. THIS PROJECT WILL BRING SO MUCH GOOD TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, AS MENTIONED ABOVE. THEREFORE, IT DESERVES TO BE SUPPORTED AND GIVEN A FAIR CHANCE TO SUCCEED AND BETTER THE COMMUNITY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
58	HARRY G DASHIELL	04/24/2024 13:55:48 PM	FAVOR

THIS IS A FIRST CLASS OPERATION OWNED AND OPERATED BY A LOCAL YOUNG COUPLE USING STATE OF THE ART AQUACULTURE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY. THEY ARE KEEN STEWARDS OF THE LOCAL WATERS, ARE HELPING TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY TOP QUALITY OYSTERS TO THE LOCAL CONSUMERS AND RESTAURANTS AND EMPLOY AND EDUCATE PEOPLE FROM THE AREA. PLEASE APPROVE THIS APPLICATION!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
59	BRITTANNY ANDERSON	04/24/2024 14:36:18 PM	FAVOR

AS A CHEF AND BUSINESS OWNER WHO GREW UP IN THE NORTHERN NECK AND MIDDLE PENINSULA, I AM PERPETUALLY IN FAVOR OF ADDING MORE OYSTER FARMING TO OUR WATERS. NOT ONLY DOES THIS SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF A LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS AND YOUNG FAMILY, BUT IT ALSO SUPPORTS THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERS! OYSTER FARMING IS A WIN WIN FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND FOR OUR ECO SYSTEM!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
60	TAYLOR PARKER	04/24/2024 14:59:40 PM	FAVOR

CALLIE AND THOMAS ARE HARD WORKING LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS WHO ARE PROVIDING A PRODUCT THAT NOT ONLY SUPPORTS THEMSELVES BUT THEIR COMMUNITY. THEY HAVE ACTIVELY ANSWERED QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS OF RESIDENTS AND DESERVE THE ABILITY TO KEEP SERVING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH AQUACULTURE.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
61	BETHANY SMITH	04/24/2024 15:34:33 PM	FAVOR

THE APPLICANTS ARE YOUNG, LOCAL, SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS DOING GOOD IN LANCASTER COUNTY. THEY ARE CAREFUL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS WHO CARE NOT JUST ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THEIR BUSINESS, BUT ALSO ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR THEM. THEY WORK HARD TO MAKE A LIVING, AND FURTHER SUPPORT THEIR LOCAL ECONOMY BY SELLING THEIR PRODUCT LOCALLY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
62	TOM WAGNER	04/24/2024 19:42:53 PM	FAVOR

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSE MR. HYDE'S APPLICATION. THIS IS EXACTLY THE TYPE OF OPERATION THAT SHOULD ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE VMRC AND THE ENTIRE COMMONWEALTH. THIS IS A 12 MONTH A YEAR SMALL BUSINESS THAT SUPPORTS LOCAL WORKERS AND OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES IN VIRGINIA. FURTHER, THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF OYSTER FARMING ARE WELL DOCUMENTED AND INCLUDE IMPROVED WATER QUALITY BY REMOVING EXCESS NUTRIENTS AND SEDIMENT AS WELL AS REMOVAL AND CYCLING OF NITROGEN AND CARBON DIOXIDE. FINALLY, HIS OYSTERS ARE DELICIOUS!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
63	MIKE PHILHOWER	04/24/2024 20:37:15 PM	OPPOSE

I AM A PROPERTY OWNER IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I AM UNFORTUNATELY AGAINST THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THIS PROJECT. I AM ALL FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND MAXIMIZING THE NATURAL RESOURCES.

HOWEVER THIS PROJECT WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON BOTH OUR PRESENT VIEW OF THE NATURAL WATER LANDSCAPE AND PHYSICALLY LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF RECREATIONAL WATER IN THE CHANNEL DIRECTLY BEHIND OUR HOME THAT WE PRESENTLY ENJOY. WE PURCHASED THE HOME BECAUSE OF THIS ACCESS AND USE. WE BOAT, SAIL, AND FISH IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. BECAUSE OF THESE REALITIES, THE OYSTER FARM LOCATED IN THE PROPOSED LOCATION WOULD REDUCE THE RELATIVE MARKET VALUE OF OUR PROPERTY. WE OWN 5506 WINDMILL POINT RD. I HAVE ATTACHED A CURRENT PHOTO FROM OUR BACK DECK. AS YOU CAN SEE, PROPOSED OYSTER FARM WOULD BE IN OUR DIRECT VIEW.

Attachments:

Submitted photos for this comment will begin on next page.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1714005455.jpg



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
64	NATHANIEL M EVERETT	04/24/2024 19:53:44 PM	FAVOR

I AM IN FAVOR OF APPLICATION 20240849.

I AM A LOCAL SEAFOOD WHOLESALER AND RETAILER ASWELL AS A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN AND CRABBER IN THE WINDMILL POINT AREA.

THIS AREA DOES NOT HENDER RECREATIONAL OR COMMERCIAL BOAT TRAFFIC.

IT ALLOWS THE APPLICANTS TO WORK SAFELY IN HIGH WINDS AND MORE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY.

THE LOCAL AREA IS IN NEED OF MORE YOUNG AND LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS TO SUCCEED AND KEEP THE AREA GROWING. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES REQUEST FOR EXPANSION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
65	AILEEN WEBB	04/24/2024 19:45:42 PM	OPPOSE

MY GRANDFATHER OWNED AN OYSTER PACKING PLANT IN THIS COUNTY SO I HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED OYSTER MEN. THIS IS SIMPLY TOO MANY FLIP FARM BASKETS IN ONE SMALL AREA. START WITH A MUCH LOWER NUMBER LIKE 300 AND SEE HOW IT IMPACTS THE COMMUNITY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
66	ALLYSON M CHILDRESS	04/24/2024 20:16:36 PM	FAVOR

SUPPORT OF LOCAL FAMILIES WHO HAVE DEEP ROOTS HERE AND GENUINELY CARE ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE WATER WHILE ALSO BUILDING A SMALL BUSINESS THAT IN TURN SUPPORTS OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL IN OUR REGIONS SURVIVAL. STEAMBOAT WARF OYSTERS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF EDUCATED YOUNG PEOPLE STEPPING INTO AN OTHERWISE AGING INDUSTRY, BREATHING NEW LIFE AND BEST PRACTICES INTO THEIR WORK ON THE WATER.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
67	ELIZABETH HYDE	04/25/2024 14:58:29 PM	FAVOR

I AM WRITING THIS IN FAVOR OF THOMAS HYDE'S APPLICATION 20240849 IN REGARDS TO LEASING PART OF LITTLE OYSTER CREEK FOR OYSTER GROUNDS. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN LANCASTER ON THE WATER AND HAVE ALWAYS REGARDED WATERMEN AND AQUACULTURE WITH EXTREME REGARD AND UNDERSTAND THE ENORMOUS BENEFIT OYSTERS PROVIDE FOR OUR BELOVED WATERWAYS. THOMAS AND CALLIE ARE UPSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN NECK WHO PRIDE THEMSELVES ON CREATING STRONG ROOTS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. I AM QUITE ASTONISHED TO READ SUCH BACKLASH AGAINST THEIR CHARACTER IN THESE PUBLIC COMMENTS AS THEY HAVE TRIED TO FACILITATE AN AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING WITH ALL WHO SHARE THESE WATERWAYS YET HAVE NOT HEARD RESPONSES FROM MANY. THEY ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO AVOID CONFLICT AND APPEASE ALL PARTIES AROUND THEM AND HAVE EVEN OFFERED TO DECREASE THE SIZE OF THEIR PROPOSED PLAN, MAKING THEIR ALREADY SMALL ASKING PORTION EVEN SMALLER, BUT I DIGRESS.

WHILE I UNDERSTAND CONCERNS ABOUT AN "EYESORE" OR LOSS OF RECREATIONAL SPACE, I AM DISMAYED TO SEE HOW SOME HAVE DEFAMED THOMAS AND CALLIES CHARACTER, RESEARCH AND EXPERTISE IN THIS ENDEAVOR. FLIP CAGES ARE LOW PROFILE ON THE WATER AND SAFER THAN METAL CAGES ON THE SEAFLOOR. THEIR LEASING GROUNDS WILL ONLY COVER ROUGHLY 2% OF THE LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND WILL MINIMALLY, IF AT ALL, INHIBIT BOATING, TUBING OR OTHER LEISURE ACTIVITIES. THEIR REASONING FOR THIS PART OF THE CREEK AND NOT THEIR "OWN SIDE" IS ALSO IN NO WAY TO "PRESERVE THEIR OWN PROPERTY VALUE", NOR IS THERE ANY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT OYSTER CAGES DIMINISH PROPERTY VALUE IN GENERAL. WHILE THEY DO HAVE OTHER LEASED GROUNDS WHERE THEY GROW, THE SURF CAN BE TOO AGGRESSIVE WHICH CAN DAMAGE LARGER OYSTERS AND THEIR CAGES, WHEREAS THIS LOCATION WILL ALLOW THE OYSTERS TO FLOURISH DUE TO ITS SHIELDED POSITION WHICH IS VITAL FOR GROWTH. THE CONVERSATION AROUND "ADDED POLLUTION" IS ALSO BASELESS AS THERE IS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE IN AQUACULTURE AS TO HOW BENEFICIAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OYSTER GROWING CAN BE. IT WILL ONLY ADD TO THE ECOSYSTEM AND WILDLIFE THAT INHABITS THE AREA, ALLOWING MORE FISH, CRABS, AND BENEFICIAL MICROORGANISMS TO GROW. OYSTER GROWTH CAN ALSO AID IN NEGATING EROSION WHICH IS VITAL FOR WINDMILL POINT AND SURROUNDING COASTLINE, AND IN NO WAY HURT THE SWANS OR EAGLES.

THOMAS HAS DEVOTED HIS LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD SINCE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL OVER TEN YEARS AGO TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF AQUACULTURE AND WOULD ONLY DO SOMETHING BENEFICIAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. HIS KNOWLEDGE, DEDICATION, AND COMPASSION TO OTHERS SHOULD SERVE AS A BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY. HE AND CALLIE DO EVERYTHING BY THE BOOK AND FOLLOW EVERY REGULATION AND SAFETY PRECAUTION FOR WAYFARERS, AND HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY TO BUILD STEAMBOAT WHARF SMALL OYSTER FARM, NOT A LARGE COMMERCIAL OPERATION.

IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT THIS LEASE WILL BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ECOSYSTEM AS THOMAS AND CALLIE INTEND. I HOPE THAT WE AS MEMBERS OF THE NNK CAN COME TO AN AGREEMENT AND WORK TOGETHER, NOT AGAINST OUR WATERMEN TO HELP BETTER OUR LITTLE PIECE OF SANCTUARY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
68	THOMAS L HARLOW III	04/24/2024 22:09:38 PM	FAVOR

I THANK IT WILL CLEAN THE WATER IN THIS SHALLOW CREEK. I LIKE THE FACT THEY LIVE AND WORK ON THE CREEK.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
69	LAUREN HENEGHAN	04/24/2024 22:19:27 PM	FAVOR

STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY IS AN HONORABLE AND HARD WORKING BUSINESS THAT SHOULD BE ALLOTTED ACCESS TO RAISE OYSTERS TO BETTER THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND THE HEALTH OF OUR ECOSYSTEM.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
70	NICHOLAS F NONNEMACKER	04/25/2024 00:05:37 AM	FAVOR

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY FULL SUPPORT FOR STEAM BOAT WHARF OYSTER, AND THOMAS HYDE. THIS OYSTER FARMING BUSINESS, SITUATED ALONG THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN BOTH PROMOTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS IN OUR REGION.

STEAM BOAT WHARF OYSTER'S DEDICATION TO CULTIVATING CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE HEALTH OF OUR RIVERS AND BAY. OYSTERS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR REMARKABLE ABILITY TO FILTER AND CLEAN WATER, THEREBY IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND RESTORING AQUATIC HABITATS. BY SUPPORTING THIS BUSINESS, WE ARE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

FURTHERMORE, STEAM BOAT WHARF OYSTER SERVES AS A BEACON OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND DEDICATION TO THE NORTHERN NECK REGION. THOMAS, THE CO-FOUNDER, COULD HAVE PURSUED CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES ELSEWHERE, BUT HE HAS CHOSEN TO INVEST HIS SKILLS AND PASSION INTO BUILDING A BUSINESS RIGHT HERE IN OUR TOWN. HIS COMMITMENT, ALONG WITH THE EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE SUPPORT OF HIS WIFE AND BUSINESS PARTNER, CALLIE, EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERSHIP THAT IS VITAL TO THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY.

IT'S ESSENTIAL TO RECOGNIZE THAT OYSTER FARMING IS NOT MERELY A JOB BUT A WAY OF LIFE. THE DEDICATION AND EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO SUCCEED IN THIS INDUSTRY ARE IMMENSE, AND STEAM BOAT WHARF OYSTER EMBODIES THESE QUALITIES WHOLEHEARTEDLY. BY SUPPORTING THIS BUSINESS, WE ARE NOT ONLY ENDORSING ECONOMIC GROWTH BUT ALSO PRESERVING A CHERISHED TRADITION AND PROMOTING THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF OUR REGION.

IN CONCLUSION, I URGE YOU TO JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING STEAM BOAT WHARF OYSTER. TOGETHER, LET'S CELEBRATE AND CHAMPION LOCAL BUSINESSES LIKE THEIRS, WHICH PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE IDENTITY AND VITALITY OF OUR COMMUNITY. IF YOU TOOK THE TIME TO TALK TO THOMAS AND CALLIE, AND LEARNED MORE ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS WHICH THEY DO AN AMAZING JOB AT EDUCATING THE PUBLIC OF THROUGH THEIR INSTAGRAM, YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND THEY ARE GOOD PEOPLE AND ARE DOING GOOD THINGS TO SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY.

SINCERELY,
NICK NONNEMACKER

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
71	LEE C CURRIER	04/26/2024 19:30:03 PM	OPPOSE

RUINS THE VIEW,BEING BUILT IN EAGLE AREA, WILL ATTRACT SEAGULLS AND PELICANS THAT WILL PEACH ON THE FLOATS AND PARTIALLY BLOCK THE CREEK IN A NARROW AREA ANYWAY WITH THE SANDBAR ON THE OTHER SIDE.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
72	SAM FRIDAY	04/25/2024 10:25:52 AM	FAVOR

APPROVE. Iâ€™M A GRADUATE OF VIRGINIAâ€™S CHESAPEAKE BAY GOVERNORâ€™S SCHOOL AND CONDUCTED SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH ON THE POSITIVE BENEFITS OF ESTUARINE AQUACULTURE. THE PROMOTION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY OYSTER IS NOT ONLY BENEFICIAL FOR THE HEALTH OF THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM BUT ALSO A SUSTAINABILITY ECONOMIC SOLUTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE BAY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
73	ALEXANDRA CURTIS	04/25/2024 21:29:21 PM	FAVOR

THOMAS AND CALLIE TAKE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND THEM AND HELP THE ECONOMIC GROWTH LOCALLY. WE SHOULD BE THRILLED TO HAVE LOCAL WATERMEN AND NOT BIG CORPORATE BUSINESSES. ITâ€™S BAFFLING THAT JUST BECAUSE PEOPLE SPEND THEIR SUMMERS HERE THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE ENTITLED TO DICTATING WHERE LOCAL WATERMEN CAN DO THEIR BUSINESS. OYSTER FARMING ISNâ€™T GOING TO RUIN YOUR JET SKIING, TUBING OR PRECIOUS VIEW.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
74	AMY THOMAS	04/25/2024 10:56:46 AM	FAVOR

OUT LOCAL WATERS NEED ALL OF THE OYSTERS POSSIBLE TO BE GROWN BECAUSE THEY HELP CLEAN THE WATERS. ALSO, GROWING BUSINESS HELPS OUR ECONOMY

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
75	KEITH H KEHLBECK	04/25/2024 10:50:32 AM	OPPOSE

IN MY OPINION, THIS PROJECT IS ENTIRELY TOO LARGE FOR THE PROPOSED LOCATION. OVER 1200 FARM BASKETS WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE VIEW AND TRANQUILITY OF THE AREA FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WHO VALUE THE LOCATION. AS SOMEONE WHO HAS OWNED PROPERTY NEARBY FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS, WE OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT ON THIS SCALE. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT OYSTER FARMING HAS HAD A RENAISSANCE IN RECENT YEARS AND WE APPLAUD THIS , FARMING ON THIS SCALE, IN THIS LOCATION, IS NOT WARRANTED, NOR WOULD IT BE AN APPROPRIATE INFRINGEMENT ON NEARBY OWNERS' INTERESTS. PLEASE DENY THIS APPLICATION. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED...

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
76	ASHLYN E HILBURN	04/25/2024 11:18:12 AM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT THIS PROJECT TO INSTALL FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IN THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER. OYSTERS PROVIDE MANY ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS, ECONOMIC BENEFITS, AND FLOATING CAGES PROMOTE WATER SAFETY. OYSTERS ARE A NATURAL WATER FILTER THAT MAKE THE WATERS THEY INHABIT HEALTHIER. ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE A HOST OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAT COME FROM THE FARMING OF OYSTERS. SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT MEANS NOT ONLY SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF THE WATERWAY BUT SUPPORTING A SMALL BUSINESS AS WELL. IN SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES, YOU ARE ALSO SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY. TOWNS THRIVE WHEN ITS RESIDENTS ARE ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, WHICH IS WHAT THE HYDE'S DO. LASTLY, FLOATING CAGES ARE MUCH SAFER THAN METAL BOTTOM CAGES. WHILE THE FLOATING CAGES MIGHT BE AN "EYE SORE" FOR SOME RESIDENTS, THEIR VISIBILITY PROMOTES SAFETY OF THESE NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS, AND BEING ABLE TO SEE FLOATING OYSTER CAGES SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A NEGATIVE. I SUPPORT THIS PROJECT BECAUSE THE BENEFITS LARGELY OUTWEIGH THE "NEGATIVE" OF BEING ABLE TO SEE THE FLOATING CAGES.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
77	JOHN LAURINI	04/25/2024 13:20:07 PM	FAVOR

OYSTER FARMING IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK OFFERS MANY BENEFITS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY. THROUGH OYSTER CULTIVATION, THOMAS HYDE HELPS ENHANCE WATER QUALITY BY FILTERING POLLUTANTS AND EXCESS NUTRIENTS, SUPPORTS HABITAT RESTORATION BY PROVIDING ESSENTIAL ECOSYSTEMS FOR MARINE LIFE, AND AIDS IN EROSION CONTROL BY STABILIZING SHORELINES. ECONOMICALLY, HIS OYSTER FARM CREATES LOCAL JOBS, GENERATES REVENUE THROUGH SALES TO RESTAURANTS AND MARKETS, AND BOOSTS TOURISM BY ATTRACTING VISITORS INTERESTED IN SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE PRACTICES AND LOCALLY HARVESTED SEAFOOD. ADDITIONALLY, THE COMPANY'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES FOSTERS AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. THIS IS NOT A MEGA-CORPORATION COMING TO LANCASTER COUNTY. THIS IS A LOCAL WHO CARES DEEPLY ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY AND HAS AN UNWAVERING PASSION FOR SUSTAINABILITY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
78	DAVID RODEN JR.	04/25/2024 11:21:30 AM	FAVOR

I KNOW THE SUBMITTER OF THIS APPLICATION TO BE A STRONG STEWARD OF VIRGINIA WATERWAYS AND THE OUTDOORS IN GENERAL. HIS PRESENCE IN THIS AREA ONLY BOOSTS THE SAFETY, SUSTAINABILITY PROSPECTS, AND OPPORUTNIES FOR COMMERCE IN A COUNTY WHERE HE GREW UP AND HAS SPENT ALMOST HIS ENTIRE 28 YEARS

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
79	MARY WILSON GRIST	04/25/2024 11:36:47 AM	FAVOR

CALLIE AND THOMAS ARE DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN EVERY ASPECT OF THEIR LIFE, BUT ESPECIALLY THEIR BUSINESS! THEY ARE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT CONSERVATION, OYSTERS, AND SUSTAINABILITY THAN ANYONE I KNOW. NOT TO MENTION THEY GROW SOME OF THE BEST, MOST FRESH OYSTERS I HAVE EVER HAD!! I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO USE THIS PROPERTY TO SUSTAIN BOTH THE ECOSYSTEM AND RIVER ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND INDIVIDUAL BUYERS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
80	SHAWN M VALDRIGHI	05/02/2024 13:52:40 PM	FAVOR

I AM IN FAVOR OF THIS PROJECT. STEAMBOAT WHARF PROVIDES SUSTAINABLY SOURCED OYSTERS AND A LEVEL OF PUBLICITY TO THE NORTHERN NECK AND ITS WATERWAYS THAT I AM QUITE CONFIDENT THE HOMEOWNERS WHOSE VIEWS WOULD BE "DAMAGED" BY THE PROJECT DO NOT CONTRIBUTE. MY GREAT GRANDFATHER WAS A WATERMAN FROM TANGIER, SO I UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AQUACULTURE TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. THE HYDES ARE ALSO SOME OF THE BEST PEOPLE AROUND WHO TREAT ALL THE WATERWAYS THEY HAVE USED WITH THE HIGHEST REGARD AND THIS WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
81	CATHERINE RICE	04/25/2024 12:16:00 PM	FAVOR

OYSTER FARMS DO NOT HARM EAGLES. THE MANAGERS OF THIS PROJECT ARE STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CARE ABOUT WILDLIFE, AND WE ALL SUPPORT THEM!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
82	WARREN MOSS	04/25/2024 12:18:01 PM	FAVOR

OYSTERS ARE GOOD FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERWAY AND OYSTER FARMING IS GENERALLY NOT A NUISANCE TO ANY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
83	RENE PHILHOWER	04/25/2024 12:54:23 PM	OPPOSE

FIRST, I AM A NEIGHBOR AND OWNER IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. IF APPROVED, THIS OYSTER FARM WILL BE DIRECTLY IN MY VIEW. THE AREA WE LIVE IS A PRIVATE AREA--PRIVATE RESIDENCES, PRIVATE HOMES. IT IS NOT A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL AREA. I DO NOT SUPPORT BRINGING IN A COMMERCIAL OPERATION TO OUR QUIET BAY. THIS WILL INCREASE TRAFFIC ON OUR ROAD, AND ADD UNSIGHTLY CAGES/OYSTER FARMING MATERIALS TO AN ACRE AND A HALF WHICH IS A LOT OF SPACE TO OUR SMALL CREEK. THIS WILL BLOCK A LARGE AREA OF RECREATION FOR OUR PADDLE BOARDERS, HOBIE CATS, KAYAKERS AND FISHERS. THE USE OF THIS WATER SPACE SHOULD BE SHARED EQUALLY BY ALL OUR NEIGHBORS WHO CHOOSE TO ENJOY IT. NOT JUST FOR ONE RESIDENT FOR A COMMERCIAL OPERATION WHERE ALL THE PROFITS ARE FOR THE OWNER. I DON'T WANT TO LOOSE MY PRISTINE VIEW AND USE OF THE WATER. THE AREA HE IS ASKING TO USE IS NOT EVEN ADJACENT TO AN AREA OF LAND HE OWNS.

Attachments:

Submitted photos for this comment will begin on next page.

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Public Comments
Application Number 20240849**

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1714064291.jpg



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
84	CAROLYN H THOMAS	04/25/2024 13:00:23 PM	FAVOR

THE AQUACULTURE THAT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED AS BEEN A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO OYSTER FARMING, PROSECUTION, AND PRESERVATION ON THE LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. THEIR APPROACH IS TO NOT HARM WILDLIFE TO RECEIVE CAPITAL, BUT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECOSYSTEMS THAT ARE ALREADY PRESENT AND TO PRODUCE OYSTERS THAT WILL NOT ONLY BENEFIT THE ECOSYSTEM, BUT ALSO PRODUCE LOCALLY GROWN OYSTERS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
85	AUSTIN RUTTER	04/25/2024 14:33:41 PM	FAVOR

TOM AND CALLIE ARE EXCELLENT STEWARDS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT. THEIR PASSION FOR AQUACULTURE AND SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES IS AT THE CORE OF THEIR MISSION. THIS PROPOSAL SHOULD BE GRANTED TO STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY.

ANOTHER BENEFIT OF STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY IS GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THEIR BUSINESS. THEIR SUMMER INTERNS WILL LEARN HARD WORK, THE VALUE OF THEIR TIME, AND RECEIVE A PRICELESS EDUCATION ABOUT OUR WATERWAYS IN THE PROCESS. WORKING ON THE WATER GIVES YOU A SENSE OF PRIDE IN YOUR OWN WORK, AND IT ALSO GIVES YOU PERSPECTIVE INTO WHAT BEING SUCCESSFUL TRULY IS. WATCHING THE SUN RISE, GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY, AND TAKING A COOL DOWN SWIM AFTER A LONG MORNINGS WORK ARE INVALUABLE TO A TEENAGER.

I KNOW THIS BECAUSE I HAD A MENTOR JUST LIKE TOM AND CALLIE. I WAS A SUMMER INTERN AT PLEASURE HOUSE OYSTER COMPANY ON THE LYNNHAVEN RIVER DURING MY TEENAGE YEARS. THE EXPERIENCES THAT I HAD WORKING ON THE WATER DURING THOSE SUMMERS HAS MADE A HUGE IMPACT ON MY CHARACTER AND MY OUTLOOK ON THE WORLD.

OYSTER FARMING IS ONE OF THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FARMING PRACTICES THAT WE KNOW OF. THE BENEFITS OF CLEAN WATER ARE CARRIED FAR FROM OUR LOCAL CREEKS AND SHORELINES. THIS FORM OF AQUACULTURE IS A HUGE STEP IN COMBATING WATER POLLUTION ON BOTH A MICRO AND MACRO LEVEL.

TO THOSE THAT OPPOSE: WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST? DO YOU SUGGEST WE IMPORT OUR SEAFOOD FROM OTHER COUNTIES, OTHER STATES, OR OTHER COUNTRIES? THE FARTHER AWAY YOU GET FROM HOME, THE HIGHER THE CARBON FOOTPRINT WILL BE, AND THERE WILL BE LESS MONEY IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. BUY FRESH, BUY LOCAL SHOULD BE SOMETHING WE ALL PRACTICE. IT IS BETTER FOR YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH AND THE HEALTH OF YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY.

THIS PROJECT WILL BENEFIT OUR ECONOMY, OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND THE MINDS OF OUR YOUNG NEIGHBORS. THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE GRANTED WITHOUT HESITATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
86	HALLEY I TOWNSEND	04/25/2024 14:19:02 PM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN AND CLEANING OF WATERWAYS THAT OYSTER FARMS ENABLE. CALLIE AND THOMAS HYDE WILL ENSURE NATIVE WILDLIFE IS NOT HARMED AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE SUPPORTED. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE OYSTER FARMERS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
87	JULIA BRIDGFORTH	04/25/2024 20:14:40 PM	FAVOR

STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTERS IS A HOLISTICALLY POSITIVE ENTITY FOR THE NORTHERN NECK - IT IS BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE BY RESURRECTING THE AGE OLD TRADITION OF AQUAFARMING AS A YOUNG COUPLE AND POPULATING THE RIVER WITH WATER FILTERING BIVALVES. THEY HAVE PARTAKEN IN AQUACULTURE SUSTAINABILITY INCUBATORS AND PARTNER WITH VIRGINIAN UNIVERSITIES TO BE ON THE FOREFRONT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY-REGENERATIVE PRACTICES FOR THEIR FARMING. NOT TO MENTION THAT THEIR OYSTERS ARE THE TASTIEST VARIETY Iâ€™VE EVER EATEN.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
88	THOMAS GILREATH	04/25/2024 16:04:51 PM	OPPOSE

I'M ALL FOR CREATING AND SUSTAINING A BUSINESS, ESPECIALLY IN OUR AREA. EVEN WHEN THE AMERICAN DREAM SEEMS DORMANT OR DYING THESE DAYS, I APPLAUD ANYONE FOR TAKING THE RISK AND WILLING TO WORK HARD. MY OPPOSITION IS ADMITTEDLY SELFISH. MY FAMILY AND I LIVE OFF WINDMILL POINT AND OUR BACKYARD IS LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. WE FOUND OUR SLICE OF HEAVEN TWO YEARS AGO AND HAVE LOVED EVERY MOMENT. OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS COME TO US FOR THEIR VACATIONS AND WEEKEND GETAWAYS. THE VIEW IS INCREDIBLE. MY JOB REQUIRES ME TO LEAVE MY FAMILY EACH MONDAY MORNING AND RETURN ON FRIDAY NIGHTS JUST SO THE MORTGAGE CAN BE AFFORDED. NOW, WITH TAXES SKY-ROCKETING, IT MAKES THE SACRIFICE OF TIME AWAY FROM MY FAMILY EVEN MORE IMPORTANT AND I MUST FIGHT TO HOLD ON TO WHAT WE HAVE AND LOVE. TO SOME, A CHANGE IN BACKYARD VIEW MY SEEM LIKE NO BIG DEAL, BUT FOR MY FAMILY AND I- IT MEANS A GREAT DEAL.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
89	KATIE E MONICA	04/25/2024 17:46:26 PM	FAVOR

I STRONGLY SUPPORT STEAMBOAT WHARF'S FLOATING FARM APPLICATION IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. STEAMBOAT WHARF IS NOT A LARGE, EVIL CORPORATION, BUT INSTEAD A SMALL, LOCAL BUSINESS CREATING JOBS IN THE LOCAL MARITIME ECONOMY. THROUGH THEIR EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE ABOUT OYSTER CULTIVATION, STEAMBOAT WHARF IMPROVES WATER QUALITY, RESTORES NATIVE AQUATIC HABITATS, AND PROVIDES DELICIOUS, SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD. THE FLIP CAGES ARE LOW PROFILE ON THE WATER AND SAFER THAN METAL CAGES ON THE SEAFLOOR. THE PROPOSED LEASING GROUND WOULD COVER ROUGHLY 2% OF THE CREEK AND WILL NOT INHIBIT RECREATION. IF YOU SUPPORT FRESH, LOCAL SEAFOOD AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING, THEN YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
90	MCCARRON L DUGGER	04/25/2024 18:30:06 PM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT THOMAS AND CALLIE HYDE IN THEIR MOTION TO START A FLOATING FARM IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER GROW AS A COMPANY SINCE ITS INFANCY, AND I HAVE WORKED ALONG SIDE THOMAS HELPING OUT ON THE FARM WHENEVER I CAN. RESPECT OF THE FRAGILE BAY ECOSYSTEM IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO HIM. THOMAS ALSO GOES THE DISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE ANY PROBLEMS THAT HIS OPERATION MAY CAUSE TO HOMEOWNERS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA, JUST TRY TALKING TO HIM AND YOU WILL SEE HE IS A VERY KIND AND REASONABLE PERSON. AS FAR AS NAVIGATION OR LINE OF SIGHT CONCERNS, PLEASE TREAT IT LIKE YOU WOULD ANY OTHER AGRICULTURE. AN ACRE OR SO OF OYSTER CAGES IS NOT NEARLY AS BAD A NEIGHBOR AS AN INDUSTRIAL PIG FARM. I FEEL OUR GENERATION IS OFTEN RIDICULED FOR NOT WANTING TO WORK. YET IN THIS CASE WE HAVE A COUPLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE TRYING TO MAKE AN HONEST AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING BUT ARE BEING REJECTED BY THE SAME TYPE OF FOLKS WHO SHOULD BE COMMENDING THEIR HARD WORK. THE PRACTICE OF HARVESTING OYSTERS FROM THE CHESAPEAKE PREDATES US ALL AND IT IS BEST CONTINUED BY INDIVIDUALS LIKE THOMAS AND CALLIE WHO ARE WILLING TO DO THINGS THE RIGHT WAY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
91	ROSALIE P MCGUIRK	04/30/2024 21:18:00 PM	FAVOR

STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER CO HAS THE COMMUNITY'S BEST INTEREST IN MIND AT ALL TIMES, AND IS BENEFICIAL TO THE WATERWAY AND COMMUNITY. ALLOWING THIS LEASE WOULD HELP SUPPORT LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE. IN REGARDS TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT WATERWAY NAVIGATION AND VISUAL APPEAL, CAGES ARE FAIRLY LOW-PROFILE AND BLEND IN WITH THE WATER, AND ARE NOT IN THE WAY OF THE CHANNEL. THE COMPANY HAS NEIGHBORS' BEST INTEREST IN MIND, AND ALLOWING THIS LEASE HELPS THEIR SMALL BUSINESS GROW. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO NOTE THEIR COURTESY IN DECREASING THE PROJECT BY MORE THAN HALF IN AN EFFORT TO COMPROMISE.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
92	SEAN C CARROLL	04/25/2024 19:42:51 PM	OPPOSE

I OPPOSE THIS PROJECT MAINLY BECAUSE IT WILL DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT OF LITTLE OYSTER CREEK BY DISTURBING THE RIVERBED, MARSH LIFE AND FISH, CRAB AND BIRD POPULATIONS. LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS HOME TO A NUMBER OF WILDLIFE INCLUDING BALD EAGLES, OSPREY, GREAT BLUE HERONS, ETC.. THIS PROJECT WILL IMPACT WHERE THEY LIVE AND BREED. THIS PROJECT WILL ALSO DESTROY THE BEAUTY OF THIS LITTLE CREEK AS WELL AS POTENTIALLY POSE A RISK TO BOATERS AND CHILDREN WHO WATER SKI, WAKE BOARD AND TUBE IN THIS CREEK. I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS PROJECT. THANK YOU.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
93	HALEY CARROLL	04/25/2024 19:48:53 PM	OPPOSE

I OPPOSE THIS PROJECT. I SPEND THE ENTIRE SUMMER AT MY GRANDPARENTS HOUSE ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I WATER SKI, TUBE AND WAKEBOARD IN THAT CREEK AND HAVE FOR MANY YEARS. THIS PROJECT WILL IMPACT THE SAFETY OF ME USING THIS CREEK. I ALSO AM AN AVID BIRD WATCHER AND LOVE THE BALD EAGLES THAT NEST AND LIVE IN THIS CREEK. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS PROJECT WILL IMPACT THE NESTING HABITAT OF THE EAGLES, OSPREY AND SWANS THAT LIVE IN THIS CREEK.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
94	DUNCAN MORRIS	04/25/2024 20:49:44 PM	FAVOR

CAN YOU IMAGINE BEING AGAINST NNK WATERMEN MAKING A LIVING? I SURE CANâ€™T. ESPECIALLY NOT WHEN THEY ARE SIMPLY ASKING TO GROW OYSTERS ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. LET â€™EM GROW!

ALL I SEE ARE BENEFITS:

- THE ADDITION OF OYSTERS IN THE CREEK TO FILTER WATER AND IMPROVE THE ECOSYSTEM. ANY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS THAT POLLUTE AND TAKE FROM THE BAY, THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE. THE EAGLES WILL THRIVE!
- A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF WATERMEN AT WORK FROM SHORE, A NORTHERN NECK CLASSIC.
- SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMY. DONâ€™T LIKE OYSTER FARMING? MOVE TO FLORIDA.

THE MORE OYSTERS, THE BETTER!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
95	ABIGAIL SHOTWELL	04/25/2024 20:33:51 PM	OPPOSE

WE HAVE OWNED THE HOUSE FOR 30 PLUS YEARS. THE ONE THING THAT WE LOVE IS THE VIEW. OUR FAMILY HAS SPENT MANY YEARS FISHING AND BOATING AND PULLING KIDS SKIING AND TUBING THAT WOULD BE A DANGEROUS OBSTACLE TO MANEUVER AROUND .THE CREEK IS BUSY WITH FAMILIES SKIING AND TUBING IT BECOMES CROWDED AT TIMES BECAUSE IT IS A CALM PROTECTED PLACE. I THINK THIS COULD POTENTIALLY BE DANGEROUS FOR OUR FAMILIES WHO ENJOY WATER SPORTS. THIS IS BUSY AREA IN THE SUMMER BOATERS, FISHERMAN AND JET SKIERS ALL USE THIS CREEK. NOT TO MENTION AGAIN IT IS AN EYE SORE. WE DO NOT WANT OUR KIDS GETTING . WE FIRMLY OPPOSE THIS APPLICATION.

ABBY SHOTWELL

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
96	COLTON HAYDEN	04/25/2024 20:51:43 PM	FAVOR

HI I GREW UP IN WINDMILL POINT AND IT'S SILLY TO NOT APPROVE THE PROJECT. IT'S NOT A MASSIVE PROJECT IT'S SMALL BUSINESS OYSTER BEDS THAT ARE NOT IN THE CHANNEL AND ARE NOT IN VIEW OF OTHER HOUSES WHICH IS SHOWN ON THE MAP. IT DOESN'T IMPACT WILDLIFE AND WILL IF ANYTHING ATTRACT IT. OYSTERS CLEAN THE WATER AND ATTRACT OTHER WILDLIFE LIKE CRABS AND FISH WHICH WILL HELP THE BIRD POPULATION SCAVENGING FOR FOOD HAVE SEEN THE OTHER COMMENTS IT SEEMS PETTY TO NOT ALLOW THE OYSTER BEDS WHEN IT WOULDN'T IMPACT ANY DAY TO DAY LIVING, PROPERTY VALUES, OR AQUATIC ACTIVITIES AGAIN IT'S NOT IN THE CHANNEL, THAT WOULD BE A PROBLEM

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
97	ALEXIS BARNIKEL	04/25/2024 21:06:14 PM	FAVOR

OYSTERS SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF THE ECOSYSTEM IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY. THOMAS IS AN EXPERIENCED OYSTER FARMER WHO WANTS TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR COMMUNITY'S ECONOMY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
98	JACOB GREEN	04/25/2024 21:15:32 PM	OPPOSE

I WILL WRECK AND DESTROY MY JETSKI AND MY
BRAND NEW BOAT

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
99	LEISA GERBER	04/25/2024 21:36:38 PM	FAVOR

THESE FOLKS HAVE A BEAUTIFUL AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS THAT GIVES BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY,
NOT TO MENTION OUR PRECIOUS WATERS SURROUNDING IT!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
100	PRESTON JONES	04/25/2024 21:50:09 PM	FAVOR

OYSTER FARMS PROVIDE SEVERAL BENEFITS TO THE ECOSYSTEM. FIRSTLY, THEY ACT AS ARTIFICIAL REEFS, CREATING HABITATS FOR VARIOUS MARINE SPECIES. OYSTER BEDS ALSO HELP IMPROVE WATER QUALITY BY FILTERING OUT POLLUTANTS AND EXCESS NUTRIENTS, THEREBY ENHANCING OVERALL ECOSYSTEM HEALTH. ADDITIONALLY, OYSTER FARMING CAN CONTRIBUTE TO COASTAL PROTECTION BY STABILIZING SHORELINES AND MITIGATING EROSION. OVERALL, OYSTER FARMS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY AND SUPPORTING THE RESILIENCE OF COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
101	CATHERINE MARTIN	04/25/2024 21:59:07 PM	FAVOR

THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE USERS OF THE WATERWAYS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
102	MALLORY T TUTTLE	04/26/2024 08:17:18 AM	FAVOR

STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER ARE RESPONSIBLE USERS OF OUR WATERWAYS AND ARE HELPING TO SET A NEW STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE THAT WILL KEEP THIS LEGACY INDUSTRY THRIVING IN OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES. THE OWNERS ARE HARDWORKING AND INTENTIONAL IN THEIR PRACTICES TO ENSURE THEIR IMPACT IS POSITIVE ON THE WATERWAYS, COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE. I FULLY SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
103	CONNOR BURKE	04/25/2024 22:06:31 PM	FAVOR

A GREAT OYSTER FARM THAT DOES THINGS THE RIGHT WAY!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
104	ZOE O NONNEMACKER	04/25/2024 22:14:55 PM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TRYING TO KEEP THEIR BUSINESS AFLOAT.. LITERALLY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
105	JAKE A ROBINSON	04/25/2024 22:27:39 PM	FAVOR

OYSTER ARE GOOD FOR THE RIVERS CLARITY, CLEANLINESS, ETC. AND THE EAGLES WILL SURVIVE. ALSO A GRAVEL ROADâ€¦ SERIOUSLY? PRETTY SURE THEYâ€™VE OFFERED TO HELP WITH THE TRAFFIC AND MAINTENANCE OF ITâ€¦ PS SOME OF YOU NEED TO SERIOUSLY LEARN HOW TO DRIVE A BOAT, MY GOD YOUR KIDS AND EVERYONE ELSE ON THE WATER ARE IN DANGER.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
106	GEORGE W TOWNSEND IV	04/25/2024 22:35:12 PM	FAVOR

THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION IMPROVES WATER QUALITY WITHIN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK, REDUCES
BREAK WATER DAMAGE AND EROSION, AND PROVIDES HABITAT FOR MARINE LIFE ASIDE FROM OYSTERS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
107	JOHN R CLARE	04/26/2024 02:11:40 AM	FAVOR

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WRITE IN SUPPORT OF MR. HYDE'S APPLICATION FOR A MUCH-NEEDED ADDITIONAL LEASE TO FURTHER DEVELOP HIS AND HIS WIFE CALLIE'S SUSTAINABLE, LOCAL, SMALL BUSINESS. I AM GENUINELY SHOCKED BY THE AMOUNT OF VITRIOLIC RHETORIC AND FRANKLY UNTRUE OR INVALID TALKING POINTS BEING SPOUTED BY THOSE OPPOSED. TO INSINUATE THAT THOMAS AND CALLIE WOULD ATTEMPT TO FARM IN ANY MANNER, OR IN ANY PLACE, THAT WOULD DAMAGE LOCAL WATERWAYS INDICATES THAT YOU BOTH DO NOT KNOW THESE TWO CARING INDIVIDUALS, AND THAT YOU ALSO HAVE LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR SMALL AND SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE OPERATION. THOMAS WAS BORN AND RAISED ON THE NORTHERN NECK AND HAS NOW QUITE LITERALLY DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO BETTERING AND GIVING BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY BY BRINGING IT A SUSTAINABLE, ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SMALL BUSINESS. HE WORKS HARD, DOES HIS RESEARCH, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HE DOES THE RIGHT THING. CALLIE ALSO GREW UP ON A VIRGINIA WATERWAY, THE DAUGHTER OF AN AVID FISHERMAN. LONG BEFORE STARTING STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY WITH THOMAS, SHE HAS BEEN A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR SAFE AND CLEAN LOCAL WATERWAYS FEEDING THE BEAUTIFUL CHESAPEAKE BAY THAT WE ARE LUCKY TO CALL HOME. THESE TWO CARE ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITY MORE THAN JUST ABOUT ANYONE I KNOW.

ON TO FINER TALKING POINTS, MOST OPPONENTS CITE THAT THE PROPOSED LEASE WILL IMPEDE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON THE WATERWAY. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT LITTLE OYSTER CREEK CONSISTS OF A WATER AREA OF ABOUT 100 ACRES. THE PROPOSED LEASE WOULD OCCUPY LESS THAN 1 ACRE OF THIS SPACE. FURTHERMORE, IT IS PROTECTED ON EITHER SIDE BY 2-3 FOOT SHALLOWS, OUTSIDE OF THE CHANNEL. IF YOU ARE DRIVING A BOAT AT HIGH SPEEDS INTO THESE SHALLOWS WITH YOUR CHILDREN TRAILING BEHIND ON A TUBE OR SKIS, YOU SHOULD NOT BE OPERATING A WATER VEHICLE AND YOU ARE A DANGER TO YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY. THERE IS PLENTY OF SPACE IN THE CREEK FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, WHICH INCLUDES BOTH RECREATIONAL AND AQUACULTURAL ENDEAVORS.

ANOTHER COMMON TALKING POINT IS THAT OYSTER FLOATS ARE AN "EYESORE", OR, AS ONE COMMENTER SO ELOQUENTLY STATED, AN "EYESOAR". I ALSO GREW UP ALONG A VIRGINIA WATERWAY, AND I NEVER FOR A SECOND CONSIDERED CRAB POTS, OYSTER CAGES, OR OTHER AQUACULTURAL MECHANISMS AN EYESORE. RATHER, THESE ARE SIGNS OF A FLOURISHING AND SUSTAINABLE ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC ECOSYSTEM THAT BENEFITS US ALL. THIS IS WHAT LIVING ALONG A VITAL LOCAL FISHERY IS ALL ABOUT. THE DOCKS THAT EXTEND OUT INTO THE CREEK TO HOUSE YOUR RECREATIONAL BOATS AND JET SKIS ARE FAR LESS NATURAL TO THIS ECOSYSTEM AND IN TRUTH BELONG THERE FAR LESS THAN AN OYSTER FARM DOES. SHOULD THESE ALSO BE CONSIDERED EYESORES? I SEE FAR TOO MANY COMMENTS STATING THAT THEY ARE COMPLETELY IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESSES, SEAFOOD, AND WATERMEN, BUT JUST NOT WHERE I CAN SEE IT, NOT WHERE IT AFFECTS ME IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER. ISN'T THAT CONVENIENT?

THE THIRD MOST COMMONLY TOUTED OPPOSITIONAL POINT IS CONCERN REGARDING NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED LEASE. AGAIN, THE FACTS DO NOT SUPPORT THIS CONCERN. OYSTER FARMING IS NOT ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING. IN FACT, IT IS REFERRED TO BY

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

EXPERTS AS “ENVIRONMENTALLY RESTORATIVE.” ONE ACRE CAN PRODUCE UP TO 750,000 OYSTERS, WHICH CAN IN TURN FILTER UP TO 40 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY. SCIENTISTS HAVE EVEN PROPOSED OYSTER CULTIVATION AS A METHOD TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE, AS THE GROWTH OF OYSTER SHELLS SEQUESTERS ATMOSPHERIC CARBON DIOXIDE IN A FORM THAT IS STABLE OVER GEOLOGIC TIME, THEREBY EFFECTIVELY REMOVING IT FROM OUR ATMOSPHERE. MEANWHILE, THE TWO STROKE ENGINE ON YOUR JET SKI IS CAPABLE OF DUMPING UP TO 4 GALLONS OF UNBURNED FUEL INTO THE WATER AND RELEASING OVER 100KG OF CARBON DIOXIDE INTO THE AIR DURING JUST ONE HOUR OF OPERATION. ARE YOU REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, OR ARE YOU JUST CONCERNED THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE TO GLANCE AT SOME OYSTER FLOATS ON YOUR WAY DOWN THE CREEK? WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT?

I COMMEND THOMAS AND CALLIE FOR THEIR INCREDIBLE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THEIR COMMUNITY, THEIR INDUSTRY, AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. I ASK ALL OPPONENTS TO SIMPLY LOOK INWARD FOR A FEW MINUTES AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND WHAT YOU REALLY SUPPORT. DO YOU SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS? DO YOU SUPPORT FRESH AND LOCAL SEAFOOD? DO YOU SUPPORT INDUSTRIOUS AND HARD-WORKING MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY? DO YOU SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTALLY POSITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES? DO YOU SUPPORT SHARING LOCAL WATERWAYS? IF YOU SAY YOU SUPPORT ALL OF THESE THINGS AND STILL OPPOSE THIS APPLICATION, THEN I QUESTION WHETHER YOU ACTUALLY SUPPORT ANY OF THEM. PLEASE SIMPLY GIVE THOMAS AND CALLIE A CALL OR A VISIT, YOU’LL FIND THEM QUITE REASONABLE AND RESPECTFUL OF YOU AND THE WATERWAY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
108	BLAZE WALLICK	04/25/2024 23:01:54 PM	FAVOR

FLOAT AND FLIP FARM BASKETS ARE GREAT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HARM SEABEDS, SINCE THEY ARE SUSPENDED IN THE WATER. THEY ALSO PROMOTE SEAGRASS GROWTH, WHICH IS IMPORTANT FOR FISH AND OTHER MARINE ANIMALS. OYSTERS ALSO ARE GREAT FOR IMPROVING WATER QUALITY. THIS IS A GREAT PLAN TO HELP THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
109	ISABELLE A DAVIDSON	04/25/2024 23:09:40 PM	FAVOR

OYSTERS SUPPORT THE ECOSYSTEM AND THESE ARE GREAT PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEIR COMMUNITY AND CONTINUALLY GIVE BACK. NOT TO MENTION THEIR OYSTERS ARE DELICIOUS!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
110	LEWIS GOODE II	04/26/2024 11:30:34 AM	FAVOR

WE NEED TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES. THOMAS AND CALLIE ARE BOTH OF GREAT CHARACTER AND WOULD NOT REQUEST THIS PERMIT IF IT WERE NOT A GOOD THING FOR THE COMMUNITY. THE BENEFIT THE OYSTERS HAVE ON THE WATER WILL BE FAR MORE THAN ANY INCONVENIENCE

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
111	EDWARD PRILLAMAN	04/26/2024 07:55:29 AM	FAVOR

I AM WRITING IN TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT. I BELIEVE MANY OF THE CONCERNS RAISED ARE SHORT SIGHTED, ESPECIALLY WHEN COMPARED TO THE PRACTICAL, SCIENTIFICALLY SUPPORTED BENEFITS OF ALLOWING THIS PROJECT TO MOVE FORWARD. WITH MANY OF THE OPPOSED NOTING A CONCERN ABOUT HOW THIS OYSTER FARM WOULD HARM THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM, I MUST NOTE THAT THIS THINKING IS ERRONEOUS. NOT ONLY ARE OYSTERS A VITAL PART OF MAINTAINING A HEALTHY WATERSHED THROUGH THEIR FILTRATION, THE FARMS UTILIZED IN THIS PROJECT ARE ALSO NOT INTRUSIVE TO THE RIVERBED BELOW BY THEIR DESIGN. THIS SHOULD NOT ONLY MAINTAIN THE CURRENT HEALTH OF THE RIVER, BUT ACTUALLY IMPROVE IT.

TO ADD TO WHY I BELIEVE WE NEED TO SUPPORT THESE TYPES OF EFFORTS GENERALLY, EARLY SETTLERS REPORTED FINDING OYSTERS THE SIZE OF DINNER PLATES. UNFORTUNATELY, YOU WILL NOT FIND ANY OYSTERS OF THAT SIZE IN THE WATERSHED, AS WE HAVE AGGRESSIVELY HARVESTED OUR LOCAL OYSTERS OVER THE PAST CENTURIES. THE NEED FOR OYSTER FARMS, THEN, IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT. NOT JUST FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY HERE, BUT FOR THE LARGER WATERSHED AS A WHOLE. I COULD NOT IMAGINE A BETTER PROJECT TO ENDORSE, THEN, AS THE PROJECT OWNERS ARE OF A SMALL, LOCAL BUSINESS. THE SORT OF THING WE ALL LOVE TO ADVOCATE FOR IN THIS COUNTRY.

I BELIEVE WHEN YOU COMPARE THOSE BENEFITS TO POSSIBLY UNFOUNDED CONCERNS: DECREASE IN PROPERTY VALUE THE ONUS IS ON THOSE WHO PROPOSE THIS TO SHOW EVIDENCE THAT THIS WOULD OCCUR WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE PRACTICAL BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT , DANGER FOR RECREATION BASED ON MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIZE OF THE PROJECT, THERE WILL BE AMPLE ROOM WITHIN THE RIVER TO BOAT AROUND WITHOUT ISSUE , DANGER TO WILDLIFE, OR SIMPLY BEING A "POTENTIAL EYE SORE", THEN IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT THE MATURE, FORWARD THINKING THING TO DO IS TO APPROVE THIS PROJECT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THESE COMMENTS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
112	MATTHEW ROBERTS	04/26/2024 10:13:44 AM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS AND EXPANSION OF LOCAL SILVICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE OPERATIONS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
113	CHARLOTTE GREEN	04/26/2024 09:07:05 AM	OPPOSE

Iâ€™VE LIVED THERE MY WHOLE LIFE AND DO A LOT OF WATER SPORTS, IT COULD BE VERY DANGEROUS AND Iâ€™VE ALREADY CUT MY FOOT OPEN ONE SUMMER ON A OYSTER SHELL AND THEN ONE OF MY NEIGHBORS DID THE SAME AND GOT A FLESH EATING BACTERIA FROM IT. I THINK IT WOULD CAUSE ALOT MORE INJURIES ON THE WATER WITH A LOT OF YOUNG FAMILIES MOVING DOWN INTO THE CREEK AND BEING ON THE WATER MORE OFTEN.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
114	CHARLES GREEN	04/26/2024 08:03:55 AM	OPPOSE

MY NAME IS CHARLES GREEN AND THEY'RE PLAYING TO PUT THE OYSTER GARDEN IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE I BELIEVE IT'S GOING TO BE A NUISANCE AND A PROBLEM TO BOATERS AND KAYAKERS . IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH ROOM IN THAT AREA FOR THAT TYPES OF OBSTACLE. MY FAMILY HAS OWNED THE PROPERTY FOR OVER 30 YEARS WE DIDN'T BUY IT TO LOOK AT FLOATING OYSTER BOXES. I STRONG OPPOSE THE APPLICATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
115	JERRY AND CATHY LLANEZA	04/26/2024 08:05:33 AM	OPPOSE

THESE COMMENTS OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE PERMIT APPLICATION ARE SUBMITTED BY JERRY AND CATHY LLANEZA. WE OWN THE RESIDENCE AT 271 BRIGHTWATERS DRIVE, WHITE STONE, VIRGINIA 22758. THIS PROPERTY IS LOCATED ON WINDMILL POINT CREEK JUST EAST OF THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED AREA OF THE OYSTER FLOATS. WE OPPOSE THE APPLICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:\R\N\R\N1. THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE OYSTER FARM CONFLICTS WITH THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS THAT LIVE ON AND NEARBY OYSTER CREEK AS WELL AS VISITORS TO THE AREA WHO USE OYSTER CREEK FOR RECREATION PURPOSES. PLACING A LARGE NUMBER OF FLOATS IN THE NARROW CHANNEL OF OYSTER CREEK WOULD BE A HAZARD TO NAVIGATION. THIS AREA IS REGULARLY USED FOR KAYAKING, WATER SKIING, FISHING, PULLING TUBES AND GENERAL CRUISING AND SIGHTSEEING. THESE BOATING ACTIVITIES WOULD BE ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY THE OBTRUSIONS OF A LARGE NUMBER OF OYSTER FLOATS.\R\N\R\N2. THE PROPOSED OYSTER FARM WOULD BE ENVIRONMENTALLY UNSOUND. THE SHORELINE PROPOSED FOR THE OYSTER FARM HAS SAV GROWTH. THE PROPOSED LARGE NUMBER OF OYSTER FLOATS AND RELATED WORK WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SAV ALONG THAT SHORELINE. \R\N\R\N3. THE LARGE NUMBER OF UNSIGHTLY FLOATS WOULD HARM THE SCENIC AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE AREA. MANY LOCAL RESIDENTS WOULD OPPOSE APPROVAL FOR THIS REASON. ALSO, TO THIS POINT, THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER LOCATED YEARS AGO A KAYAK LAUNCH ON WINDMILL POINT CREEK. THIS LAUNCH IS JUST A FEW KAYAK STROKES AWAY FROM THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE OYSTER FARM. IMAGINE THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF VISITING KAYAKERS THAT COME TO ENJOY THE SCENIC VIEWS OF THE WATERFRONT AND MINUTES AFTER LAUNCHING ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE UNNATURAL AND UNSIGHTLY APPEARANCE OF LARGE NUMBER OF FLOATING OYSTER CAGES. \R\N\R\N4. THERE ARE BETTER SUITED WATERWAYS IN THE AREA THAT DO NOT HAVE THESE CONFLICTS THAT CAN BE USED FOR COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARMING. \R\N\R\NTHANK YOU FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THESE COMMENTS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
116	WINSOR ROSE	04/26/2024 08:07:18 AM	OPPOSE

REGARDING THE PERMIT FOR A FLIP FARM IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. WE ARE GENERALLY OPPOSED TO THE IDEA THIS AREA HAS BECOME A POPULAR RECREATIONAL RETREAT FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE A BUSY LIFE IN AN INCREASINGLY HECTIC WORLD, AND THEY COME DOWN TO FIND PEACE. OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS THE NUMBER OF HOMES ON WINDMILL POINT ROAD HAS DOUBLED AND THE NUMBER OF FIELDS HAVE HALVED.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
117	SHIRLEY M NOVELLA	04/26/2024 08:23:25 AM	OPPOSE

INFRINGES ON MY FAMILIES RIGHT TO ENJOY THE WATERS AND THE VIEW FROM OUR HOME.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
118	DANIELLE ROSS	04/26/2024 12:09:04 PM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT TOM AND CALLIE AND THEIR BUSINESS, STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY. THESE FARMERS HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH TO THE GREATER COMMUNITY THROUGH THEIR SEAFOOD SUPPLY. NOT ONLY DO THEY PUT IN THE TIME BUT THEY ALSO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THE PRODUCT THEY ARE SELLING TO MAKE SURE IT IS HIGH QUALITY AND ETHICALLY SOURCED. THEY ARE TRANSPARENT WHEN EDUCATING OTHERS ON THEIR FARMING PROCESS, FROM SEED TO SALE. THEY ARE DILIGENT IN SHARING MORE ABOUT THE GREATER IMPACT THIS LINE OF WORK HAS ON AQUACULTURE. NOT TO MENTION, THEY HAVE ENHANCED THE LOCAL ECONOMY BY PROVIDING JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND HAVE ESTABLISHED B2B RELATIONSHIPS THAT SUPPORT/ UPLIFT OTHER LOCAL BUSINESSES. IT HAS BEEN MOST IMPACTFUL, AND INSPIRING, TO SEE THEM GET THEIR FOOTING AS AN OYSTER COMPANY IN AN AREA THAT HAS SUCH A LONGSTANDING HISTORY WITH THE RELIANCE ON OYSTERS, FISH AND SHELLFISH AS MEANS OF SURVIVAL. I WILL CONTINUE TO VOICE MY SUPPORT TO THEIR MISSION, AS THEY ARE BEST OYSTER FARMERS IN VIRGINIA.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
119	JOHN M VRANIAN	04/26/2024 11:10:40 AM	FAVOR

I FULLY SUPPORT THE HYDEâ€™S IN THEIR MOTION. NOT ONLY WILL THEIR FLOATING FARM ADD TO AQUACULTURE IN THE AREA, IT WILL ALSO HELP EXPAND THEIR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND FEED THEIR PASSION. Iâ€™VE KNOWN THE HYDEâ€™S FOR A LONG TIME AND I CAN GUARANTEE THAT CREATING A SUSTAINABLE, ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY OPERATION IS AT THE CORE OF THEY STRIVE TO DO. THEY ARE ALSO MASSIVE SUPPORTERS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE COMMUNITY. THEY ONLY SEEK HALF AN ACRE IN A CREEK THAT HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH SPACE FOR NAVIGATION AND RECREATION. I BELIEVE THAT IF EVERYONE EDUCATED THEMSELVES ON THOMAS AND CALLIEâ€™S MISSION THEY WOULD ALSO AGREE.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
120	ROXANNE GLOBIS	04/26/2024 10:49:24 AM	FAVOR

I STRONGLY SUPPORT MR. THOMAS HYDE'S APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH A FLOATING OYSTER FARM IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. OUR COMMUNITY, WITH ITS DEEP-ROOTED HISTORY OF MARITIME ACTIVITIES, HAS THRIVED ON THE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES OF OUR LOCAL WATERMEN. THESE PRACTICES ARE A CORNERSTONE OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMY AND A VITAL PART OF OUR HERITAGE.

OYSTER FARMING REPRESENTS MORE THAN AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IT IS A BEACON OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. BY CULTIVATING OYSTERS, WE CAN ENHANCE THE WATER QUALITY OF OUR TIDAL WATERS, AS OYSTERS NATURALLY FILTER AND PURIFY THE WATER IN WHICH THEY THRIVE. THIS PROCESS IS VITAL FOR MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF OUR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS AND ENSURING CLEAN WATERWAYS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WHILE I ACKNOWLEDGE SOME RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE AESTHETICS OF FLOATING OYSTER FARMS, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO REMEMBER THAT OUR WATERMEN HAVE HISTORICALLY SHAPED THE CHARACTER OF OUR WATERFRONTS, LONG BEFORE THE CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES. THE PROPOSED OYSTER FARM IS A NOD TO OUR PAST AND A STEP TOWARD SUSTAINABLE USAGE OF OUR MARINE RESOURCES.

MOREOVER, THOMAS HYDE AND HIS WIFE ARE PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY, ACTIVELY ENGAGED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - 12 MONTHS. THEIR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE OYSTER FARMING AND ENHANCING COMMUNITY WELFARE THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SHOULD BE LAUDED, NOT QUESTIONED. THEIR EFFORTS HELP ENSURE THAT OUR WORKING WATERFRONT REMAINS A VIBRANT AND PRODUCTIVE PART OF THE NORTHERN NECK.

IN SUPPORTING MR. HYDE'S APPLICATION, THE VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION WILL AFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE ECOLOGICAL HEALTH OF VIRGINIA'S MARINE ENVIRONMENTS. WE BELIEVE THIS PROJECT WILL PROTECT OUR WORKING WATERFRONTS, SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY, AND CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO OUR COMMUNITY'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

WE URGE YOU TO APPROVE MR. HYDE'S APPLICATION AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT DEPEND ON A HEALTHY AND VIBRANT WATERFRONT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT OF OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
121	BILLY BECKER	04/26/2024 10:45:15 AM	OPPOSE

I OWN A PROPERTY IN THE BRIGHTWATERS SUBDIVISION AND I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO PERMIT 20240849, WHICH WANTS TO PUT 1225 OYSTER FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I KNOW MANY OF MY NEIGHBORS ARE ALSO OPPOSED TO THIS HAPPENING AS IT WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO BOAT SAFELY IN THIS CREEK. IT SEEMS MR. THOMAS HYDE IS HAVING HIS FRIENDS WRITE EMAILS IN FAVOR OF HIS REQUEST. I HOPE YOU LOOK AT WHO ACTUALLY OWNS PROPERTY HERE IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND WEIGH OUR COMMENTS ACCORDINGLY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
122	MELANIE CLEMENTS	04/26/2024 10:58:08 AM	OPPOSE

I AM HIGHLY OPPOSED TO PUTTING 1225 OYSTER FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. THE PERMIT NUMBER IS 20240849 AND WAS APPLIED FOR UNDER THOMAS HYDE.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
123	TARA G THURSTON	04/26/2024 11:05:21 AM	FAVOR

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSED OYSTER LEASE APPLICATION DUE TO ITS SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS. OYSTER FARMING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ENHANCING WATER QUALITY, AS OYSTERS NATURALLY FILTER AND PURIFY THE WATER, REDUCING POLLUTANTS AND IMPROVING THE HABITAT FOR OTHER MARINE LIFE. BY APPROVING THIS APPLICATION, VMRC WILL PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MARINE PRACTICES AND AID IN THE RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION OF OUR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER THESE CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS WHEN MAKING YOUR DECISION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
124	COURTNEY V STEELE	04/26/2024 11:13:26 AM	OPPOSE

HERE ARE A FEW BULLET POINTS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT:

1-Iâ€™D LIKE TO START BY SAYING MY COUSIN IS AT WATERMAN ON GWYNNS ISLAND, SO I AM DEFINITELY SUPPORTIVE OF ALL THE WATERMAN IN OUR AREA. HE WOULD NEVER HAVE THE AUDACITY TO INVADE SOMEONEâ€™S SMALL SPACE THAT THEY HAVE WORKED THEIR ENTIRE LIVES TO ENJOY. THERE ARE PLENTY OTHER OPTIONS FOR A OYSTER CAGES.

2-GRASSES ARE FINALLY COMING BACK. THE CAGES WILL SHIELD THE SUNLIGHT AND ANY CHANCE OF GRASSES GETTING ENOUGH SUN TO FLOURISH. I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT CONCERN THROUGHOUT ALL OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AREA.

3- THERE HAVE BEEN AREAS IN THE CREEK THAT HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED FOR COLLECTION DUE TO CONTAMINATION.

4-OUR PRIME FISHING AREA WILL BE COVERED BY FLOATS NOW.

5-IT OBSTRUCTS OUR ABILITY TO USE THE WATER FOR SAFE RECREATION, SUCH AS, SKIING, WIND SURFING, AND SAFE TUBING FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

6-IT WILL BRING IN AN ABSORBENT AMOUNT OF WATER FOWL THAT WILL BE RELEASING THEIR GUANO INTO OUR WATER WHERE WE SWIM.

7- NONE OF THE PEOPLE THAT APPROVE THIS APPLICATION ACTUALLY LIVE ON , OR USE THIS CREEK. THEY DONâ€™T REALIZE WHAT A SMALL AND SHALLOW AREA WE LIVE IN. AT LOW TIDE, THERE IS THERE ARE LESS THAN 2 FEET OF WATER AT TIMES TO NAVIGATE OUT TO THE RAPPAHANNOCK. THE REPRESENTATION ON THE DRAWINGS AND GOOGLE EARTH RENDITION REALLY DO NOT DEPICT THE GRAND SCALE OF THIS PROJECT. I WOULD LOVE IT IF THE BOARD MEMBERS WOULD DO A RIDE ALONG TO SEE EXACTLY WHERE THIS IS GOING TO BE IMPACTING OUR SMALL CREEK.

FOR GROUP THAT SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION WITH SUCH A PASSION-I VOTE THAT THESE CAGES SHOULD BE PUT IN THEIR CREEK IN FRONT OF THEIR HOMES WHERE THEIR CHILDREN SWIM AND PLAY AND WHERE THEY HAVE TO NAVIGATE THEIR BOATS TO GET TO OPEN WATER.

POINT BLANK. THIS IS A SAFETY HAZARD IN SUCH A SMALL AREA. DO WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL SOMEBODY GETS HURT OR DIE FOR THIS TO BE STOPPED?

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
125	TRAVIS B WILLOW	04/26/2024 11:47:42 AM	OPPOSE

IT IS SAD THAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THE FOLKS THAT LIVE IN AND AROUND LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AS BEING PEOPLE THAT DEFAME THE CHARACTER OF THE OWNERS OF STEAMBOAT OYSTERS. THAT IS NOT TRUE! IT IS SAD THAT WE ARE ALL BEING PORTRAYED AS FOLKS THAT DO NOT CARE ABOUT OR SUPPORT LOCAL WATERMEN. THAT IS NOT TRUE! THAT WE DO NOT CARE ABOUT KEEPING THE BAY CLEAN. THAT IS NOT TRUE! STATING THAT WE SHOULD SELL OUR HOMES AND MOVE TO FLORIDA! I HAVE NOT MET THE OWNERS OF STEAMBOAT OYSTERS FACE TO FACE BUT I HAVE TALKED EXTENSIVELY WITH THOMAS ON THE PHONE AND THROUGH TEXT. I BELIEVE HE IS A GREAT GUY!!! I BELIEVE THAT HE LOVES THE NNK! I BELIEVE HE WANTS THE BEST FOR THE RIVER! I PERSONALLY CARE ABOUT HIM AND WANT HIM TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL! I BELIEVE THAT OYSTERS CLEAN THE WATER WHETHER THEY SIT ON THE BOTTOM OR FLOAT ON TOP ! I LOVE OUR WATERMEN! I USED TO DREAM OF BEING ONE AS A KID GROWING UP HERE. I PURCHASE AND EAT TONS OF LOCAL SEAFOOD! I HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS AND CLOSE FRIENDS THAT I LOVE WITH ALL OF MY HEART THAT ARE WATERMEN! WE LOVE WATERMEN! IT IS JUST NASTY AND WRONG FOR ANY OF US TO LIE ABOUT OTHER FOLKS AND MANIPULATE THE CONVERSATION JUST TO WIN A DEBATE. IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, WE ALL NEED TO JUST STOP TRYING TO PROVE OUR POINTS AND CUT TO THE CHASE. IF WE DO I THINK WE CAN ALL SEE THAT THIS ISSUE IS VERY SIMPLE. IT IS A "ZONING ISSUE". THERE IS ENOUGH WATER FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY AND MAKE A LIVING OFF OF. RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CAN RESIDE ON THE SAME WATERWAYS. JUST LIKE THE COUNTY IS NOT GOING TO ALLOW AMAZON TO BUILD A WAREHOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOOD, UNLESS AMAZON WANTS TO BUY EVERYONE OUT, FLOATING COMMERCIAL CAGES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO JUST START POPPING UP IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS EITHER. THIS ISSUE IS JUST THAT SIMPLE! THERE IS ENOUGH WATER FOR BOTH. IT JUST NEEDS TO BE SEPARATED. IT PROTECTS HOMEOWNERS AND THEIR INVESTMENT AND ALSO SETS BOUNDARIES THAT ALLOW COMMERCIAL FISHING AND OYSTERING TO THRIVE! IF THIS WAS A GROUND LEASE FOR FARMING ON THE BOTTOM... IT WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM FOR ME. I AM AGAINST OYSTER FLOAT FARMING IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK BECAUSE IT IS UGLY, STINKY AND WILL BE IN THE WAY OF OUR VIEWS, BOATING AND FISHING ACTIVITIES. IT WILL NOT BE A SAFE. THAT IS ALL! THIS IS NOT AN ATTACK ON ANYONES CHARACTER. THIS IS NOT BASHING THE WATERMEN PAST, PRESENT OR FUTURE! THERE ARE A LOT OF MY FELLOW CITIZENS IN THIS FORUM THAT BELIEVE THESE FLOATS ARE AMAZING TO PLACE IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE! REALLY??? THEY WILL EVEN BE ATTRACTIVE! REALLY??? THEY SAY IF I FIGHT AGAINST FLOATING CAGES IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE... I DO NOT LIKE THOMAS, WATERMEN OR THE ENVIRONMENT! I NEED TO JUST SELL MY HOUSE AND MOVE! I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FOR ONE MINUTE ANYONE WOULD FEEL THAT WAY IF IT WAS BEING PROPOSED TO FLOAT THESE 1225 CAGES IN FRONT OF THEIR HOUSES. IF I AM WRONG... PROVE IT! LET THOMAS PROPOSE TO PUT 1225 CAGES IN FRONT OF HIS OWN HOUSE, HIS NEIGHBOR'S HOUSES, HIS FRIEND'S HOUSES, HIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATES BUSINESSES OR HOUSES, HIS FAMILY'S HOUSES. ANY VOLUNTEERS OUT THERE?!?! ALL I ASK IS JUST PLEASE THOMAS... PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE... I BEG YOU TO NOT PUT THEM IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE... OR IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD! I TRULY LOVE OUR SHARED COMMUNITY, OUR SHARED WATERS AND I WISH EACH OF YOU THE VERY BEST!!!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
126	JOHN RUPPERT	04/26/2024 12:49:51 PM	FAVOR

THE PROPOSED PROJECT PROVIDES SUBSTANTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS WHILE SUPPORTING A SMALL BUSINESS THAT WILL GROW THE LOCAL ECONOMY. THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF FARMING OYSTERS ARE WELL DOCUMENTED, AND MANY ONGOING EFFORTS EXIST TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE GREATER CHESAPEAKE BAY AREA BY RESTORING OYSTER POPULATIONS. AS AN AVID KAYAKER AND FISHERMAN WHO HAS SPENT TIME IN THE AREA, THE OYSTER CAGES WILL LIKELY IMPROVE FISHING IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA AND WILL NOT SUBSTANTIALLY IMPACT ACCESS TO LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. EVERY PROJECT HAS DRAWBACKS, BUT IN THIS CASE I BELIEVE THE BENEFITS FAR OUTWEIGH THE DOWNSIDES. THOMAS AND CALLIE ARE UPSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR DEDICATION TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE BAY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE. I AM CERTAIN THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK WITH ANY CONCERNED NEIGHBORS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, TO ADDRESS CONCERNS, AND TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
127	JOHNSON COLEMAN III	04/26/2024 13:02:50 PM	OPPOSE

I OPPOSE THE OYSTER FLOATS ON OUR CREEK AS THEY WILL INHIBIT NAVIGATION, FISHING AND PLEASURE BOATING ON THE CREEK. THE CREEK IS ALREADY VERY SMALL AND DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE AS IT IS. THIS WILL ONLY ADD TO THE DIFFICULTY. THERE ARE VERY FEW PLACES ON THE CREEK THAT ARE OPEN ENOUGH TO PULL A TUBE OR, DO OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES, AND THIS WILL REDUCE THE AREA QUITE A BIT. THIS IS ALSO AN AREA OF THE CREEK THAT RESIDENTS LIKE TO GO FISHING AS THERE ARE NO DOCKS AND THEREâ€™S A NICE POINT. ALL IN ALL, THERE IS NOT ENOUGH ROOM FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CREEK TO NAVIGATE IN AND OUT, AND ENJOY THE CREEK.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
128	JIMMY MASON	04/26/2024 13:50:17 PM	FAVOR

I AM WRITING TO ADVOCATE FOR A HABITAT PERMIT APPLICATION. APPROVING THIS PERMIT BALANCES THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS. OYSTER HARVESTING NOT ONLY PROVIDES ECONOMIC BENEFITS BUT ALSO SUPPORTS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS. RESPONSIBLE HARVESTING ENSURES THE REPLENISHMENT OF OYSTER POPULATIONS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. IT WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM BY IMPROVING WATER QUALITY. THIS WILL PROVIDE A BETTER HABITAT FOR VARIOUS MARINE SPECIES. GRANTING THIS PERMIT WILL ALSO SUPPORT A SMALL BUSINESS, BOOSTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CREATING JOBS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
129	DENISE RIBINSON	04/26/2024 13:49:29 PM	FAVOR

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THOMAS HYDE'S FLOATING FARM APPLICATION IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.

AS RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN NECK, WE IMPORE THE VMRC TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THAT MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY RELY ON WORKING ON THE WATER AS A MEANS OF INCOME. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE INTEGRAL TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, PROVIDING JOBS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE VITALITY OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE REALIZE THAT HOMEOWNERS CAN OFTEN FIND THESE FARMS AS UNATTRACTIVE AND INCONVENIENT, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THIS AREA WAS BUILT BY OUR WATERMEN LONG BEFORE THEY BOUGHT WATERFRONT HOMES IN THE AREA.

WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROTECTING OUR WORKING WATERFRONT. THIS APPLICATION PRESENTS US WITH A CHANCE TO PRESERVE OUR AREA'S HERITAGE. BY SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT, WE CAN ENSURE THE CONTINUED LIVELIHOODS OF OUR LOCAL WATERMEN AND MAINTAIN A VIBRANT WATERFRONT THAT HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS.

THOMAS AND HIS WIFE ARE STAND UP MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ARE DEVOTED TO MAKING A LIVING BY GROWING A SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN.

WE HOPE YOU APPROVE HIS APPLICATION TO PRESERVE OUR WORKING WATERFRONT AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES.

SINCERELY, DENISE ROBINSON

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
130	V. ROSS JOHNSON	04/26/2024 14:13:06 PM	FAVOR

I THINK ADDING OYSTERS TO OUR WATERWAYS IS ALWAYS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. I SPEND MANY A DELIGHTFUL HOUR KAYAKING THE WATERS AROUND FLEETâ€™S ISLAND. I LOVE TO SEE THE OYSTER FARMS WITH THEIR CORRESPONDING WATER BIRDS. KNOWING THAT OYSTERS FILTER A WHOLE BUNCH OF WATER EVERY HOUR MEANS THAT LITTLE OYSTER BAY WILL BE THAT MUCH CLEANER. TOM AND CALLIE HAVE A LEASE NEAR MY HOUSE IN MORATTICO CLOSE TO BELLE ISLE ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK THEY HAVE ALWAYS KEPT IT NEAT AND TIDY. THEY ALSO OFFERED TOURS FOR FOLKS KAYAKING WITH FRIENDS OF RAPPAHANNOCK AND MORATTICO WATERFRONT MUSEUM. THEY ARE THOUGHTFUL AND CARING ENTREPRENEURS WHO ONLY WANT TO SEE THE RIVER THRIVE.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
131	ELIZABETH ROLAND	04/26/2024 15:08:33 PM	OPPOSE

I WANT TO ADD A FEW THINGS OTHERS HAVE ALSO MENTIONED. FIRST OFF, ALL THOSE IN "FAVOR" OF THIS DO NOT LIVE HERE! SO HOW CAN YOU BE IN FAVOR OF SOMETHING YOU WON'T SEE OR BE AROUND? I WILL SAY AGAIN, MYSELF, ALONG WITH MY FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS ARE COMPLETELY IN SUPPORT OF OUR WATERMEN, SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE HEALTH OF THE BAY. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO GO ABOUT IT. AND, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT A GRAVEL DEAD END ROAD OUT OF OUR OWN POCKETS WHILE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE AGAIN WHO DON'T LIVE HERE! DRIVE IT? I DESPERATELY HOPE THAT MR. HYDE CAN UNDERSTAND WHERE WE ARE ALL COMING FROM AND PUT THE COMMUNITY BEFORE HIS OWN CAPITAL.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
132	BARBARA CARROLL	04/26/2024 15:59:56 PM	OPPOSE

WE PURCHASED PROPERTY ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK MANY YEARS AGO AFTER SEEING THE SERENE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE CREEK AND REALIZING THAT IT IS A UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT. THE EAGLES, OSPREY, BLUE HERONS ALONG WITH MANY OTHER SHORE BIRDS AND MARINE LIFE HAVE A NATURAL, PROTECTED HABITAT. THE CREEK IS ALSO LISTED ON THE VIRGINIA WATER TRAIL WEBSITE AS THE "LITTLE OYSTER CREEK-FLEETS ISLAND WATER TRAIL" FOR THIS VERY REASON AS WELL AS ITS ACCESS FROM THE WINDMILL POINT PUBLIC KAYAK RAMP. THE CREEK HAS A NARROW NAVIGABLE WATERWAY WHICH WILL BE HAMPERED EVEN MORE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE OYSTER PROJECT 20240849.

CAN WE JUST ENJOY THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THIS UNIQUE AREA RATHER THAN TURNING IT INTO AN ECONOMIC AGENDA FOR BUSINESS. WATERMAN HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY HARVESTING OYSTERS FOR MANY YEARS WHICH WE APPLAUD AND SUPPORT. IT IS THE INTRODUCTION OF CAGES, FLOATS, ANCHORS AND FLIP FARMING MACHINERY THAT IS AN UNNATURAL INTRODUCTION INTO OUR BEAUTIFUL CREEK.

I AM STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS PROJECT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
133	DAVID L HORNBECK	04/26/2024 16:43:58 PM	OPPOSE

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS APPLICATION WHICH WILL ALLOW MR HYDE TO INSTALL UP TO 1,225 FLOATING OYSTER BASKETS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. MY FAMILY ALONG WITH MAY OTHERS ENJOY THIS CREEK FOR TAKING OUR KIDS FISHING, LEARNING TO WATER SKI, AND RIDING PWC'S. I AM ALL FOR A PERSON MAKING A LIVING, BUT IT SHOULDN'T AFFECT THESE NICE PROTECTED WATERS WHICH ARE LIMITED IN OUR AREA. PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THIS APPLICATION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
134	STEPHEN CEPERICH	04/26/2024 16:54:27 PM	OPPOSE

THE SCALE AND THE LOCATION OF THE PROGECT ARE NOT A GOOD FIT FOR THE RESIDENTIAL AREA. NON BOATERS WILL BE PUSHED INTO THE BOATING CHANNEL IN ORDER TO NAVIGATE AROUND THE CAGES, WHICH WILL BE A SAFETY HAZARD. I SUPPORT WATERMEN AND THIS LOCAL BUSINESS AND HOPE THEY CAN FIND A MORE SUITABLE LOCATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
135	ELIZABETH BAGBY	04/26/2024 17:42:59 PM	OPPOSE

THIS LAND USE SURROUNDING LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS PRIMARILY RESIDENTIAL. THE NAVIGABLE WATERWAY IS TOO SMALL TO ACCOMMODATE THIS PROPOSED AQUACULTURE PROJECT AND THE HEAVY RECREATIONAL USE ALREADY TAKING PLACE. IT WOULD CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD AND INFINGE ON OWNERS' RIGHTS TO THE QUIET ENJOYMENT OF THEIR REAL PROPERTY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
136	LAWRENCE HENEBERY JR.	04/26/2024 17:45:33 PM	OPPOSE

THIS LAND USE SURROUNDING LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS PRIMARILY RESIDENTIAL. THE NAVIGABLE WATERWAY IS TOO SMALL TO ACCOMMODATE THIS PROPOSED AQUACULTURE PROJECT AND THE HEAVY RECREATIONAL USE ALREADY TAKING PLACE. IT WOULD CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD AND INFINGE ON OWNERS' RIGHTS TO THE QUIET ENJOYMENT OF THEIR REAL PROPERTY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
137	WILLIAM SMITH	04/26/2024 18:32:50 PM	FAVOR

I AM COMPLETELY IN FAVOR OF THIS PROJECT. AS A LOCAL BORN HERE THIS AREA'S ECONOMY HAS ALWAYS BEEN BASED UPON THE WORKING WATERFRONT. THE LANCASTER COUNTY 2035 PLAN HAS PUT EMPHASIS ON PRESERVING THE WORKING WATERFRONT. IF YOU TAKE TIME TO LOOK OVER THE DIAGRAMS PROVIDED IN THE APPLICATION THE FARM DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH NAVIGATION IN THE CHANNEL. THOMAS AND CALLIE HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY TRANSPARENT AND MORE THAN WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS PROJECT AND ITS POTENTIAL CONFLICTS WITH ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN. THIS IS NOT A LARGE COMPANY THIS IS A SMALL BUSINESS OWNED BY 2 YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS WHO DECIDED TO MAKE THIS COUNTY HOME. IT IS CRUCIAL THAT WE DO ANYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP THEM HERE AND ENCOURAGE THERE CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN THIS COMMUNITY. A PROSPEROUS WORKING WATERFRONT WILL INCREASE PROPERTY VALUES NOT DECREASE THEM. IF YOU TRULY LOOK AT YOUR HOME AS AN INVESTMENT THEN RESEARCH SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE INTO THE AREA, ITS HERITAGE, AND THE PLANS OUR LEADERSHIP HAS OUTLINED. THIS PROJECT CHECKS ALL THE BOXES. IT CREATES JOBS AND PROMOTES ENTREPRENEURSHIP, IT KEEPS MOTIVATED YOUNG INDIVIDUALS IN OUR AREA, AND PROTECTS AND RESTORES WORKING WATERFRONT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
138	SARA COCKRELL	04/26/2024 19:48:35 PM	FAVOR

LOVE SEEING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN THE NORTHERN NECK. THEY CONTINUE THE LEGACY OF OUR PAST WATERMAN. OYSTERS ARE A PART OF WHAT THIS AREA THRIVES ON AND IS KNOWN FOR. LET THEM CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR AREA STRONG.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
139	DRUSILLA C MILFORD	04/26/2024 20:14:09 PM	OPPOSE

I VERY MUCH OPPOSE THIS APPLICATION FOR OYSTER FLOATS. THE SPOT ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK WHERE THEY WANT TO PUT THE OYSTER FLOATS IS QUITE SHALLOW. THIS AREA IS USED FOR RECREATIONAL USE BY THE SURROUNDING FAMILIES BOATING, FISHING, HANGGLIDING, CANOEING, KAYAKING, JET SKIING, WATER SKIING, SAILING, CRABBING, AS WELL AS OTHER ACTIVITIES. FAMILIES - OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN CONSTANTLY USE THIS WATER AREA. SETTING UP THESE OYSTER CAGES WOULD GREATLY IMPACT AND IMPEDE THE AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY THAT COULD TAKE PLACE BOTH DUE TO SPACE BUT, JUST AS IMPORTANT, DUE TO SAFETY. AS WELL, THE WATER IS QUITE SHALLOW IN THAT AREA AND IT IS ALREADY A CHALLENGE TO GET OUR BOAT OUT INTO THE RIVER. WE DO NOT WANT EVEN MORE OF A CHALLENGE! AND TALK ABOUT AN EYESORE. FURTHERMORE WHAT IS TO PREVENT THE TEMPORARY "HURRICANE CONTINGENCY LOCATION" FROM BECOMING A PERMANENT LOCATION AT SOME POINT. I VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO THIS APPLICATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
140	GEORGE B BEALL	04/26/2024 20:16:11 PM	FAVOR

I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE LOCAL ECO SYSTEM.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
141	SHAWN M BOWERS	04/26/2024 20:42:46 PM	OPPOSE

THIS IS AN AREA FREQUENTLY USED AS A RECREATIONAL LOCATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
142	SARA L SMUDA	04/26/2024 22:22:38 PM	OPPOSE

I LIVE ON THE CREEK OF THE PROPOSED FLOATING FLIP FARM BASKETS. THERE ARE NUMEROUS SAFETY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED FLOATING OYSTER FLIP FARM FOR RESIDENTS ON THE CREEK. THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED FARM IS THE MAIN CHANNEL TO ENTER AND LEAVE THE CREEK IF THE BASKETS ARE MOVED TO THAT LOCATION, IT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH BOATING SAFELY. THE CHANNEL IS EXTREMELY NARROW AND SHALLOW AS IS - ADDING ADDITIONAL OBSTACLES ONLY PRESENTS ADDITIONAL RISK TO BOATERS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN INCLEMENT CONDITIONS AND AT DUSK.

IN ADDITION, THIS LOCATION IS A QUIET RESIDENTIAL AREA, NOT COMMERCIAL. AN OYSTER FARM BENEFITING A BUSINESS SHOULD NOT TRUMP THE SAFETY OF RESIDENTS.

I HOPE THAT THE COMMENTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FAVORING THIS APPLICATION ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE WHO WILL BE PERSONALLY IMPACTED BY THIS DECISION, NOT THOSE WHO SIMPLY BROADLY FAVOR LOCAL ECONOMY AND WATERMAN. I SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMY AND WATERMAN TOO, BUT NOT AT THE DETRIMENT TO MY NEIGHBORHOOD AND PERSONAL SAFETY.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
143	CHRISTOPHER SMITH	04/26/2024 23:11:25 PM	OPPOSE

I HAVE PROPERTY AND A DOCK ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I OPPOSE THIS APPLICATION BECAUSE IT WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE AFFECTS ON MY ENJOYMENT OF THE WATER NEAR MY PROPERTY. THE CREEK IS NOT BIG TO BEGIN WITH, AND THIS ADDITION WOULD BE BOTH UNSIGHTLY AND HINDER NAVIGATION. WHILE SOMETHING LIKE THIS MAY BE COMPLETELY APPROPRIATE ELSEWHERE, IT IS NOT IN THIS BODY OF WATER.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
144	KAREN ROLAND	04/26/2024 23:49:52 PM	OPPOSE

I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT WATERMEN AND OYSTER FARMING, AND FULLY RECOGNIZE THERE ARE MANY ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS. BOTH ALSO CONTINUE THE TREMENDOUS HISTORY AND HERITAGE. HOWEVER, I AM OPPOSED TO THE DETAILS OF THIS PARTICULAR PROPOSAL. MANY PEOPLE VOICING THEIR FAVOR OF THIS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE WATERWAY OR THE DETAILS OF THE PLAN AND ITS IMPACT. LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS A SHALLOW CREEK IN A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY. AT LOW TIDE, THERE ARE ONLY A COUPLE FEET OF WATER IN THE CHANNEL LEADING OUT TO THE RAPPAHANNOCK. MAINLY RESIDENTS OF OUR LITTLE OYSTER COMMUNITY ARE OPPOSED BECAUSE IT DIRECTLY IMPACTS US, WHEREAS THOSE OUTSIDE OUR COMMUNITY ARE IN FAVOR BECAUSE IT DOES NOT DIRECTLY IMPACT THEM NEGATIVELY. IF THIS PLAN MOVES FORWARD, IT IS THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO WILL DIRECTLY ENDURE THE IMPACTS AND CONSEQUENCES THAT WILL AFFECT OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, NAVIGATION, RECREATION, SAFETY, QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DEVALUATION OF PROPERTY. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS OUR SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION THAT WILL BE HARMED BY BLOCKED SUNLIGHT, AFTER CULTIVATED GROWTH FOR OVER A DECADE, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY IMPACT THE HEALTH OF OUR CREEK. IT IS OUR FAMILIES WHO WILL HAVE TO SMELL THE WATERFOUL WASTE AND SWIM IN THE WATERS WHERE IT WILL BUILD. FLOATING CAGES BRING MANY PROS AND CONS “ AND THESE ARE THE DISADVANTAGES. IT IS EASY TO SIT FROM AFAR AND FAVOR PRINCIPLES WHEN THERE IS NO IMPACT TO YOU. IRONICALLY, WE ALL ACTUALLY AGREE ON THE OVERRIDING PRINCIPLES. WE WANT MORE OYSTER FARMING. WE WANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATERMEN. AND WE WANT THOMAS AND CALLIE’S BUSINESS TO SUCCEED. OUR LITTLE OYSTER CREEK COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE SHARED THIS DIRECTLY IN PERSON WITH THOMAS AND CALLIE. THOMAS AND CALLIE AGREE THAT THE BEST PLACE FOR THEIR CAGES IS NOT IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK, BUT WHERE THEY PLANNED, AT MOSQUITO POINT. ACCORDING TO THEM, THIS IS ONLY A SHORT-TERM BAND-AID FOR THEM. BUT WHY EVEN TAKE THE RISK AND GO THROUGH THIS EFFORT GIVEN IT’S NOT OPTIMAL FOR THEM, NOT SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY, AND BRINGS SO MUCH RISK, WHILE THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS THAT ARE ACTUALLY BETTER. CAN’T WE WORK TO HELP THEM GET THE FLOATING CAGES TO WHERE THEY PREFER ON PRISTINE AND OPEN WATERS OFF MOSQUITO POINT? OR, GIVEN THE SUPPORT OF SO MANY IN OTHER NNK COMMUNITIES, WE URGE THOSE IN FAVOR TO WORK WITH THOMAS AND CALLIE ON A PLAN TO PLACE THE FLOATS ON YOUR WATERWAYS HOPEFULLY LARGER AND DEEPER CREEKS , THUS PUTTING YOUR SUPPORT INTO ACTION THAT WILL ACHIEVE THE GOALS YOU FEEL SO STRONGLY ABOUT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
145	EVAN COTTER	04/27/2024 07:40:52 AM	FAVOR

OYSTERS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE THE RIVERS ECOSYSTEM, AND OYSTER FARMING HELPS IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AMONG OTHER BENEFITS. OYSTERS FILTER EXCESS NUTRIENTS LIKE NITROGEN FROM THE WATER, MATURE OYSTERS CAN FILTER 30-50 GALLONS OF WATER DAILY. THIS IMPROVES WATER QUALITY AND ALLOWS LIGHT TO PENETRATE THE WATER, WHICH HELPS BAY GRASSES AND MACROALGAE GROW. OYSTER REEFS ALSO PROVIDE HABITAT FOR FISH AND CRABS.

Iâ€™M FOR THIS PROJECT AS IT WILL HELP OUR WATERWAYS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
146	NOELLE A GERLINGER	04/27/2024 14:22:27 PM	OPPOSE

I LIVE ON WINDMILL POINT ROAD RIGHT ON OYSTER CREEK AND I OPPOSE THE INTRUSION OF OUR WATERWAYS FOR COMMERCIAL FARMING.

IT IS AN OBSTRUCTION OF VIEWS, PEACE, AND RELAXATION THAT WE COME TO THIS AREA FOR.

I DO NOT WANT TO SEE, HEAR AND HAVE WILD LIFE EFFECT BY A LARGE FLOATING FARMING SHIP.

THIS WILL NOT ONLY EFFECT THE PEACE AND VIEWS THAT I BROUGHT MY PROPERTY FOR BUT ALSO OBSTRUCT BOATING, LEISURE ACTIVITIES AND DRIVE DOWN MOST IMPORTANTLY MY PROPERTY VALUE.

I AM OPPOSED TO ANY ALTERATIONS OF THE WATERWAY IN AN AREA SO SMALL THAT IT WILL EFFECT MANY.

NO!

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINING OF DESTROYING OUR BEAUTIFUL CREEK AND OPENS THE DOOR TO OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.

NO THANK YOU!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
147	LESLEY GAMBLE	04/28/2024 19:04:06 PM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO STATE MY OPPOSITION TO GRANTING THOMAS HYDE OF STEAMBOAT OYSTERS A PERMIT TO PLACE CAGES IN THE LOCATION HE HAS REQUESTED. MY INITIAL AND MOST OBVIOUS REASONS ARE: 1. PLACING FLOATING OYSTER CAGES AT THIS SITE WILL RUIN PROPERTY OWNERS' BEAUTIFUL AND PRECIOUS WATER VIEWS, 2. INHIBIT OUR RECREATIONAL JOY, 3. INTRODUCE POTENTIAL SAFETY HAZARDS AND 4. DEGRADE VIEWSHED PROPERTY VALUES. THESE LOSSES WOULD INFLICT A CONSIDERABLE MEASURE OF GRIEF AND POTENTIAL FINANCIAL HARM NOT ONLY UPON MY FAMILY BUT MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS' FAMILIES, AS WELL. THESE ARE REASONS ENOUGH, IN MY OPINION, TO DENY THIS PERMIT. //

THERE ARE, HOWEVER, OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS. WATER RECREATION AND TOURISM ARE AMONG THE PRIMARY ECONOMIC DRIVERS IN OUR AREA. WHETHER YOU'RE PADDLING, BOATING, FISHING OR SWIMMING, NAVIGATING AROUND FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IS NOT CONDUCIVE TO THE ENJOYMENT OF NATURE. WE SHOULD BE CONSIDERING THE POTENTIAL WIDER, LONG TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE IN OUR AREA, SPECIFICALLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RISKS OF LOSS IN VIEWSHED PROPERTY VALUES, INCOME FROM LOCAL WATER-BASED RECREATION AND TOURISM, AND THE VERY REAL POTENTIAL OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, PRIMARILY ECOLOGICAL BUT ALSO CIVIC. WE NEED TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT HOW TO NAVIGATE SITUATIONS WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL'S WELL-INTENTIONED PROFIT MOTIVE FINDS ITSELF AT ODDS WITH A SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOOD'S OR COMMUNITY'S HAPPINESS, PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING. //

PERHAPS EVEN MORE URGENTLY, ANY DECISIONS INVOLVING COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE SHOULD FOREGROUND THE POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS TO THE RIVER AND SURROUNDING PROPERTIES. THIS HAS BEEN STUDIED VERY MINIMALLY IN OUR AREA WITH RESULTS THAT ARE FAR FROM CONCLUSIVE. STUDIES OF FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IN OTHER LOCATIONS HAVE DOCUMENTED PROBLEMS THAT INCLUDE: NEGATIVE CHANGES IN BENTHIC SEDIMENTS AND MACROFAUNA HEALTH DUE TO ACCUMULATIONS OF OYSTER BIO-DEPOSITS FECES LIGHT ATTENUATION BELOW THE CAGES THAT RESULTS IN EXTINGUISHING NATIVE SEA GRASSES THAT ARE VITAL TO AQUATIC ECOLOGIES COMPETITION FOR PHYTOPLANKTON THAT CAN WITHDRAW NOURISHMENT FROM MANY OTHER NATIVE SPECIES THE INTRODUCTION OF DISEASES AND PESTS NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON AVIAN FEEDING, NESTING GROUNDS AND MIGRATORY ROUTES STORM DAMAGE AND DECREASES IN CURRENT SPEED, TO NAME A FEW. //

A 2017-2018 VIMS STUDY, LED BY A GRADUATE STUDENT, RESEARCHED ONLY FOUR COMMERCIAL OYSTER SITES IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BUT DID INCLUDE ONE THAT UTILIZED FLOATING CAGES AT WINDMILL POINT. WHILE THE OYSTERS AT THE SITE WERE WITHDRAWN BEFORE THE END OF THE STUDY, THE RESEARCHERS FELT ABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACTS WITHIN THAT PARTICULAR ONE-YEAR CYCLE WITHIN THE PARAMETERS TESTED ON THE SURROUNDING ECOLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. BUT ALSO, TO THEIR ADMITTED SURPRISE, THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACTS, EITHER, IN TERMS OF WATER QUALITY. //

PROMOTERS OF COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARMING OFTEN SITE ITS ECOLOGICAL BENEFIT GIVEN THAT

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

OYSTERS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR ABILITY TO FILTER AND CLEAN WATER. BUT THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE, AS THE VIMS STUDY DOCUMENTS. //

AS WITH MOST OR ALL ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS, CAUSES AND EFFECTS ARE NOT LINEAR. THE VIMS RESEARCHERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT STUDIES HAVE SHOWN “THAT AQUACULTURE OPERATIONS USING FLOATING OR BOTTOM CAGES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CONCENTRATE ORGANIC MATTER ON THE SEDIMENT SURFACE, POTENTIALLY CREATING HYPOXIC OR ANOXIC CONDITIONS THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACT MACROFAUNAL COMMUNITIES LIVING IN THOSE SEDIMENTS” KELLOGG, TURNER AND MASSEY 2018, PP. 2-3 . WHILE THIS RESULT WAS NOT DOCUMENTED IN THE VIMS STUDY, THE PROCESS IS WELL WORTH NOTING. HYPOXIC OR ANOXIC CONDITIONS ARE CAUSED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF THE OYSTERS’ ABUNDANT FECES, WHICH, IN TURN, ARE THE RESULT OF THEIR CAPACITY TO FILTER PHYTOPLANKTON, DETRITUS AND SEDIMENTS FROM THE WATER COLUMN. BUT IT IS THIS VERY CAPACITY, THE OYSTERS’ ABILITY TO FILTER, THAT CLEANS THE WATER. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SAME NATURAL PROCESS CAN SHIFT TOWARD HELP OR HARM. GIVEN THAT HEALTHY SEDIMENTS, LIKE SEA GRASSES, ARE KEY TO RESTORING AND SUSTAINING THE ECOLOGY OF THE BAY, THERE’S CLEARLY A VERY DELICATE BALANCE THAT MUST BE WELL UNDERSTOOD, CLOSELY MONITORED AND WELL MAINTAINED SO AS NOT TO DO FURTHER HARM. //

ANOTHER PRESSING ECOLOGICAL QUESTION INVOLVES THE IMPACTS OF FLOATING OYSTER CAGES ON THE RIVER’S CURRENTS AND THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES THAT MAY RESULT. THE VIMS STUDY NOTES THAT SOME OF THE FLOATING CAGES SLOWED WATER CURRENTS. THIS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO LOSSES IN EELGRASS WHEN CURRENTS DON’T REMOVE ALGAL GROWTH ON THE GRASSES, WHICH PREVENTS THEM FROM PHOTOSYNTHESIZING. ATTENUATIONS IN CURRENT MAY ALSO INCREASE WATER TEMPERATURES, WHICH EXACERBATES THE PROBLEM AS ALGAL PROLIFERATION AND BLOOMS ARE TYPICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH WARMER WATER AND SLOWER CURRENTS. THIS POTENTIAL SITUATION MERITS STUDY. //

I DOUBT THAT ANYONE IN THE BOATING COMMUNITY HAS FAILED TO NOTICE THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN NON-NATIVE RED ALGAE, GRACILARIA VERMICULOPHYLLA. IN SOME AREAS OF THE BAY IT SEEMS TO BE PROLIFERATING TO THE POINT OF ALMOST CHOKING OUT BOAT PASSAGE. ACCORDING TO A 2022 VIMS STUDY, INTERMEDIATE LEVELS OF RED ALGAE BIOMASS MAY PROVIDE FOOD SOURCES AND HABITAT IN AREAS WHERE ANTHROPOGENIC POLLUTION HAS EXTERMINATED NATIVE SEAGRASSES. BUT AT HIGH LEVELS OF BIOMASS “GRACILARIA MAY BE DETRIMENTAL TO BOTH SEAGRASSES AND OTHER ORGANISMS BY FORMING DENSE MATS, WHICH CAN DECREASE LIGHT AVAILABILITY FOR SEAGRASSES AND CAUSE HYPOXIA OR ANOXIA” WOOD AND LIPCIUS 2022, P. 3 . THESE HIGH-DENSITY MATS ARE GENERALLY LIMITED TO LAGOONS AND AREAS WITH LOW WATER FLOW. AGAIN, THERE IS A DELICATE LINE BETWEEN HELP AND HARM. I’M NOT A SCIENTIST BUT I DO THINK IT WOULD OF BENEFIT TO EXAMINE POTENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FLOATING OYSTER CAGES, CURRENT ATTENUATION AND ALGAL OVERGROWTH. //

I AM NOT OPPOSED TO COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE. IT IS OFTEN TOUTED AS A POTENTIAL SOLUTION TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY’S DECLINING NATURAL FISHERIES, WHICH ARE IN PERIL DUE TO ECOLOGIES DEGRADED BY TOXIC CONTAMINANTS SUCH AS POLLUTION FROM PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS EXCESSIVE NITROGEN AND PHOSPHOROUS FUELING ALGAL GROWTH AND EUTROPHICATION , INDUSTRY MERCURY, PCBS, PAHS, PFAS, ARSENIC, ETC. , WASTEWATER, SEPTIC TANK LEAKS, AIR POLLUTION AND STORMWATER RUNOFF, AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT, DEFORESTATION AND THE LOSS OF WETLANDS AND

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

SEA GRASSES THAT PROVIDE VITAL NOURISHMENT, HABITAT, NURSERIES, WATER CLEANSING AND PROTECTION FROM STORM SURGES. IN OTHER WORDS, WE'VE ALREADY LOST A LOT OF OUR WATERS' ECOSYSTEM SERVICES. THE FISHERIES ARE JUST ONE OF MANY CASUALTIES. YET OYSTERS ARE CAPABLE OF CLEANING WATER BY FILTERING IT, STORING MANY OF ITS CONTENTS IN THEIR SHELLS AND TISSUES WHILE EXPELLING OTHERS ONTO THE SEA FLOOR. FOR SOME SCIENTISTS AND INVESTORS THIS SUGGESTS A POTENTIAL FOR RESTORING THE ECOLOGY OF THE BAY WHILE OFFERING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES. HENCE THE PROMOTION OF COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE, PARTICULARLY OYSTER FARMING. //

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE 2017-2018 VIMS STUDY ATTEMPTED A FIRST STEP TOWARD ASKING HOW COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARMING MIGHT HELP WATERMEN COPE WITH THE BAY'S RAPIDLY DEGRADING HEALTH, THE SUBSEQUENT DWINDLING OF ITS ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND DECLINING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WHILE TRYING TO KEEP PACE WITH A BURGEONING MARKET DEMAND FOR SEAFOOD. THAT'S A VERY SPECIFIC FRAMEWORK, WHICH DIRECTED THE PARAMETERS OF THE STUDY. WHILE THEIR RESEARCH SUBJECT IS ENTIRELY WORTHY, IT DID NOT FOCUS ON THE MYRIAD IMPACTS OF COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARMING FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PROPERTY OWNERS AND THOSE WHO LOVE AND RECREATE ON THESE WATERS, MANY WITH THEIR FAMILIES OVER SEVERAL GENERATIONS. //

LIKEWISE, THE APPLICATION FOR THIS COMMERCIAL OYSTER AQUACULTURE PERMIT IS FOR A VERY SPECIFIC LOCAL SITE. A PLACE THAT IS HOME TO A COMPLEX NETWORK OF INTERDEPENDENT ECOLOGIES THAT HAVE ENTWINED PEOPLE, WATER AND INNUMERABLE SPECIES OF AQUATIC FLORA AND FAUNA FOR GENERATIONS. THESE PRECIOUS AND DELICATE RELATIONSHIPS OF MUTUALITY SHOULD DIRECT THE PARAMETERS BY WHICH THIS PERMIT IS JUDGED. //

ON THE OTHER HAND, GRANTING THIS PERMIT WOULD ALLOW AN INCURSION OF AQUACULTURE THAT WILL BE SEEN BY MANY AS AN UNNECESSARY VIOLATION OF THE TRUST AND GOODWILL COMMUNITY MEMBERS EXTEND TO EACH OTHER AS NEIGHBORS, PROPERTY OWNERS AND STEWARDS OF OUR SHARED AND BELOVED PUBLIC WATERS. // THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
148	TYLER MATHEWS	04/29/2024 08:05:26 AM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO OPPOSE THE 1225 OYSTER FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I HAVE BEEN FISHING THESE WATERWAYS FOR YEARS. THESE OYSTER FLOATS WILL CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD FOR BOATERS AND AN EYESORE FOR HOMEOWNERS. \R\NTHANK YOU,

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
149	MARSHA MATTHEWS	04/29/2024 08:06:49 AM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO OPPOSE THE 1225 OYSTER FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. MY SON IS A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN AND WE LOVE SUPPORTING LOCAL FISHING BUSINESSES. THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE. THE ISSUE IS THAT THESE OYSTER FLOATS WILL BE A SAFETY HAZARD FOR BOATERS. THIS CREEK IS NOT BIG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THIS AND HAVE SAFE WATERWAYS.\RINTHANK YOU,

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
150	THOMAS BARRETT	04/29/2024 08:10:07 AM	OPPOSE

I RECENTLY RESEARCHED AN APPLICATION TO PUT 1225 OYSTER FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I AM OPPOSED TO THIS. I APPLIED FOR UNDER THOMAS HYDE. MY WIFE AND I OWN PROPERTY ON THIS CREEK. WHILE THESE POTS ARE NOT LIKELY TO PHYSICALLY OR VISUALLY IMPACT OUR PROPERTY, I CAN'T IMAGINE A PERMIT BEING GRANTED THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO BE IN FRONT OF OUR PROPERTY AND NOT BEING UPSET. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE APPLICANTS HAVE A HOME WITH RIVER/WATER FRONTAGE AND ARE NOT APPLYING FOR POTS IN FRONT OF THEIR PROPERTY, BUT PUTTING POTS IN FRONT OF SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY. THIS IS WHY I'M OPPOSED OF THEIR APPLICATION. I DO BELIEVE THESE FLOATING BASKETS, IN THE APPLIED LOCATION WILL AFFECT OUR COMMUNITIES ABILITY TO BOAT, KAYAK, SUP, WATER SKI, AND TUBE WITH OUR FAMILIES. AFTER REVIEWING THEIR APPLICATION DETAILS, IT SEEMS LIKE A BIG ASK OF THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE UP THE LOCATION THEY WISH TO COMMANDEER FOR THEMSELVES. I'M NOT AGAINST WATERMAN, THE APPLICANTS OR THEIR BUSINESS, MORE SO THE SPECIFIC LOCATION AND PLACEMENT THEY PROPOSE. IN FACT I APPLAUD THE APPLICANTS COMPOSURE IN DEALING WITH SOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT FORGOT HOW TO BEHAVE IN OUR COMMUNITY FORUMS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
151	CHAD LUCKER	04/29/2024 08:11:08 AM	OPPOSE

I AM OPPOSED TO PERMIT NUMBER 20240849, WHICH WANTS TO PUT 1225 OYSTER FLOATS IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
152	JOHN W WOODS III	04/30/2024 18:05:34 PM	OPPOSE

I HAVE REVIEWED THE AMENDED APPLICATION FOR 20240849 AND REMAIN IN OPPOSITION TO THE PERMIT APPLICATION AND THE AMENDMENT THERETO. I HEREBY INCORPORATE MY PRIOR COMMENT AS PART OF THIS COMMENT AND FURTHER SUPPORT THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE 70 + INDIVIDUALS IN OPPOSITION TO THE REQUESTED PERMIT AND THE AMENDMENT THERETO. WE PAY A TON OF TAXES IN LANCASTER COUNTY, INVESTED HEAVILY IN WATERFRONT PROPERTY ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND DONâ€™T WANT ANY FLOATING OBSTRUCTIONS AND EYESORES DETRACTING FROM OUR PROPERTYâ€™S VALUE. THE FACT THAT THE APPLICANTS ARE WILLING TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CAGES FROM 1225 TO 600 MADE UP OF 3 ROWS OF 200 FLOATING CAGES EACH IS IMMATERIAL. 600 FLOATING CAGES REMAIN AN EYESORE AND A DETRIMENT TO THE TAXPAYING HOMEOWNERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THE ADVERSE AESTHETIC AND ECONOMIC IMPACT THAT WOULD RESULT FROM ALLOWING THIS PERMIT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
153	DUNCAN WINGFIELD	04/30/2024 19:22:55 PM	FAVOR

WE WELCOME ANYTHING THAT WILL IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND MAKE THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT HEALTHIER FOR BOTH MARINE LIFE AND HUMAN RECREATION. THOMAS AND CALLIE HYDE ARE NOT ONLY GOOD PEOPLE BUT ALSO ARE HELPING THE NORTHERN NECK BY PROMOTING BOTH ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
154	TAYLOR PARKER	04/30/2024 20:09:44 PM	FAVOR

THIS PROJECT WILL DO NOTHING BUT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY THROUGH LOCAL BUSINESS, WHILE ALSO MAINTAINING THE AREAS MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME CALLIE AND THOMAS HAVE WORKED ON WATER NEARBY TO RESIDENTS AND THEY HAVE NEVER RECEIVED A COMPLAINT BEFORE.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
155	JEREMY ELEY	04/30/2024 20:37:08 PM	FAVOR

THIS IS AN UPSTANDING, GROWING BUSINESS ADVOCATING FOR THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC/YOUNG BUSINESS PEOPLE LEADING THE WAY AND ACTING AS ROLE MODELS TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF WATERMEN/LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS PEOPLE, I SEE NO CAUSE TO STIFLE THEIR EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE SOUGHT COMPROMISE AND HAVE ASKED FOR A SMALLER PARCEL THAN INITIALLY PROPOSED. IF THE WATERS OFF OUR MANY HUNDREDS OF MILES OF SHORELINE CAN'T BE GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR RECREATION, THAN IT SHOULD GO TO GOOD TAX REVENUE.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
156	IRENE VEST	04/30/2024 20:35:35 PM	FAVOR

OYSTERS ARE A VITAL PART OF THE AREA. AS THE FARM WOULD BE BENEFICIAL IN NATURALLY FILTERING THE WATER AND DOING NO HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT , I SUPPORT THE PROJECT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
157	TAYLOR E TRUMBOWER	05/01/2024 21:10:35 PM	FAVOR

I AM IN FAVOR OF JPA 2024-0849. THE HYDEâ€™S HAVE ALWAYS ACTED WITH THE UTMOST HONOR AND ETHICS IN EVERYTHING THEY DO. THEY ARE TRUE STEWARDS OF THE LAND AND WATER THEY CULTIVATE AND GREW UP ON. THEY ARE PART OF A LONG AND VALUED TRADITION OF WATERMEN AND WOMEN WHO PRESERVE OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE AND ECOSYSTEM BETTER THAN ANY â€œRESIDENTâ€• CONCERNED ABOUT VIEWS OR THEIR INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY. THEY HAVE SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE AND THEIR CONTINUED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE COMMENDED NOT CRITICIZED.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
158	WILLIAM SCHLEGEL	04/30/2024 22:26:37 PM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT THIS PROJECT. OYSTERS ARE GREAT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT NOT TO MENTION DELICIOUS AND SMALL BUSINESSES ARE GREAT FOR THE COMMUNITY! WIN/WIN. CHEERS!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
159	KYLE MCCORMICK	05/01/2024 07:28:53 AM	FAVOR

STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER CO DESERVES THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND HERE AND CONTINUE MAKING OUR WATERWAYS CLEANER AND HEALTHIER THAN EVER. PLEASE GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW THEIR BUSINESS. THEY ARE AN HONEST COMPANY PROVIDING BETTER ACCESS TO QUALITY LOCAL SEAFOOD. THIS TINY FOOTPRINT REQUESTED TO GROW MORE OYSTERS WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ITS WATERWAYS FOR MANY YEARS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
160	CASSIE K FORBES	05/01/2024 11:12:45 AM	FAVOR

THE APPLICANTS FOR THIS PROJECT ARE HARD-WORKING PEOPLE WHO VALUE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING BACK TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY. THIS PROJECT WILL ALLOW THEM TO EXPAND THEIR BUSINESS, AND IN TURN EXPAND THEIR ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE REGION'S OTHER LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
161	ASHLEY M WILLIAMS	05/01/2024 12:30:06 PM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT THE NEW APPLICATION THAT STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER HAS SUBMITTED. REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE LEASE SHOWS THAT THEY ARE LISTENING AND WILLING TO WORK WITH THEIR COMMUNITY TO REACH A COMPROMISE. THE ARIAL DIAGRAM AND MATERIALS THEY HAVE PUT TOGETHER SHOW THAT THEY ARE GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND WHAT IS ASKED OF THEM TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS. BY REVIEWING THE DIAGRAM, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT THE LEASE WILL NOT CAUSE VISUAL POLLUTION FOR THE RESIDENTIAL HOMES. IN FACT IT DOESNâ€™T LOOK CLOSE TO THEM AT ALL. FURTHERMORE, THE LEASE DOES NOT LOOK AS THOUGH IT WOULD EXTEND PAST THE POINT AND CAUSE DANGER TO BOAT ACTIVITY. NOT TO MENTION IT WOULD BE QUITE CLOSE TO SHORE, AGAIN OUT OF THE WAY OF BOAT TRAFFIC. Iâ€™M NOT SURE WHAT THE ISSUE IS. BY APPROVING THE APPLICATION, WE WOULD BE SUPPORTING A LOCAL BUSINESS THAT SUPPORTS LOCAL ECONOMY AND THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IF YOU DINE OUT LOCALLY AND CLEANING UP THE WATERWAY! ITâ€™S AN EASY YES!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
162	SARAH HAYNIE	05/01/2024 13:02:53 PM	FAVOR

HELLO! I AM EMAILING IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT JPA 2024-0849. PLEASE ALLOW THIS AMAZING COMPANY TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THIS PROJECT. \R\N\R\NTHANKS!\R\N\R\N\R\NSARAH HAYNIE MCCARTHY, LPC\R\NC: 804-832-8647

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
163	EMORY HAYNIE	05/01/2024 13:04:17 PM	FAVOR

I AM IN SUPPORT OF JPA 2024-0849 BECAUSE OUR HERITAGE IS MAKING A LIVING ON THE WATER. I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO KEEP OUR CULTURE ALIVE AND WELL BY GIVING EVERYONE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A LIVING FROM OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. THE HYDEâ€™S LIVING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SOMEONEâ€™S VIEW. ESPECIALLY IF SAID PERSON ONLY VISITS IN THE WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.\R\NSINCERELY,\R\NEMORY HAYNIE

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
164	BRYCE A SOREM	05/01/2024 14:10:29 PM	FAVOR

I HAVE WORKED WITH CALLIE AND THOMAS FOR THE LAST YEAR AND THEY HAVE BEEN NOTHING BUT GREAT PEOPLE PROMOTING A GOOD ECO FRIENDLY PRODUCT. I AM THE EXECUTIVE CHEF OF TERROIR IN NYC AND I LOVE HAVING THEIR PRODUCT ON OUR MENU. NOT ONLY ARE THE OYSTERS DELICIOUS, BUT WE LOVE SUPPORTING A SMALL BUSINESS DOING THINGS THE RIGHT WAY. I HOPE MORE PEOPLE GET TO TASTE THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR, WHICH IS WHY TERROIR IS PROUD TO SEARCH STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTERS!

Attachments:

Submitted photos for this comment will begin on next page.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Public Comments
Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1714587055.jpg



Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
165	BARBARA J CARROLL	05/01/2024 15:58:07 PM	OPPOSE

I HAVE REVIEWED THE REVISED PROPOSAL AND STILL STRONGLY OPPOSE. MY REASONS WERE PREVIOUSLY STATED.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
166	LESLEY GAMBLE	05/01/2024 19:54:12 PM	OPPOSE

I AM WRITING TO STATE MY OPPOSITION TO GRANTING THOMAS HYDE OF STEAMBOAT OYSTERS. HIS SECOND APPLICATION, REQUESTING A PERMIT FOR FEWER FLOATING OYSTER CAGES, HAS NO BEARING ON MY CONTINUED OPPOSITION AS MY PRIMARY, THOUGH NOT ONLY, OBJECTION IS BASED ON LOCATION.

MY INITIAL REASONS ARE: 1. PLACING FLOATING OYSTER CAGES AT THIS SITE WILL RUIN PROPERTY OWNERS' BEAUTIFUL AND PRECIOUS WATER VIEWS, 2. INHIBIT OUR RECREATIONAL JOY, 3. INTRODUCE POTENTIAL SAFETY HAZARDS AND 4. DEGRADE VIEWSHED PROPERTY VALUES, AND 5. POTENTIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATIONS IN WATER QUALITY. THESE LOSSES WOULD INFLICT A CONSIDERABLE MEASURE OF GRIEF AND POTENTIAL FINANCIAL HARM NOT ONLY UPON MY FAMILY BUT MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORS' FAMILIES, AS WELL. THESE ARE REASONS ENOUGH, IN MY OPINION, TO DENY THIS PERMIT. //

THERE ARE, HOWEVER, OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS. WATER RECREATION AND TOURISM ARE AMONG THE PRIMARY ECONOMIC DRIVERS IN OUR AREA. WHETHER YOU'RE PADDLING, BOATING, FISHING OR SWIMMING, NAVIGATING AROUND FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO THE ENJOYMENT OF NATURE. WE SHOULD BE CONSIDERING THE POTENTIAL WIDER, LONG TERM ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE IN OUR AREA, SPECIFICALLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RISKS OF LOSS IN VIEWSHED PROPERTY VALUES, INCOME FROM LOCAL WATER-BASED RECREATION AND TOURISM, AND THE VERY REAL POTENTIAL OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, PRIMARILY ECOLOGICAL BUT ALSO CIVIC. WE NEED TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT HOW TO NAVIGATE SITUATIONS WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL'S WELL-INTENTIONED PROFIT MOTIVE FINDS ITSELF AT ODDS WITH A SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOOD'S OR COMMUNITY'S HAPPINESS, PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING. //

PERHAPS EVEN MORE URGENTLY, ANY DECISIONS INVOLVING COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE SHOULD FOREGROUND THE POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS TO THE RIVER AND SURROUNDING PROPERTIES. THIS HAS BEEN STUDIED VERY MINIMALLY IN OUR AREA WITH RESULTS THAT ARE FAR FROM CONCLUSIVE. STUDIES OF FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IN OTHER LOCATIONS HAVE DOCUMENTED PROBLEMS THAT INCLUDE: NEGATIVE CHANGES IN BENTHIC SEDIMENTS AND MACROFAUNA HEALTH DUE TO ACCUMULATIONS OF OYSTER BIO-DEPOSITS FECES, LIGHT ATTENUATION BELOW THE CAGES THAT RESULTS IN EXTINGUISHING NATIVE SEA GRASSES THAT ARE VITAL TO AQUATIC ECOLOGIES, COMPETITION FOR PHYTOPLANKTON THAT CAN WITHDRAW NOURISHMENT FROM MANY OTHER NATIVE SPECIES, THE INTRODUCTION OF DISEASES AND PESTS, NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON AVIAN FEEDING, NESTING GROUNDS AND MIGRATORY ROUTES, STORM DAMAGE, AND DECREASES IN CURRENT SPEED, TO NAME A FEW. //

A 2017-2018 VIMS STUDY, LED BY A GRADUATE STUDENT, RESEARCHED ONLY FOUR COMMERCIAL OYSTER SITES IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY BUT DID INCLUDE ONE THAT UTILIZED FLOATING CAGES AT WINDMILL POINT. WHILE THE OYSTERS AT THE SITE WERE WITHDRAWN BEFORE THE END OF THE STUDY, THE RESEARCHERS FELT ABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACTS WITHIN THAT PARTICULAR ONE-YEAR CYCLE WITHIN THE PARAMETERS TESTED ON THE SURROUNDING ECOLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. BUT ALSO, TO THEIR ADMITTED SURPRISE, THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

POSITIVE IMPACTS, EITHER, IN TERMS OF WATER QUALITY. //

PROMOTERS OF COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARMING OFTEN SITE ITS ECOLOGICAL BENEFIT GIVEN THAT OYSTERS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR ABILITY TO FILTER AND CLEAN WATER. BUT THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE, AS THE VIMS STUDY DOCUMENTS. //

AS WITH MOST OR ALL ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS, CAUSES AND EFFECTS ARE NOT LINEAR. THE VIMS RESEARCHERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT STUDIES HAVE SHOWN “THAT AQUACULTURE OPERATIONS USING FLOATING OR BOTTOM CAGES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CONCENTRATE ORGANIC MATTER ON THE SEDIMENT SURFACE, POTENTIALLY CREATING HYPOXIC OR ANOXIC CONDITIONS THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACT MACROFAUNAL COMMUNITIES LIVING IN THOSE SEDIMENTS” • KELLOGG, TURNER AND MASSEY 2018, PP. 2-3 . WHILE THIS RESULT WAS NOT DOCUMENTED IN THE VIMS STUDY, THE PROCESS IS WELL WORTH NOTING. HYPOXIC OR ANOXIC CONDITIONS ARE CAUSED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF THE OYSTERS’ ABUNDANT FECES, WHICH, IN TURN, ARE THE RESULT OF THEIR CAPACITY TO FILTER PHYTOPLANKTON, DETRITUS AND SEDIMENTS FROM THE WATER COLUMN. BUT IT IS THIS VERY CAPACITY, THE OYSTERS’ ABILITY TO FILTER, THAT CLEANS THE WATER. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SAME NATURAL PROCESS CAN SHIFT TOWARD HELP OR HARM. GIVEN THAT HEALTHY SEDIMENTS, LIKE SEA GRASSES, ARE KEY TO RESTORING AND SUSTAINING THE ECOLOGY OF THE BAY, THERE’S CLEARLY A VERY DELICATE BALANCE THAT MUST BE WELL UNDERSTOOD, CLOSELY MONITORED AND WELL MAINTAINED SO AS NOT TO DO FURTHER HARM. //

ANOTHER PRESSING ECOLOGICAL QUESTION INVOLVES THE IMPACTS OF FLOATING OYSTER CAGES ON THE RIVER’S CURRENTS AND THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES THAT MAY RESULT. THE VIMS STUDY NOTES THAT SOME OF THE FLOATING CAGES SLOWED WATER CURRENTS. THIS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO LOSSES IN EELGRASS WHEN CURRENTS DON’T REMOVE ALGAL GROWTH ON THE GRASSES, WHICH PREVENTS THEM FROM PHOTOSYNTHESIZING. WHEN NATIVE GRASSES DIE, BACTERIA TAKE OXYGEN OUT OF THE WATER IN ORDER TO FEED ON THE DECAYING MATTER, WHICH IS A PRIMARY CAUSE OF EUTROPHICATION AND SUBSEQUENT FISH KILLS. ATTENUATIONS IN CURRENT MAY ALSO INCREASE WATER TEMPERATURES, WHICH EXACERBATES THE PROBLEM AS ALGAL PROLIFERATION AND BLOOMS ARE TYPICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH WARMER WATER AND SLOWER CURRENTS. THIS POTENTIAL SITUATION MERITS STUDY. //

I DOUBT THAT ANYONE IN THE BOATING COMMUNITY HAS FAILED TO NOTICE THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN AN INVASIVE NON-NATIVE RED ALGAE, GRACILARIA VERMICULOPHYLLA. IN SOME AREAS OF THE BAY IT SEEMS TO BE PROLIFERATING TO THE POINT OF ALMOST CHOKING OUT BOAT PASSAGE. ACCORDING TO A 2022 VIMS STUDY, INTERMEDIATE LEVELS OF RED ALGAE BIOMASS MAY PROVIDE FOOD SOURCES AND HABITAT IN AREAS WHERE ANTHROPOGENIC POLLUTION HAS EXTERMINATED NATIVE SEAGRASSES. BUT AT HIGH LEVELS OF BIOMASS “GRACILARIA MAY BE DETRIMENTAL TO BOTH SEAGRASSES AND OTHER ORGANISMS BY FORMING DENSE MATS, WHICH CAN DECREASE LIGHT AVAILABILITY FOR SEAGRASSES AND CAUSE HYPOXIA OR ANOXIA” • WOOD AND LIPCIUS 2022, P. 3 . THESE HIGH-DENSITY MATS ARE GENERALLY LIMITED TO LAGOONS AND SHALLOWER AREAS WITH LOW WATER FLOW. AGAIN, THERE IS A DELICATE LINE BETWEEN HELP AND HARM. I’M NOT A SCIENTIST BUT I DO THINK IT WOULD OF BENEFIT TO EXAMINE POTENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FLOATING OYSTER CAGES, CURRENT ATTENUATION AND ALGAL OVERGROWTH, PARTICULARLY IN LOCATIONS OF SHALLOW WATER. //

I AM NOT OPPOSED TO COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE. IT IS OFTEN TOUTED AS A POTENTIAL SOLUTION TO

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

THE CHESAPEAKE BAY'S DECLINING NATURAL FISHERIES, WHICH ARE IN PERIL DUE TO ECOLOGIES DEGRADED BY TOXIC CONTAMINANTS SUCH AS POLLUTION FROM PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS EXCESSIVE NITROGEN AND PHOSPHOROUS FUELING ALGAL GROWTH AND EUTROPHICATION , INDUSTRY MERCURY, PCBS, PAHS, PFAS, ARSENIC, ETC. , WASTEWATER, SEPTIC TANK LEAKS, AIR POLLUTION AND STORMWATER RUNOFF, AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT, DEFORESTATION AND THE LOSS OF WETLANDS AND SEA GRASSES THAT PROVIDE VITAL NOURISHMENT, HABITAT, NURSERIES, WATER CLEANSING AND PROTECTION FROM STORM SURGES. IN OTHER WORDS, WE'VE ALREADY LOST A LOT OF OUR WATERS' ECOSYSTEM SERVICES. THE FISHERIES ARE JUST ONE OF MANY CASUALTIES. YET OYSTERS ARE CAPABLE OF CLEANING WATER BY FILTERING IT, STORING MANY OF ITS CONTENTS IN THEIR SHELLS AND TISSUES WHILE EXPELLING OTHERS ONTO THE SEA FLOOR. FOR SOME SCIENTISTS AND INVESTORS THIS SUGGESTS A POTENTIAL FOR RESTORING THE ECOLOGY OF THE BAY WHILE OFFERING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES. HENCE THE PROMOTION OF COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE, PARTICULARLY OYSTER FARMING. //

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE 2017-2018 VIMS STUDY ATTEMPTED A FIRST STEP TOWARD ASKING HOW COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARMING MIGHT HELP WATERMEN COPE WITH THE BAY'S RAPIDLY DEGRADING HEALTH, THE SUBSEQUENT DWINDLING OF ITS ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND DECLINING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WHILE TRYING TO KEEP PACE WITH A BURGEONING GLOBAL MARKET DEMAND FOR SEAFOOD. THAT'S A VERY SPECIFIC FRAMEWORK, ONE THAT DIRECTED THE PARAMETERS OF THE STUDY. WHILE THEIR RESEARCH SUBJECT IS ENTIRELY WORTHY, IT DID NOT FOCUS ON THE MYRIAD IMPACTS OF COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARMING FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PROPERTY OWNERS AND THOSE WHO LOVE AND RECREATE ON THESE WATERS, MANY WITH THEIR FAMILIES OVER SEVERAL GENERATIONS. //

LIKEWISE, THE APPLICATION FOR THIS COMMERCIAL OYSTER AQUACULTURE PERMIT IS FOR A VERY SPECIFIC LOCAL SITE. THIS IS A PLACE THAT IS HOME TO A COMPLEX NETWORK OF INTERDEPENDENT ECOLOGIES THAT HAVE ENTWINED PEOPLE, WATER AND INNUMERABLE SPECIES OF AQUATIC FLORA AND FAUNA FOR GENERATIONS. THESE PRECIOUS AND DELICATE RELATIONSHIPS OF MUTUALITY SHOULD DIRECT THE PARAMETERS BY WHICH THIS PERMIT IS JUDGED. //

ON THE OTHER HAND, GRANTING THIS PERMIT WOULD ALLOW AN INCURSION OF AQUACULTURE THAT WILL BE SEEN BY MANY AS AN UNNECESSARY VIOLATION OF THE TRUST AND GOODWILL COMMUNITY MEMBERS EXTEND TO EACH OTHER AS NEIGHBORS, PROPERTY OWNERS AND STEWARDS OF OUR SHARED AND BELOVED PUBLIC WATERS. // THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
167	HALLEY TOWNSEND	05/01/2024 22:46:02 PM	FAVOR

THIS PERMIT SHOULD BE APPROVED. I SUPPORT LIVELIHOOD AND WATERWAY SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES LIKE OYSTER FARMING, AND THE HYDES ARE THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS. IT'S ALSO THEIR HOME. THEY TREAT OUR WATERWAYS, ENVIRONMENT, AND ECOSYSTEM WITH THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE. FAVOR.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
168	DAVID HAYNIE	05/02/2024 04:18:13 AM	FAVOR

SENT: WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024 7:18 AM\r\nTO: MRC - JPA PERMITS
<JPA.PERMITS@MRC.VIRGINIA.GOV>\r\nSUBJECT: SUPPORT JPA 2024-0849\r\n\r\nMY NAME IS DAVID
HAYNIE AND I AM IN SUPPORT OF THOMAS AND CALLIE HYDE. I AM IN SUPPORT OF ALL OYSTER PROJECTS
BECAUSE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY IS IN DIRE NEED OF FILTRATION. ALSO BECAUSE WATERMAN HAVE BEEN
WORKING THESE WATERS LONG BEFORE PEOPLE AND THEIR "WEEKEND HOMES" OR "SUMMER
COTTAGES" HAVE COME HERE TO USE IT RECREATIONALLY. THE BAY IS A RESOURCE AND COMMERCIAL
FISHING IS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE NORTHERN NECK COMMUNITY. \r\nSENT FROM MY IPHONE

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
169	JAMES A ROWLAND	05/03/2024 12:35:29 PM	FAVOR

I OWN AND OPERATE AN OYSTER FARM IN LANCASTER IN THE SAME WATERWAY AS THE APPLICANT. DESPITE BEING A VERY DIRECT COMPETITOR, I FULLY SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION.

THE APPLICANT IS NEWER, BUT IS AN ESTABLISHED AND PROVEN FARMER AND HAS ALREADY BEEN A GREAT ADDITION TO THE OYSTER COMMUNITY.

THEIR NEW FARM SYSTEM IS PRODUCING A VERY, VERY HIGH QUALITY OYSTER THAT IS A CREDIT TO THE INDUSTRY AND TO VIRGINIA. AND I SAY THAT AS SOMEONE COMPETING WITH THAT OYSTER FOR MARKET SHARE.

THIS APPLICATION IS FOR A VERY SMALL AREA AND IS AS TUCKED AS OUT OF THE WAY AS IT CAN BE. I ALSO HAVE A FARM IN OPEN WATER, AND UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR A SHELTERED SPOT TO WORK.

WHILE THIS FARM SYSTEM IS NEW TO VA, IT IS ESTABLISHED IN OTHER AREAS AND IS A PROVEN SYSTEM. THE APPLICANT HIMSELF HAS ALREADY PROVEN IT'S EFFECTIVENESS.

LASTLY, THE APPLICANT IS HERE BUILDING A BUSINESS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE OYSTER INDUSTRY AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE IN AN AREA BOTH TRADITIONALLY AND CURRENTLY USED FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING. MAYBE NOT EVERYONE WANTS TO LOOK AT IT, BUT WORKING WATERFRONTS AND COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN ARE A PART OF THE NORTHERN NECK. IT IS PART OF WHAT MAKES THE NORTHERN NECK UNIQUE, AND IT IS PART OF WHAT YOU GET IF YOU CHOOSE TO MOVE TO THE AREA. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE ARE A PART OF THE VIEW, NOT AN OBSTRUCTION OF IT. THE INDUSTRY MAY HAVE DECLINED, BUT WE ARE STILL HERE, FINDING NEW PLACES AND NEW WAYS TO WORK WHILE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PUSHES US OUT. WE AREN'T JUST NOSTALGIC PAINTINGS AND MUSEUM DISPLAYS. AND WE CAN'T JUST KEEP GETTING TOLD "WE SUPPORT YOU, JUST NOT RIGHT HERE." WE JUST WANT TO BE ALLOWED TO KEEP WORKING. SO, PLEASE, LET THESE FOLKS WORK. THEY ARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATERMEN, IF YOU'LL LET THEM DO IT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
170	TRISTRAM HYDE	05/02/2024 19:15:59 PM	FAVOR

AS A LOVER OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, I CAN THINK OF NOTHING MORE VALUABLE THAN OYSTERS IN IMPROVING THE WATER QUALITY THAT BRINGS SO MUCH TO LIFE. SEALIFE, BIRDS, LAND WILDLIFE, HUMAN HEALTH, AND HUMAN RECREATION ALL BENEFIT FROM A CLEANER BAY. WHEN CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH FIRST EXPLORED THE BAY, HE REPORTED SEEING THE BOTTOM AT 30 FEET AND SHOALS OF OYSTER SO MASSIVE, THAT THE BOATS HAD TO BE CARRIED OVER THEM. COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARMING IS A GREAT FIRST STEP INTO RECOVERING BACK TOWARD THOSE DAYS OF CLEAN WATER AND 100 TIMES MORE OYSTERS. THE PROJECT PROPOSED IS SMALL AND NOT IN THE WAY OF ANY EXISTING USE OF THAT WATER FOR NAVIGATION OR RECREATION. THE PROPOSED LOCATION IS IDEAL IN THAT IT IS PROTECTED FROM WAVES AND WIND THAT COULD DESTROY OYSTER FARMS IN LESS PROTECTED WATER. THE PROJECT IS GENIUS IN ALSO PROPOSING THE LOCATION BE A TEMPORARY RELOCATION SPOT FOR HURRICANES. ANYONE THAT WOULD COMPLAIN OF OYSTER CAGES BEING AN EYESORE IS NOT APPRECIATING THE HEALTHY BAY THAT RESULTS.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
171	GUY MILLER	05/03/2024 08:48:50 AM	OPPOSE

THESE COMMENTS ARE IN ADDITION TO MY PREVIOUS COMMENTS TO MY PREVIOUS COMMENTS IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE CHANGE IN PROJECT SCOPE. JUST TO CLARIFY, I LIVE ON FLEETS ISLAND FULL TIME AND USE THE LOCAL WATERWAYS FOR THE NATURAL, SPORT OF WINDSURFING. THIS PASSION WAS THE SOLE REASON THAT I PURCHASED MY PROPERTY HERE AND MOVED OVER TWO THOUSAND MILES. FLOATING OBSTACLES MAKE THE SPORT DIFFICULT AND POTENTIALLY UNSAFE. THE CONGESTION OF CRAB POTS IS ALREADY PROBLEMATIC, AND THIS PROJECT JUST COMPOUNDS THE PROBLEM. WHILE THE REDUCTION IN SIZE IS AN IMPROVEMENT, I FEEL THIS IS STILL THE THIN END OF THE WEDGE. THAT LEAVES ROOM FOR FUTURE EXPANSION OR OTHER APPLICANTS WANTING TO DO SIMILAR PROJECTS. I HAVE READ NUMEROUS COMMENTS IN FAVOR OF THIS PROJECT. MOST OF THESE ORIGINATE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT RESIDENT AND THEREFORE NOT IMPACTED. OTHERS HAVE A VESTED INTEREST BECAUSE THEY OPERATE SIMILAR OR RELATED BUSINESSES. WHILE I ENJOY EATING OYSTERS, I WOULD SOONER GIVE THAT UP ENTIRELY THAN SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION. WHILE IT MAY BE ARGUED THAT OYSTERS CLEAN UP THE WATERWAY, THAT COMES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF TONS OF POSSIBLY TOXIC PLASTIC AND OTHER MAN-MADE MATERIALS INTO THE WATERWAY. OYSTERS THRIVE NATURALLY AND CLEAN UP THE WATER NATURALLY WITHOUT THE ADDITION OF THESE FLOATING FARMS. I DO RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO MAKE A LIVING FROM THE LAND OR THE WATER, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT OTHER LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED THAT HAVE LESS DETRIMENTAL IMPACT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
172	MARY SCOTT S HARDAWAY	05/03/2024 10:50:37 AM	FAVOR

I SUPPORT STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY AND THE GROWTH OF THEIR FARM. NOT ONLY IS THEIR PRODUCT TOP TIER, THE WORK THEY ARE DOING IS INVALUABLE, BOTH IN SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND THE HEALTH OF THE BAY WE ALL CLAIM TO LOVE.

THE BENEFITS OF AQUACULTURE HAVE BEEN WELL-DOCUMENTED ESPECIALLY HERE IN VIRGINIA, THE TOP OYSTER PRODUCER ON THE EAST COAST * FOR DECADES. THERE'S AN ENTIRE 22,000 SQUARE-FOOT CENTER AT VIMS DEDICATED TO THIS ONGOING RESEARCH.** THE HYDES ARE NOT JUST THROWING THEIR WEIGHT BEHIND A PRODUCT AND SYSTEM AT WHIM. THEY'RE FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GENERATIONS OF VIRGINIA WATERMEN BEFORE THEM.

I GREW UP ON THE WATER IN GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA—MY CHILDHOOD HOME IS A 1/4 MILE FROM AN ACTIVE MARINA. I NEVER ONCE THOUGHT, WHEN OUR FAMILY CRUISED BY ON OUR PLEASURE CRAFT, "OH MAN, THOSE WORKBOATS SURE ARE OBTRUSIVE." WE NEVER PUTTED BY A STRING OF CRAB POTS AND CURSED THE UP-BEFORE-DAWN WORKING MAN.

THE HYDES MAY BE UTILIZING MORE HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT THAN THE WILD OYSTER FARMERS BEFORE THEM, BUT THESE FLIP CAGES ARE NO MORE AN EYESORE THAN A ROARING JET SKI OR ROTTING DOCK. EVERYONE WANTS TO "SUPPORT LOCAL" AND EAT LOCAL, RIGHT? SUPPORTING SMART, HARD-WORKING AND RESILIENT FARMERS LIKE THE HYDES IS HOW THAT HAPPENS. IT'S THE ONLY WAY THAT HAPPENS.

*[HTTPS://WWW.STYLEWEEKLY.COM/BIVALVE-BOOM/](https://www.styleweekly.com/bivalve-boom/)

**[HTTPS://WWW.VIMS.EDU/ABOUT/SERVICE_FACILITIES/ACUFF_CENTER/](https://www.vims.edu/about/service_facilities/acuff_center/)

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
173	GREG CARROLL	05/03/2024 16:42:12 PM	OPPOSE

I HAVE REVIEWED THE REVISIONS FOR APPLICATION 20240849 BY THOMAS HYDE ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. I AM STILL IN OPPOSITION DUE TO THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OYSTER FARMING WILL HAVE ON OUR ENVIRONMENT. THESE INCLUDE: DISTURBING NATURAL HABITATS, CONTRIBUTING TO POLLUTION, PHYSICALLY DISTURBING THE SEABEDS WITH MACHINERY AND STRUCTURES AS WELL AS COLLECTION EQUIPMENT HARMING LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS. THESE FLIP FLOATS HAVE NOT BEEN THOROUGHLY RESEARCHED IN REGARDS TO THE WATERWAYS ECOSYSTEM. OTHER CONCERNS ARE NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS AND RECREATIONAL BOATING IN THE CREEK, AS WELL AS DISTURBING THE HABITAT FOR EAGLES, OSPREY, BLUE HERONS, ETC THAT MAKE THIS CREEK THEIR HOME. PRISTINE AND PROTECTED CREEKS LIKE THIS ARE VERY RARE AND NEED TO BE PROTECTED AND ENJOYED BY ALL -NOT BE CHANGED FOR A COMMERCIAL ENDEAVOR.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
174	STEELE VIVERETTE	05/03/2024 22:54:28 PM	OPPOSE

THIS POSES AND ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT TO OUR BAY AND DISRUPTS THE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE AREA

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
175	JAMIE GARCIA	05/03/2024 23:49:48 PM	OPPOSE

WE NEED TO SAVE OUR BAY! THIS POSES A THREAT TO OUR ENVIRONMENT AND WE NEED TO PROTECT THIS IMPORTANT HABITAT.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
176	KELLIE MEGA	05/06/2024 17:49:08 PM	OPPOSE

I AM A FULL-TIME PERMANENT RESIDENT AND HOMEOWNER ON THE CREEK. AFTER REVIEWING THE REVISED PROPOSAL WHICH SHOWS A SHRINK IN NUMBER OF OYSTER CAGES, I AM STILL STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS PROJECT. THIS IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION FOR THIS PROJECT FOR ALL THE REASONS I PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED IN MY INITIAL COMMENT.

600 FLOATING CAGES IS NOT INSIGNIFICANT AND IT'S STILL THE SAME DISTANCE FROM THE CHANNEL. THE REVISION DOCUMENTS HIGHLIGHTED THE % OF THE ENTIRE CREEK VERSUS THE % UTILIZED FOR THE PROJECT WHICH I FOUND TO BE A DISTRACTION AND IRRELEVANT. I'M NOT SURE WHY THAT WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE REVISION. THE CREEK IS SMALL, SHALLOW, AND NOT SUITABLE FOR A FARM OF THIS SIZE. THE PROJECT STILL PRESENTS A SAFETY AND WILDLIFE HAZARD AND WILL DEFINITELY BE AN EYE SORE. THE IMAGES PROVIDED IN THE REVISED DOCUMENTS SHOW THE LARGE SIZE OF JUST A SINGLE CAGE IN THE LONG STRING OF 600 CAGES THAT ARE SPACED OUT. THE IMAGES ALSO DON'T INCLUDE WHAT THEY WILL LOOK LIKE WITH GROWTH AND POOP ON THEM AFTER PLACEMENT. THE CREEK IS A QUIET, PROTECTED AREA THAT WOULD BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY THIS PROJECT. PLEASE CONSIDER THE IMPACT ON THE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE CREEK INCLUDING HOMEOWNERS AND THE WILDLIFE THAT THRIVE HERE IN THE ABSENCE OF ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC, EQUIPMENT, NOISE, AND DISRUPTION TO THE HABITAT FOR ALL.

THERE ARE TOO MANY OTHER LOCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR A PROJECT LIKE THIS THAT DO NOT COME WITH THESE SAME NEGATIVE IMPACTS. THE PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION AS STATED WAS TO "INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY" AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THEIR CURRENT OPERATIONS AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL "HURRICANE CONTINGENCY" PLACEMENT. HOW WOULD THE SECONDARY PURPOSE BE MET IF THERE ISN'T ROOM FOR THE PRIMARY? THERE ARE OTHER LOCATIONS BETTER SUITED FOR THESE DESCRIBED PURPOSES.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
177	ROBERTO M SARMENTO	05/04/2024 11:41:45 AM	OPPOSE

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE UPDATED PROPOSED PROJECT FOR THE SAME REASONS AS BEFORE, AND PARTICULARLY THE NEGATIVE IMPACT TO THE SAV WHICH TOOK OVER 15 YEARS TO REGENERATE WHICH I WITNESSED AS A PROPERTY OWNER IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. THE UPDATED APPLICATION IS ALSO MISLEADING WHEN INFERRING THAT THE REVISED ACREAGE FOOTPRINT FOR THE 600 OYSTER CAGES WILL OCCUPY JUST 0.6 ACRES OR LESS THAN 0.3% OF THE CREEK TOTAL CREEK ACREAGE ESTIMATED AT 206 ACRES PER MR.HYDE . LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS VERY SHALLOW AND IN ORDER TO HAVE 3-5 FT OF WATER DEPTH BELOW THE CAGES IN "AVAILABLE" NON-OYSTER GROUND LEASE AREAS SEE ATTACHED VMRC MAP PLUS AVOIDING REQUIRED NAVIGATION CHANNEL, THE AVAILABLE FOOTPRINT IS SUBSTANTIALLY SMALLER.

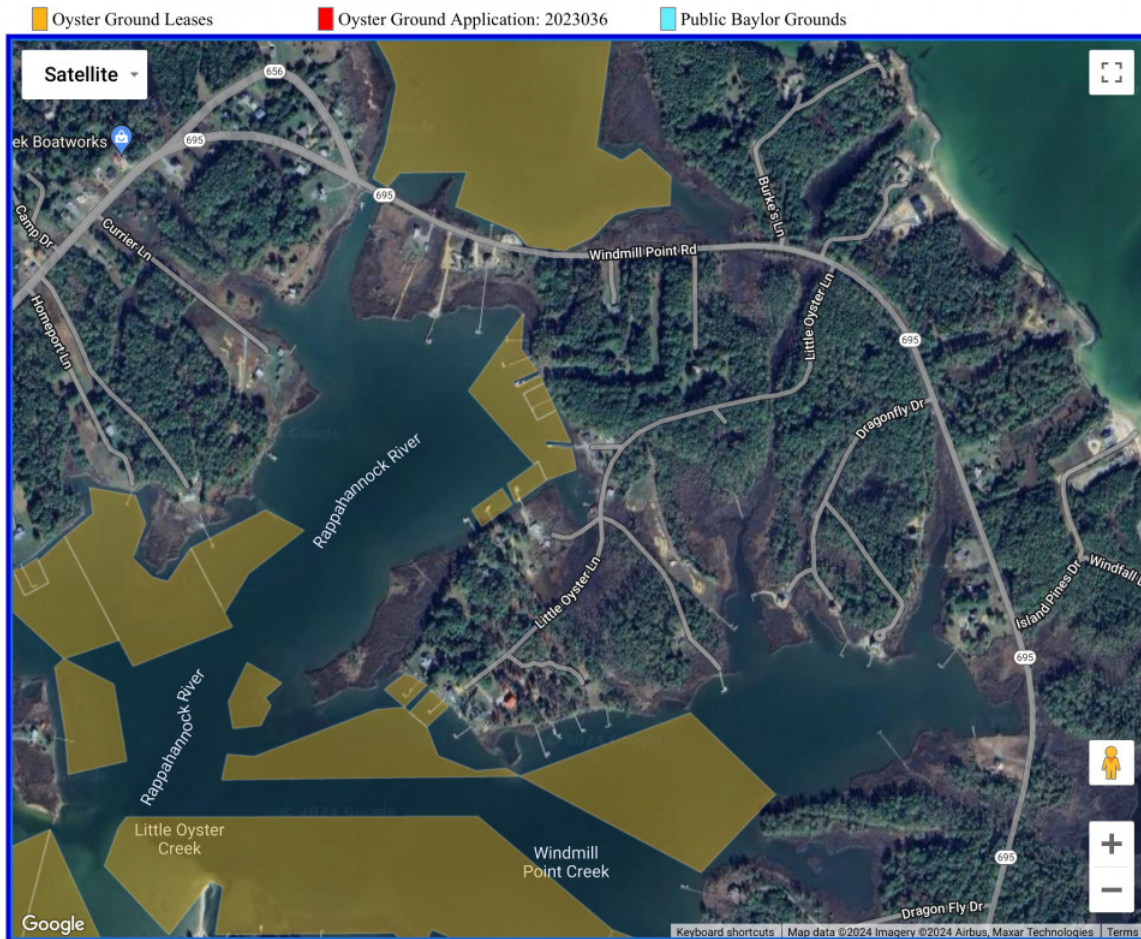
Attachments:

Submitted photos for this comment will begin on next page.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1714837367.jpg



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
178	PATRICIA E WOOD	05/09/2024 06:53:05 AM	OPPOSE

I AM A PROPERTY OWNER 2 PROPERTIES ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED "REVISION TO VMRC APPLUCATION 20240849" SITE.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS "REVISED PROJECT" FOR THE SAME REASONS I STATED ON THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION.

I QUESTION THE FACT THAT ANYONE OTHER THAN THE RESIDENTS ON THE CREEK AND SURROUNDING AREA HAVE A SAY. THESE PEOPLE IN FAVOR SHOULD OFFER HIM AN AREA ON THEIR CREEK OR WHATEVER BODY OF WATER THEY LIVE ON SPACE FOR HIS OYSTER FLOATS!

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
179	GARY GRABB	05/10/2024 14:42:41 PM	OPPOSE

I HAVE RE-VISITED THE STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER CO. APPLICATION MODIFICATION AND REMAIN STRONGLY OPPOSED. VMRC IS MANDATED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN THE USAGE OF THE WATERS OF VIRGINIA. I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS BALANCE. I HAVE REVIEWED INFORMATION ON THE HEXCYL BASKETS ON THE MANUFACTURE™S WEBSITE HEXCYLSYSTEMS.COM.AU AND THE CONCEPT OF THE FLIPFARM BASKET SYSTEM FLIPFARM.COM AND INVITE THE PUBLIC TO PERUSE THESE SITES. THE MAJOR SELLING POINT IS THAT IT IS MUCH EASIER FOR THE AQUACULTURE FARMER TO MANIPULATE AND SORT THE OYSTERS THROUGH THEIR ONE YEAR GROW OUT STAGE, FROM FINGERNAIL SIZE SPAT TO 3â€• PRIME MARKETABLE OYSTERS FOR THE HIGH END RESTAURANT MARKET. THE FREQUENT TUMBLING OF THE BASKETS POSITIONED ON THE WATER SURFACE ACTS TO BREAK OFF THE FAST GROWING NEWLY FORMING OUTER EDGES OF THE SHELL, PRODUCING MORE UNIFORM OYSTERS, COSMETICALLY MORE APPEALING TO THE PUBLIC. THIS REQUIRES LESS EFFORT BY THE FARMER, THEREBY GENERATING INCREASED PROFIT FOR THE FARMER. THEREFORE I UNDERSTAND THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THIS FOR THE HYDE™S. LOCATING THIS AREA WITHIN THE SMALL CONFINES OF LITTLE OYSTER CREEK ALSO MINIMIZES THE DISTANCE TO BE TRAVELED AND PRESENTS CALMER WATER CONDITIONS FOR THE HYDE™S TO PRACTICE THEIR FARMING. NOTHING BUT A WIN WIN SITUATION FOR THEM.

DELVING A LITTLE DEEPER INTO THE â€œENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLYâ€• NATURE OF THIS PROPOSAL, SEVERAL GLARING PROBLEMS SURFACE. THE OFTEN QUOTED â€œUP TO 50 GALLONS OF WATER FILTERED/DAY BY A MATURE OYSTERâ€• IS A MARKETING PLOY, IN THAT THIS OCCURRED UNDER PERFECT LABORATORY CONDITIONS IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. THE BAY JOURNAL, A RESPECTED PURVEYOR OF ISSUES INVOLVING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, HAS HAD SEVERAL ARTICLES THAT HAVE ESTIMATED FAR LOWER NUMBERS. â€œIN REALITY UNDER AVERAGE CONDITIONS IN THE WILD, AN OYSTER WILL MORE LIKELY SIPHON 3.0-12.5 GALLONS OF WATER PER DAYâ€•, BAY JOURNAL, â€œPUMPED UP PERFORMANCE: OYSTER FILTERING FEAT OVERSTATED . GIVEN THE ONE YEAR GROW OUT FROM SPAT TO 3â€• PRIME MARKETABLE OYSTERS, THE AVERAGE DAILY FILTRATION RATE WILL PROBABLY FACTOR OUT TO CLOSER TO 1 GPD OR LESS. THE MATURE OYSTERS CURRENTLY IN RESIDENCE IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK HAVE A FILTRATION RATE GREATLY EXCEEDING THE PROPOSED FARMED OYSTERS AND THESE WILL CONTRIBUTE AN INSIGNIFICANT AMOUNT TO THE ACTUAL TOTAL FILTRATION. BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THESE FARMED OYSTERS ARE NOT THE PANACEA FOR CLEANING UP THE BAY.

IT ALSO SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THESE â€œVIRGINIA OYSTERSâ€• GROW OUT SO MUCH QUICKER BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED FROM STANDARD DIPLOID 2 SETS OF CHROMOSOMES TO TRIPLOID 3 SETS OF CHROMOSOMES , RENDERING THEM STERILE AND THEREFORE PREVENTING THEM FROM EXPENDING ANY ENERGY IN THE WORK OF REPRODUCTION. THIS FACT TOTALLY PREVENTS THESE STERILE OYSTERS FROM ADDING TO THE BIOMASS INCREASING THE NUMBERS OF THE TRUE NATIVE OYSTERS. ANOTHER NEGATIVE ASPECT. I DO HOWEVER ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE SHUCKED SHELLS ARE ADDED BACK INTO THE WATER COLUMN TO PROVIDE SUITABLE SUBSTRATE FOR NATIVE OYSTERS TO STRIKE ON SMALL CHECK IN THE PLUS COLUMN .

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, AND BY FAR THE LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM IS THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF PLASTIC, WHICH RAPIDLY DEGRADES INTO AN EVER INCREASING AMOUNT OF EVER DECREASING SIZES OF MICRO PLASTICS. TOXINS PFAS, POLYFLOROALKYL SUBSTANCES AND VARIOUS BIO-TOXINS CAN BECOME ATTACHED TO THESE SMALL PLASTIC PIECES ADSORPTION TO FURTHER COMPLICATE THIS PROBLEM. BAY JOURNAL, "HOW PFAS, MICRO PLASTICS JOIN FORCES AS A SYNERGISTIC THREAT". PLEASE DO YOURSELF A FAVOR BY DOING AN ONLINE SEARCH ON THE ALARMING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MICRO PLASTICS. IT IS BECOMING EVIDENT THAT EVERY ORGANISM ON EARTH IS DETRIMENTALLY AFFECTED BY THIS, AND WITH BIO ACCUMULATION MOVING UP THE FOOD CHAIN, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THOSE ORGANISMS AT THE TOP THINK BALD EAGLES AND US TO NAME A FEW WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

ON THE HEXCYL BASKET WEBSITE, THEY HAVE PROVIDED A DOCUMENT TITLED "FEASIBILITY STUDY INTO RECYCLING PLASTIC OYSTER BASKETS IN THE SOUTHERN AUSTRALIAN OYSTER INDUSTRY". THIS IS INFORMATIVE IN THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS CURRENTLY NO GOOD OPTION FOR RECYCLING THIS PLASTIC WASTE, AND MOST GOES INTO LANDFILLS OR IS STORED ONSITE UNTIL BETTER OPTIONS BECOME AVAILABLE. THINK OF THE FIASCO THAT RECYCLING PLASTICS IN THE USA HAS BECOME. ACCORDING TO THIS STUDY EVERY YEAR 5-10% OF THESE BASKETS ARE TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE THEY HAVE BROKEN UP AMOUNTING TO 150-200 TONS OF WASTE/YEAR. THE DECOMPOSITION OF THESE CAGES IS ACCELERATED BY EXPOSURE TO SUNLIGHT ULTRA VIOLET RADIATION AND BY THE MECHANICAL ABRASION CAUSED BY CAGES SWINGING ON THE LONG LINE AND BY THE CONSTANT ABRASION OF OYSTER SHELLS ON THE CAGE WALLS. THESE MICRO PLASTICS WILL BE CONCENTRATED IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND THEREFORE ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEALTH OF LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND ITS RESIDENTS. ROUGH CALCULATIONS SHOW THAT THE 600 PLASTIC BASKETS EQUATES TO APPROXIMATELY 1/4 ACRE OF EXPOSED PLASTIC SURFACES! AS STATED BY PREVIOUS COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION, THE RESIDENTS ARE ALSO AFFECTED IN A NEGATIVE MANNER BY THE PLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE OYSTER FARM IN THIS PROPOSAL.

SO IN SUMMARY, THERE IS NOTHING POSITIVE TO BE GAINED BY THE ADJACENT RESIDENTS IN GRANTING THIS APPLICATION, AND I WOULD FURTHER STATE THAT I DO NOT THINK THAT VMRC WOULD WANT TO BECOME COMPLICIT IN THE EXPANSION OF PLASTICS INTO THE WATER ENVIRONMENT OF VIRGINIA WITHOUT ADDITIONAL STUDY ON THE MICRO PLASTICS BEING SHED OR ON THE ULTIMATE DISPOSAL OF THIS PLASTIC WASTE.

ONE MORE THOUGHT:

THE FLIPFARM WEBSITE MAKES A POINT IN STATING THAT THESE CAGES ALLOW FOR OYSTER FARMING TO OCCUR IN DEEPER WATERS AND THAT THE CAGES WERE DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND WAVE CONDITIONS GENERATED IN THESE LOCATIONS. I CAN ONLY SURMISE THAT THE HYDEAMS WERE NEGLIGENT IN DETERMINING THE LOCATION AND ORIENTATION OF THE LONG LINES IN FRONT OF MOSQUITO ISLAND, IN THEIR ALREADY APPROVED LEASE AREA. THIS MISTAKE SHOULD NOT BE PUT ON THE SHOULDERS OF LITTLE OYSTER CREEK RESIDENTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INFORMED CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER.

GARY GRABB

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
180	SUSAN GRABB	05/16/2024 15:38:33 PM	OPPOSE

I REMAIN OPPOSED TO THE MODIFIED APPLICATION 20240849 BY STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY, PARTICULARLY AFTER VIEWING, UP CLOSE, APPROXIMATELY 320 BLACK PLASTIC CAGES ON 5/13/24 AT THE BUSINESS SITE ON WINDMILL POINT CREEK. THE FOLLOWING REASONS ARE WHY I AM OPPOSED:

-THE CAGES ARE MADE OF PLASTIC THAT ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEALTH OF LITTLE OYSTER CREEK, DUE TO DETERIORATION AND CONCERNS OF DISPOSAL OVER TIME.

-THE 600 CAGES THAT HAVE BEEN APPLIED FOR WILL OBSCURE A BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SHORELINE. THE CAGES WOULD BE PLACED OFF THE LAST MARSH WITHOUT A DOCK ON THAT SIDE OF THE CREEK. IT IS A PRECIOUS AREA TO GLIDE IN A KAYAK, SAIL BY ON A WINDSURFER AND TO FISH.

-THIS FLIP FARM SYSTEM IS FOR EASE AND CONVENIENCE OF THE OWNERS. I FEAR THE PROLIFERATION OF THESE SYSTEMS, BECAUSE OF USER EASE, IN OUR LITTLE CREEK AS WELL AS OTHER CREEKS, WILL DESTROY THE SPECTACULAR, PEACEFUL VIEWS.

-THE SAFETY CONCERNS WITH THE LOCATION OF THIS FARM STILL EXIST, AS MENTIONED IN MY FIRST PUBLIC COMMENTS.

PVC POLES AND PLASTIC CAGES ARE UNSIGHTLY, NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY IS BEING MADE AND THEIR PLACEMENT IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS AN AFFRONT TO THE INCREDIBLE BEAUTY OF THE CREEK. NEW ZEALAND, WHERE THESE FLIP CAGES ARE MADE, MANDATE THE CAGES BE PLACED OFFSHORE AWAY FROM RESIDENCES. THE NEARBY CHESAPEAKE BAY AND RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER SHOULD BE THE WATERS WHERE THESE BASKETS ARE PLACED. OPEN WATER PLACEMENT OF THEIR BASKETS IS ALSO STATED ON THE STEAMBOAT WHARF OYSTER COMPANY WEBSITE. THERE ARE NO BENEFITS FOR THE RESIDENTS AND USERS OF LITTLE OYSTER CREEK AND WINDMILL POINT CREEK WHO PAY SUBSTANTIAL VIRGINIA REAL ESTATE TAXES. THE CREEK WOULD STILL BE LEFT WITH A 600 BLACK FLOATING PLASTIC MESS OFF OF A LOVELY MARSH, WHERE HERONS AND EAGLES FREQUENT.

WHATEVER THE REASON, ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE AREA ALERTED THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE ORIGINAL 1225 CAGE APPLICATION, AND IT WASN'T EITHER OF THE HYDES. THE REASONS FOR OPPOSITION ARE GENUINE AND FROM PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY LIVE AND USE LITTLE OYSTER CREEK, WINDMILL POINT CREEK AND SURROUNDING WATERS. THEY ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT SAVING THIS CREEK FROM FLOATING OYSTER CAGE ENCROACHMENT. THE HYDES DON'T LIVE ON THIS CREEK NOR DO ANY OF THEIR SUPPORTERS. I FEEL THE STATE WOULD BE ALLOWING ONE PRIVATE BUSINESS TO TAKE AWAY FROM OUR PUBLIC WATERS, WHILE ALSO HAVING A NEARBY ALTERNATIVE LOCATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. OYSTER FARMING WITH FLIP CAGES IN A HEAVILY USED CREEK IS UNNECESSARY, UNSIGHTLY AND AN INFRINGEMENT ON THE PUBLIC'S ACCESS TO THESE WATERS.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MY OBJECTIONS.

SUE GRABB

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
181	MARK A ROLAND	05/22/2024 10:10:59 AM	OPPOSE

**PLEASE NOTE, ONLY ONE PHOTO WAS ABLE TO UPLOAD PER PUBLIC COMMENT - THIS IS A FOLLOW-UP/CONTINUED OPPOSITION WITH A SECOND PHOTO.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED OYSTER FARM - IMPACT ON VIEWSCAPE, QUALITY OF LIFE, AND PROPERTY VALUES OF LOCAL COMMUNITY.

FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT THINK THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED FLOATING OYSTER FARM IS NON-IMPACTFUL TO VIEWSCAPE, Iâ€™VE UPLOADED A COUPLE OF PICTURES SHOWING THE VIEW FROM MY PORCH AND KAYAK. IT IS ONE THING TO LOOK AT IT THROUGH GOOGLE EARTH/MAPS, BUT A VERY DIFFERENT AND MORE IMPACTFUL PERSPECTIVE TO LOOK AT IT THROUGH HUMAN EYES OR THE LENS OF A CAMERA .

MARKERS WERE TEMPORARILY PLACED IN THE WATER IDENTIFYING THE CORNERS OF THE OYSTER FARM. MY PHOTOS WERE TAKEN WITH THE MARKERS IDENTIFIABLE. THE PHOTOS WERE THEN MARKED-UP TO BETTER DISPLAY THE PROPOSED LOCATION.

THIS AMAZING VIEW IS A LARGE REASON WE DECIDED TO PURCHASE OUR DREAM RETIREMENT HOME LAST YEAR IN THE BEAUTIFUL RESIDENTIAL LOCATION OF FLEETS ISLAND. WE LIVE HERE FULL-TIME, NOT JUST SEASONAL. MY WIFE AND I HAVE WORKED VERY HARD AND STILL ARE THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD A HOUSE AND DESTINATION IN THIS SPECIAL AREA OF NATURAL BEAUTY.

I CANâ€™T IMAGINE ANYONE WOULD WANT THESE UNATTRACTIVE PLASTIC FLOATING CRATES TO BE PLACED IN DIRECT VIEW FROM THEIR HOME â€” WITH A PROPOSED LENGTH OF APPROXIMATELY 300 FT THE SIZE OF A FOOTBALL FIELD . FURTHERMORE, IMAGINE WHEN THEY ARE COVERED WITH BIRD FECES AND THE ODOR EMANATES, OR HAVING TO LOOK OUT FROM YOUR PORCH AND SEE/HEAR SOMEONE WITH A BOAT AND MACHINERY FLIPPING ALL OF THEM SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH. SO, NOT ONLY WOULD THE LOCAL COMMUNITY NEED TO ENDURE THE UNSIGHTLY VIEW OF FLOATING PLASTIC CRATES, WE WOULD ALSO NEED TO PUT UP WITH THE SMELL AND NOISE POLLUTION. THIS UNFAIRLY RESULTS IN A DIRECT â€œIN OUR FACEâ€• NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR OVERALL DAILY QUALITY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY VALUES.

THESE ARE ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT THIS PROPOSED FLOATING OYSTER FARM WILL UNJUSTLY HAVE ON OUR BELOVED LITTLE OYSTER CREEK RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY/SANCTUARY.

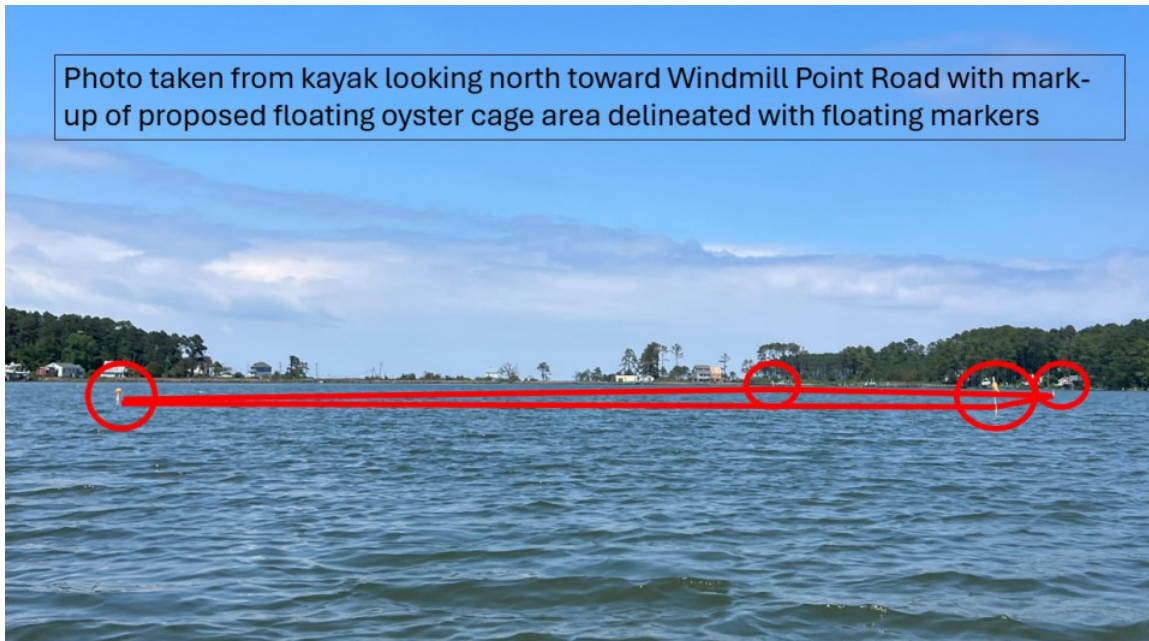
Attachments:

Submitted photos for this comment will begin on next page.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1716386803.jpg



Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Public Comments
Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
182	MARK ROLAND	05/22/2024 10:21:01 AM	OPPOSE

****ADDITIONAL PHOTO REGARDING OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED OYSTER FARM - IMPACT ON VIEWSCAPE**

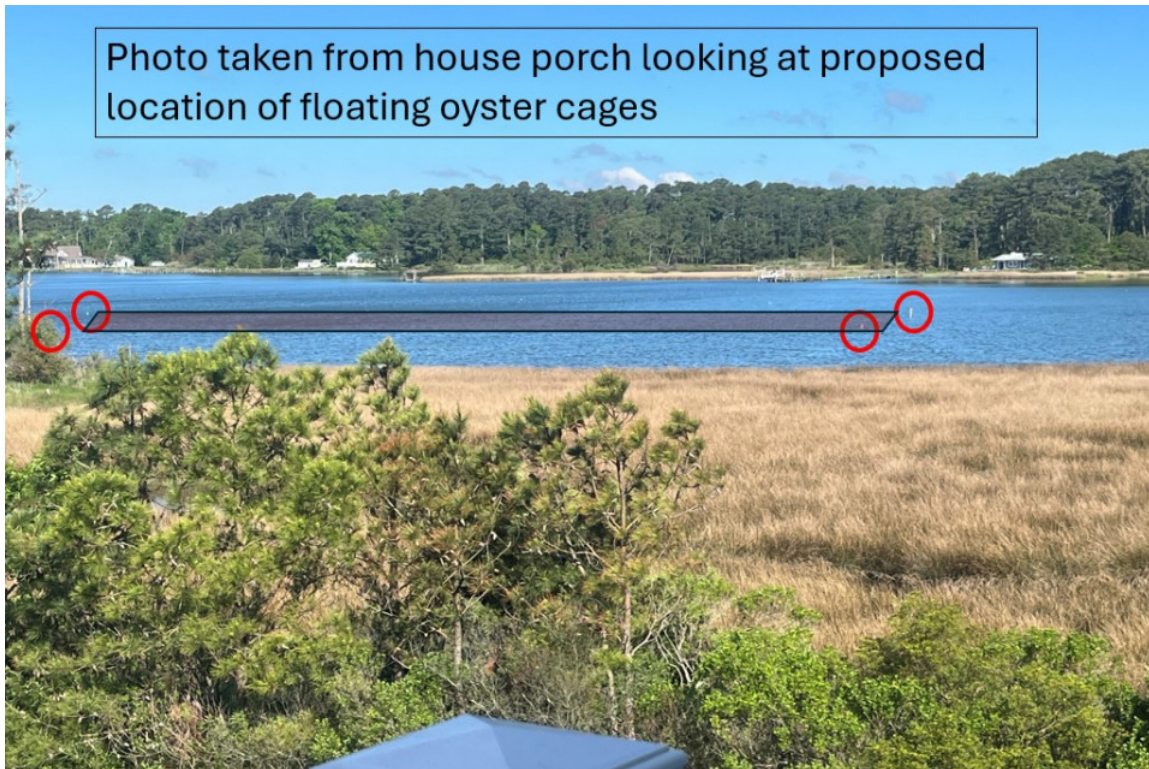
Attachments:

Submitted photos for this comment will begin on next page.

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Public Comments
Application Number 20240849**

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

1716387693.jpg



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
183	ELIZABETH ROLAND	05/22/2024 18:06:37 PM	OPPOSE

I AM FOLLOWING UP TO OPPOSE THE ADJUSTED PERMIT APPLICATION BY THOMAS HYDE. MOVING FORWARD WITH THIS PERMIT NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC IN SEVERAL WAYS.

Â

WHILE I SUPPORT ALL WATERMEN, OYSTER FARMING AND SMALL BUSINESSES, THIS PERMIT PUTS BUSINESS PROFITS ABOVE PROPERTY OWNER RIGHTS, RECREATIONAL ENJOYMENT, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. ALLOWING THIS APPLICATION TO BE APPROVED WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO MORE COMMERCIAL FLOATING CAGES AND AQUACULTURE BUSINESS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS. ANYWAY YOU LOOK AT THIS, IT DOESNâ€™T MAKE SENSE:

Â

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP RIGHTS AND VALUE

Â

PLACING PLASTIC FLOATING OYSTER CAGES AT THIS SITE WILL RUIN PROPERTY OWNERSâ€™ WATERSHED VIEWS, WILDLIFE ENJOYMENT AND SERENITY. THE COMMUNITY WILL ALSO ENDURE WATERFOWL FECES SMELL AND NOISE OF CAGE FLIPPING. WITH THIS, PROPERTY OWNERS WILL ENDURE LOWER PROPERTY VALUES AND THUS REDUCED TAX REVENUE FOR ALL VIRGINIANS .

Â

PROTECT RECREATIONAL USE AND SAFETY

Â

PLASTIC FLOATING CAGES WILL INHIBIT OUR RECREATIONAL ENJOYMENT AND INTRODUCE SAFETY HAZARDS. LITTLE OYSTER CREEK IS A NARROW NAVIGATIONAL CHANNEL WHERE ADULTS AND CHILDREN BOAT, WATER SKI, FISH, KAYAK, SWIM AND PADDLEBOARD. PLASTIC FLOATING CAGES CREATE A SIGNIFICANT SAFETY HAZARD FOR THE MANY WHO USE THISÂ AS A NATURAL RECREATIONAL AREA. THE INCREASED WASTE, CONCENTRATION OF CONTAMINANTS AND BACTERIA WILL ALSO POSE HEALTH RISKS TO THE MANY WHO ENJOY SWIMMING AND BOATING IN THE CREEK.

Â

PROTECT WATER AND ENVIRONMENT HEALTH

Â

PLASTIC FLOATING OYSTER CAGES POTENTIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATIONS TO WATER QUALITY.

Â

ANY DECISIONS INVOLVING COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE SHOULD CLOSELY EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS TO THE CREEK AND SURROUNDING PROPERTIES. STUDIES OF PLASTIC FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IN OTHER LOCATIONS HAVE DOCUMENTED PROBLEMS THAT INCLUDE:

Â

â€¢ NEGATIVE CHANGES IN BENTHIC SEDIMENTS AND MACROFAUNA HEALTH DUE TO ACCUMULATIONS OF OYSTER BIO-DEPOSITS FECES

â€¢ REDUCTION OF SUNLIGHT BELOW THE CAGES THAT RESULTS IN THE DETRIMENT OF NATIVE SEA GRASSES THAT ARE VITAL TO AQUATIC ECOLOGY

â€¢ COMPETITION FOR PHYTOPLANKTON THAT CAN WITHDRAW NOURISHMENT FROM NATIVE SPECIES

â€¢ INTRODUCTION OF DISEASES AND PESTS

â€¢ NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON AVIAN FEEDING, NESTING GROUNDS AND MIGRATORY ROUTES

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

â€¢ STORM DAMAGE AND DECREASES IN CURRENT SPEED

AND, VERY SIGNIFICANT BUT NOT YET RESEARCHED THOROUGHLY, IS THE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF MICROPLASTICS INTRODUCED INTO OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT. THESE PLASTIC OYSTER CAGES DEGRADE, ESPECIALLY IN THE SUNLIGHT AND CONSTANT WATER CHURNING. ITâ€™S ESTIMATED THAT 5-10% OF THESE CAGES COME OUT OF SERVICE EACH YEAR, YET EVEN THEIR MANUFACTURER CONFIRMS THERE IS NO GOOD OPTION FOR RECYCLING AT THIS POINT, SO THEY END UP IN LANDFILLS, OR WORSE YET, OUR BIOLOGICAL FOOD CHAIN.

Â

REDUCED ECONOMIC IMPACT TO VA

Â

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TAXES UNFAIRLY IMPACTED ON THE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THIS COMMUNITY FAR OUTWEIGH THE TAXES FROM THE OYSTER BUSINESS IN THIS LOCATION ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX REVENUE --- APPROXIMATELY 100 PROPERTY OWNERS X \$2,000 AVERAGE ANNUAL TAXES = \$200,000 .

Â

THE EVENTUAL DECLINE IN PROPERTY VALUES WILL DECREASE PROPERTY TAXES AND REDUCE REVENUE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA. WITH LESS RECREATIONAL ACCESS AND SAFETY, VISITORS WILL LIKELY DECLINE AS WELL. THIS WILL RESULT IN LESS COMMERCE FOR AREA BUSINESSES, RESULTING IN LESS TAXES AND REDUCED REVENUE TO THE COMMONWEALTH AS WELL.

I ASK THE VMRC TO OPPOSE THIS APPLICATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
184	KAREN ROLAND	05/22/2024 23:49:49 PM	OPPOSE

I OPPOSE THIS REVISED PERMIT AND WANT TO SHARE MY COMMENTS FOR THE RECORD THAT WILL BE PRESENTED ON MY BEHALF AT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON 5/28/24.

GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY. I REGRET I CANNOT BE THERE IN PERSON. I AM TRAVELING FOR THE FIRST TIME TO VISIT MY GRANDFATHER'S GRAVE AT THE RHÔNE AMERICAN CEMETERY IN FRANCE, WHO DIED IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY. A LONG OVERDUE AND PLANNED TRIP THAT COULD NOT BE POSTPONED OR RESCHEDULED.

AS I VISIT THE COUNTRY OF LOVE ON A MISSION OF LOVE, IT IS ONLY FITTING TO FOCUS MY REMARKS ON THAT TODAY. VIRGINIA'S STATE MOTTO SINCE 1969 IS "VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS". AND THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT GETS EVEN MORE SPECIFIC - "VIRGINIA IS FOR ALL KINDS OF OUTDOOR LOVERS". IN FACT IT PROMOTES ITSELF "FOR BEACH LOUNGERS, PADDLE DIPPERS, AND DOCK SITTERS. WE HAVE BEACHES BIG AND SMALL, BEAUTIFUL LAKES, AND SCENIC RIVERS ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT VIRGINIA, OFFERING ENDLESS WATERFRONT DESTINATIONS TO EXPLORE. AND SPECIFICALLY IN OUR REGION, WE OFFER FOLKS TO FIND YOUR SHORELINE - SURROUNDED BY THE INSPIRING BEAUTY OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, VIRGINIA'S RIVER REALM INVITES YOU TO CATCH YOUR BREATH, CALM YOUR MIND, AND LIVE YOUR DREAMS."

BUT THERE IS FINE PRINT THAT VIRGINIA DOESN'T DISCLOSE. YOU ARE WELCOME TO LIVE YOUR DREAMS - UNTIL THOSE DREAMS INTERFERE WITH COMMERCIAL BUSINESS. PLEASE COME LIVE HERE AND SETTLE DOWN. WE INVITE YOU TO PURCHASE A WATERFRONT HOME OF YOUR DREAMS, PAY A PREMIUM, AND PAY PREMIUM TAXES AS WELL. AS A FAMILY, WE DID JUST THAT - RELOCATED FOR THE LONG-TERM, MOVING OUR 3 DAUGHTERS AND 2 PUPS TO A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. IT IS A DREAM. EVERY TIME I GO HOME OVER THE SMALL FLEETS ISLAND BRIDGE I REFLECT THAT I'M RE-ENTERING THE BUBBLE OF PEACE, SERENITY AND BEAUTY.

YET, AFTER RELOCATING AND MOVING OUR FAMILY TO VIRGINIA, WE ARE NOW TOLD - SORRY ABOUT TAKING AWAY YOUR VIEW. SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE OF FLIPPING CAGES. SORRY ABOUT THE SMELL OF BIRD POOP. SORRY ABOUT THE DANGER NOW IMPOSED AS YOU, YOUR KIDS AND YOUR PUPS PADDLE, FISH AND SWIM - WE HOPE YOU DON'T GET HURT. BUT WE STILL GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR TAX DOLLARS.

TAX DOLLARS THAT, AS A COMMUNITY, IS ESTIMATED TO AMOUNT TO ROUGHLY \$200,000 ANNUALLY. THAT'S WHAT WE ALL PAY TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA IN ORDER TO LIVE IN OUR BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY. I CAN'T IMAGINE THE TAX REVENUE FROM A PROPOSED OYSTER FARM ON THIS AREA WITH FLOATING CAGES SURPASSES THAT. YET IT APPEARS THEY GET PRIORITY. WE'VE LOOKED AT THIS FROM EVERY ANGLE - ENVIRONMENTALLY IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, RECREATIONALLY IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, FROM A TAX REVENUE STANDPOINT, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. COMMUNITY MEMBERS OVERWHELMINGLY DO NOT WANT THIS. SO YOU START TO ASK YOURSELF, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE SYSTEM?

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

WHAT VIRGINIA IS MISSING IS THE CURRENT WAY OF PROMOTING COMMERCIAL BUSINESS RIGHTS ABOVE RESIDENTS RIGHTS IS NOT FAIR. RESIDENTS SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO COMPROMISE FOR BUSINESSES TO SUCCEED. WHAT STATE ASKS THAT OF THEIR RESIDENTS? THERE HAS TO BE A PLACE FOR BOTH, WITHOUT CREATING ANIMOSITY, PITTING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES AGAINST EACH OTHER.

I ASK THAT YOU CONFIRM THE PROMISE VIRGINIA MAKES TO ITS RESIDENTS - LOVE OF OUTDOORS AND FREEDOMS TO EXPLORE WITHOUT INFRINGEMENT OF COMMERCIALIZATION. EVEN FORMER SENATOR TIM KAINE DESCRIBES THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWERS OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS THAT VIRGINIA OFFERS IN HIS BOOK "WALK, RIDE, PADDLE."

IT'S A TESTAMENT TO HOW STEPPING OUTSIDE CAN CLEAR THE MIND, SPARK CREATIVITY, AND BE A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION. HE ALSO SHARES A DEEP-SEATED COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND SERVICE. AND I WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREE.

UNDERLYING IN HIS MESSAGE IS HOW INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS IN NATURE CAN LEAD TO COLLECTIVE BENEFITS. EACH OF YOU ARE GOING TO BE ASKED TO TAKE AN INDIVIDUAL ACTION IN YOUR ROLE AS COUNCILMEN AND WOMEN. I IMPORE EACH OF YOU TO CONSIDER THE IMPACTS OF YOUR DECISION AND THE COLLECTIVE BENEFIT OF ENRICHING OUR LIVES THROUGH NATURE THAT ALL VIRGINIANS DESERVE AND MOST PARTICULAR IN THIS DECISION, THE RESIDENTS OF THE FLEETS ISLAND COMMUNITY, WHO ADAMANTLY OPPOSE THESE FLOATING CAGES. OTHER VOICES SHOULD NOT MATTER.

IN CLOSING I WANT TO BE CLEAR THAT THIS IS NOT ABOUT THOMAS AND CALLIE'S CHARACTER. IT'S NOT ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS. WE WISH THEM THE BEST. THIS IS NOT ABOUT SUPPORTING WATERMEN AND WOMEN AND OYSTER FARMING - WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY DO. THIS IS ABOUT ENSURING RESIDENTS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE OF COMMERCIAL BUSINESS. THANK YOU.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
185	BRYAN S PEEPLES	05/23/2024 08:06:25 AM	OPPOSE

DEAR COMMISSIONER GREEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:\R\NAS YOU KNOW, THIS FIRM AND THE UNDERSIGNED COUNSEL REPRESENT FLEETâ€™S ISLAND FOUNDATION LLC, A GROUP OF HOMEOWNERS UNITED IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO JPA 2024-0849 WHICH SEEKS TO PLACE 600 FLOATING OYSTER CAGES IN â€œLITTLE OYSTER CREEKâ€• IN THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER. OUR CLIENTSâ€™ OBJECTIONS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:\R\NI. THE PROPOSED COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE OPERATION CREATES SAFETY HAZARDS.\R\NWHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE APPLICATION PROPOSES TO PLACE THE 600 FLOATING CAGES JUST OUTSIDE OF THE RECOGNIZED NAVIGATIONAL CHANNEL, THE LOCATION IS NONETHELESS PROBLEMATIC AND HAZARDOUS. THE PROPOSED OYSTER CAGE FARM WOULD BE LOCATED IN THE EXACT AREA THAT RESIDENTS, INCLUDING CHILDREN, ROUTINELY USE FOR JET SKIING, WATERSKIING, AND SWIMMING.\R\NALTHOUGH IT MAY LOOK LARGE ON OVERHEAD IMAGERY, IN FACT THE CREEK IS QUITE NARROW AND CONFINED. THE AREA IS HEAVILY TRAFFICKED BY BOATS AND OTHER WATERCRAFT, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE CHANNEL. IT IS ALREADY CHALLENGING TO NAVIGATE IN AND OUT OF THE CREEK, AND ESPECIALLY SO AT LOW TIDE. THE PLACEMENT OF 600 FLOATING CAGES, WHICH ARE TIED TOGETHER AND CONNECTED TO THE BOTTOM WITH A SYSTEM OF METAL CABLES, WOULD PRESENT A CLEAR SAFETY HAZARD TO THESE SKIERS, BOATERS AND SWIMMERS.\R\NFURTHERMORE, IN RECENT YEARS OTHER OYSTER GROUNDS IN NEARBY CARTERâ€™S CREEK AND WINDMILL POINT HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED DUE TO CONTAMINATION. ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSED AREA IS NOT CURRENTLY CONDEMNED, THERE IS NO INDICATION IN THE RECORD THAT THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VDH HAS SPECIFICALLY DETERMINED THE AREA TO BE SAFE FOR SHELLFISH PRODUCTION. THE VMRC SHOULD NOT ISSUE A PERMIT UNTIL VDH HAS CONCLUSIVELY DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSED AREA IS SAFE.\R\NMAY 22, 2024\R\NPAGE 2\R\NII. THE PROPOSED PROJECT INTERFERES WITH CONTINUED GROWTH OF SUBMERGED AQUATIC VEGETATION SAV.\R\NVIRGINIA CODE 28.2-1205 A REQUIRES THE VMRC TO CONSIDER MANY FACTORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE, INCLUDING THE IMPACT ON SAV. THIS REQUIREMENT IS FURTHER CODIFIED IN 4 VAC 20-337-20, ET SEQ, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF SAV AND EXPLAINS THAT THE VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE VIMS HAS DEVELOPED GENERAL AND SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR TRANSPLANTATION AND/OR MITIGATION ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ENHANCE OR RESTORE THE BAY'S SAV RESOURCES.\R\NCRITICALLY, VIMS HAS DETERMINED THAT THIS AREA IS INHABITED BY SAV. THE SAV MAP BELOW IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON THE VIMS WEBSITE, AND CAN BE ACCESSED AT: [HTTPS://WWW.VIMS.EDU/RESEARCH/UNITS/PROGRAMS/SAV/ACCESS/MAPS/](https://www.vims.edu/research/units/programs/sav/access/maps/)\R\NTHIS APPLICATION SEEKS TO PLACE 600 FLOATING OYSTER CAGES AT THE VERY EDGE OF THE MARKED SAV LINE. HOWEVER, AS EVIDENCED BY MULTIPLE COMMENTS POSTED ON THE VMRCâ€™S WEBSITE, NUMEROUS LONGTIME RESIDENTS HAVE DESCRIBED THE SLOW RESURGENCE OF THE SAV IN THIS AREA. AFTER MANY YEARS OF DECLINE, THE SAV IS FINALLY STARTING TO MAKE A STRONG COMEBACK. OVER THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, RESIDENTS HAVE OBSERVED THE SAV INCREASE FROM PRACTICALLY NOTHING TO THE MUCH-IMPROVED CONDITIONS THAT EXIST TODAY. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE PRESENCE OF 600 FLOATING OYSTER CAGES WILL REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT PERMEATING THE WATER, WHICH WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF SAV.\R\NFURTHERMORE, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT THE SNAPSHOT IN TIME REPRESENTED BY THE ABOVE SAV MAP DOES NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF SAV. ALTHOUGH SAV MAY NOT BE READILY VISIBLE\R\NMAY 22, 2024\R\NPAGE 3\R\NAT THE PROJECT AREA AT THE MOMENT, LONGTIME RESIDENTS CAN TESTIFY THAT SAV TYPICALLY BEGINS GROWING IN

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

THE EARLY SUMMER AND THAT IT HAS BEEN SPREADING FURTHER EACH YEAR. THE MERE FACT THAT SAV MAY NOT CURRENTLY BE VISIBLE IN THE PROJECT AREA DOES NOT MEAN THAT SAV WILL NOT BE PRESENT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THUS, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT EXISTING AND/OR FUTURE SAV GROWTH IN THE PROJECT AREA. THE VMRC SHOULD NOT ISSUE A PERMIT UNLESS VIMS DETERMINES THAT FLOATING AQUACULTURE WILL NOT POSE A THREAT TO SAV.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE. VIRGINIA CODE Â§28.2-1205 REQUIRES THE VMRC TO BALANCE THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BENEFITS OF ALL PROPOSED PROJECTS WHICH AFFECT THE BOTTOMLAND. IT SPECIFICALLY REQUIRES THAT THE VMRC CONSIDER THE EFFECT ON ADJACENT OR NEARBY PROPERTIES. VA. CODE Â§28.2-1205 A 4 . AS THE SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA HAS STATED IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS, "THE LITTORAL OR RIPARIAN NATURE OF PROPERTY IS OFTEN A SUBSTANTIAL, IF NOT THE GREATEST, ELEMENT OF ITS VALUE." LYNNHAVEN DUNES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION V. CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, 284 VA. 661, 673, 733 S.E.2D 911, 917 2012 . NUMEROUS STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT HOMES WITH UNOBSTRUCTED WATER VIEW SELL FOR SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN DO SIMILAR HOMES WITHOUT SUCH A VIEW. AS A RESULT, WATERFRONT RESIDENTS PAY SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER PROPERTY TAXES FOR THEIR VIEWSHED.

THIS PROJECT IS LOCATED IN A CREEK WHICH IS SURROUNDED BY APPROXIMATELY 67 HOMES. ALL OF THESE HOMEOWNERS HAVE PAID A SUBSTANTIAL PREMIUM TO LIVE ON THE BEAUTIFUL CREEK, AND CERTAINLY DID NOT ANTICIPATE WHEN THEY PURCHASED THEIR HOMES THAT THEY WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO A FLOATING COMMERCIAL OYSTER FARM IN THEIR PRISTINE NEIGHBORHOOD. THIS PROJECT WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE PROPERTY VALUES OF THE SURROUNDING HOMES. IN ADDITION TO BEING UNSIGHTLY, THE OYSTER FARM WILL BRING POLLUTION IN THE FORM OF NOISE, SMELL AND BIRD FECES.

THE HUGE NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROJECT SHOULD GIVE THE VMRC PAUSE BEFORE IT VOTES TO APPROVE SUCH AN ENTERPRISE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT WHILE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE OBJECTORS LIVE IN THE AFFECTED AREA, MANY OF THE SUPPORTERS INCLUDING THE APPLICANTS THEMSELVES APPEAR TO LIVE ELSEWHERE. THE OBJECTIONS OF THOSE ACTUALLY AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT SHOULD BE GIVEN SUBSTANTIALLY MORE WEIGHT THAN COMMENTS BY SUPPORTERS WHO LIVE IN OTHER PLACES.

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE APPLICANTS ALREADY HAVE OTHER LEASES IN MORE SUITABLE AREAS, BUT NEVERTHELESS SEEK TO HAVE THEIR COMMERCIAL OPERATION PLACED IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD TO SUIT THEIR OWN BUSINESS PURPOSES, REGARDLESS OF THE IMPACT TO THE COMMUNITY. THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE DOES NOT ALLOW THE VMRC TO IMPOSE HARDSHIP ON MULTIPLE CITIZENS WHILE BENEFITTING ONLY ONE COMMERCIAL SEAFOOD COMPANY.

IV. DUE PROCESS CONCERNS.

ON MAY 14, 2024, THIS OFFICE SUBMITTED A LETTER REQUESTING THAT THE HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 28, 2024 BE CONTINUED TO THE FOLLOWING MONTH. OUR LETTER EXPLAINED THAT OUR FIRM HAD JUST BEEN HIRED, AND THAT THE UNUSUALLY SHORT TURNAROUND TIME FROM THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION ON APRIL 3, 2024 WITH REVISIONS ON APRIL 29 AND MAY 13, 2024 UNTIL A PUBLIC HEARING JUST THREE WEEKS LATER DID NOT PROVIDE THE OBJECTORS ADEQUATE TIME TO PREPARE. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE HEARING HAS BEEN

MAY 22, 2024

PAGE 4

SCHEDULED IN THE MORNING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING A NATIONAL HOLIDAY, MAKING IT DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE FOR MANY RESIDENTS TO ATTEND. WE EXPLAINED THAT, AT A MINIMUM, DUE PROCESS REQUIRES AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNERS RECEIVE NOTICE AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. SEE E.G., MENNINGER V. MENNINGER, 64 VA. APP. 616 2015 . ADDITIONALLY, WE RAISED CONCERNS REGARDING SAV AND POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION, AND REQUESTED THAT THE PROJECT NOT BE BROUGHT UP FOR A VOTE UNTIL THOSE CONCERNS WERE ADDRESSED BY VIMS AND VDH. REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES ARE COMMONLY GRANTED ON FAR LESS SIGNIFICANT GROUPS.

HOWEVER, ON MAY 16, 2024, THE VMRC DENIED OUR REQUEST. IT HAS NOW COME TO OUR ATTENTION VIA CONVERSATIONS WITH THE VMRC STAFF OUR REVIEW OF THE APPLICANT'S

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Public Comments
Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

COMMENTS AND LETTERS AND OUR REVIEW OF THE MULTIPLE PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT THE REASON FOR THE UNUSUALLY QUICK HEARING DATE APPEARS TO BE BECAUSE OF THE APPLICANTS' DESIRE TO PLACE THESE CAGES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SAVE THEIR OYSTER SEASON. THIS RUSH APPEARS TO BE CAUSED BY THE APPLICANTS THEMSELVES, BECAUSE THE OYSTER CAGES THEY PURCHASED ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AT MOSQUITO POINT WHERE THEY INITIALLY INTENDED TO CONDUCT THIS OPERATION. THE APPLICANT'S BUSINESS ERROR, WHILE REGRETTABLE FOR THEM, IS NOT A VALID REASON TO RUSH A PUBLIC HEARING AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER CITIZENS. NOT ONLY DOES THIS PRESENT DUE PROCESS CONCERNS, BUT IT IS ANOTHER FAILURE TO BALANCE THE HARDSHIPS BETWEEN COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS AND THE RIGHTS OF PRIVATE CITIZENS AS REQUIRED BY THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE. THEREFORE, FOR THE REASONS EXPLAINED HEREIN AND IN OUR LETTER DATED MAY 14, 2024, WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THE HEARING CURRENTLY SET FOR MAY 28, 2024 BE CONTINUED FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE MONTH UNTIL THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED VMRC MEETING. ALTERNATIVELY, IF THE VMRC DECIDES TO GO AHEAD WITH THE MAY 28, 2024 HEARING, WE REQUEST THAT THE APPLICATION BE DENIED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS. MY DIRECT OFFICE NUMBER IS 757 490-6283.

Attachments:

https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/pc_pdfGet.php?id=921

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
186	NICK NONNEMACKER	05/28/2024 11:52:15 AM	FAVOR

WELL BOY AM I THANKFUL I HAD MONDAY OFF FOR MEMORIAL DAY TO BE ABLE TO HAVE TIME OUT OF LIFE TO RE-VOUCH MY SUPPORT OF THIS OYSTER FARM, BECAUSE AS OF READING THE MOST RECENT COMMENTS IT IS VERY APPARENT THE "OPPRESSORS" HAVE AN OVERABUNDANCE OF TIME ON THEIR HANDS. I SEE LAWYERS WERE HIRED TO HANDLE THIS MATTER FOR THE OPPOSERS, AND THEY WENT WITH AN APTLY NAMED FIRM TO HANDLE THIS MATTER ON BEHALF OF THEM.

MY INTENT IS TO RESPOND TO SOME COMMENTS I'VE SEEN AND PROVIDE A PERSPECTIVE THAT SOME COMMENTERS HAVE NOT BEEN CONSIDERING APPARENTLY.

1. OPINION: YOUR PROPERTY VALUE WILL NOT DECREASE AS A RESULT OF THIS PROJECT.
FACT: YOUR NET PROPERTY VALUE WILL NOT DECREASE AS A RESULT OF THIS PROJECT.

THINK ABOUT THIS LOGICALLY. HOME VALUES HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND CONTINUE TO DO SO AS A RESULT OF THE CURRENT MARKET WE ARE IN. PROPERTIES ON THE WATER HAVE INCREASED EVEN MORE SO BECAUSE OF THE DESIRE TO LIVE IN AN AREA WITH SHARED, EMPHASIS ON SHARED, ACCESS TO THE WATERWAY. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THESE WATER LEVEL OYSTER CAGES ARE ENOUGH OF A CAUSE FOR YOU TO LOSE MORE MONEY ON YOUR PROPERTY THAN YOU ARE ABLE TO SELL IT FOR, THEN I WOULD SAY YOUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION IS INEFFECTIVE AND YOU AS A PROPERTY OWNER ARE A FAILURE. LOOK AT ANY OF THE EXAMPLES OF THE OYSTER CAGES THOMAS AND CALLIE PLAN ON INSTALLING AND TELL ME THEY ARE SO NOTICEABLE THEY RUIN THE VIEW. IF SO, YOU MAY WANT TO WORRY MORE ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE AS YOUR PROPERTY IS APPARENTLY ALREADY IN THE RIVER.

2. I MENTIONED THE SHARED WATERWAYS, AND YOU MENTION THE DIFFICULTY YOU BELIEVE YOU WOULD HAVE NAVIGATING THEM AS A RESULT OF THE INSTALLED OYSTER CAGES. AS I'VE GROWN OLDER I'VE REALIZED SOME SKILLS OF MINE HAVE DECREASED COMPARED TO WHERE THEY WERE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, AND I ADMIT THAT, BUT I STILL GIVE IT A GO AND ASK FOR HELP WHEN I THINK I CAN'T DO SOMETHING. I SEE THIS AS YOUR CALL FOR HELP, IN THAT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO DRIVE A BOAT IN THESE WATERWAYS YOU PROBABLY SHOULD NOT BE NAVIGATING THEM ANYWHERE. REALIZING YOU ARE INCAPABLE OF DOING THINGS YOU PREVIOUSLY WERE ABLE TO IS HARD TO ADMIT, BUT SUPPORT FROM YOUR COMMUNITY COULD HELP YOU IN THIS TIME OF NEED. BOTH THOMAS AND CALLIE ARE AMAZING BOATERS, AND I AM SURE THEY WOULD HAPPILY PROVIDE LESSONS, OR SHOULD YOU REALIZE YOU SHOULD NOT BE DRIVING ANY LONGER, GIVE YOU PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN THEM ON THEIR BOAT TRIPS TENDING TO THEIR FARM. LOOK AT THIS, AN EXAMPLE OF COMPROMISE, WHICH IS SOMETHING I HOPE YOU COME TO UNDERSTAND BECAUSE IT IS APPARENT YOU HAVE EITHER LOST THIS ABILITY OR HAVE NEVER HAD IT, AND SHOULD THE LATTER BE TRUE I FEEL BAD FOR YOUR PRIOR ATTEMPTS AT BEING A GOOD COMMUNITY MEMBER, AND HOPE YOU LEARN SOON. IF YOU ARE WORRIED OF A FAMILY MEMBER OR SOMEONE NOT EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO NAVIGATE THE WATERWAY, I WOULD WANT TO ENSURE THAT YOU VERIFIED QUESTION IF THEY SHOULD EVEN BE DRIVING IN THOSE WATERWAYS IN THE FIRST PLACE IF YOU DON'T EVEN FEEL COMFORTABLE DOING SO YOURSELF.

3. YOUR MENTION OF THE SAV IS COMICAL, BECAUSE SHOULD THIS REALLY BE A TRUE WORRY FOR YOU, YOU WOULD NOT OPERATE ANY VEHICLES AROUND THE SAV OR GO NEAR IT AT ALL. IF THAT IS WHAT YOU

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

PROPOSE THEN STAND BY YOUR WORD AND IMMEDIATELY CEASE YOUR USAGE OF THIS WATERWAY WITH ANYTHING BUT NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES I.E. CANOES, KAYAKS, PADDLEBOARDS . YOU MENTION JET SKIS MULTIPLE TIMES AND I FEEL THOSE CAUSE UNDUE DAMAGE TO THE SAV SO WE SHOULD GIVE THE CREEK A FEW YEARS OF NON-USAGE TO ASSESS THE SAV REGROWTH. ALSO TO POINT BACK TO POINT 1, I THINK NOT BEING ABLE TO USE THE WATERWAY AT ALL WOULD CAUSE MORE OF A DECREASE ON YOUR HOME VALUE THAN SOME OYSTER CAGES, BUT THAT IS JUST MY GUESS. BUT YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDESS IS UNSURPASSED, SO THIS HIT TO VALUE IS WORTH THE SAV SAVETHESAV. Iâ€™D ALSO LIKE TO INFORM YOU, IF YOU EVER LOOKED AT A DOCK WITH MUSCLES AND CLAMS ON IT, YOU WOULD SEE THERE IS NATURAL GROWTH OF OTHER MARINE PLANT LIFE. DO YOU NOT THINK OYSTER CAGES IN THE WATER WOULD ALLOW FOR NEW ADDITIONAL GROWTH OF SAV?

4. WHY SHOULD THE OPINIONS OF THOSE LIVING IN THE AREA HOLD MORE WEIGHT? THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST YOU AND YOUR WATERFRONT VIEW. THE SUPPORT FOR THIS OYSTER FARM IS WIDESPREAD BECAUSE IT BENEFITS THE BROADER COMMUNITY AND BEYOND. THESE OYSTERS ARE SOLD IN MULTIPLE STATES, SO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE HAVE A STAKE IN THIS FARM. AS A VIRGINIAN, I DESERVE TO SEE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM THIS PROJECT, WHICH WILL SUPPORT OUR COMMONWEALTH AND NATION THROUGH INCREASED TAX REVENUE. IF WE REALLY WANT TO GET TECHNICAL, LET'S MEASURE THE LONG-TERM VALUE OF THE IMPACT ON THE WIDER COMMUNITY VERSUS THE NEGLIGIBLE INCONVENIENCE TO YOUR PROPERTY VALUES. SPOILER ALERT: THE BROADER COMMUNITY WINS. ASKING FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE FULL SCOPE OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS IS SELFISH AND UNFAIR. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE PUBLIC COMMENTSâ€™ TO BALANCE ALL VOICES, NOT JUST THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD WATERFRONT PROPERTY.

5. I WANT TO POINT OUT THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LARGER, BUT THOMAS AND CALLIE SCALED IT BACK AFTER THE COMMENTS FROM THE OPPOSERS, AND THEN THOSE SAME PEOPLE OPPOSING IT LEFT COMMENTS SAYING THEY SUPPORTED THE NEW 600 CAGE FARM DESIGN. SO WHY WAS THAT NOT ENOUGH? IT SEEMS THE OPPOSERS ARE NOT ALIGNED AND SOME SEE THE TRUE VALUE OF THE PROJECT, WHILE OTHERS ARE BLINDED IN MORE WAY THAN ONE, SEE COMMENT 2 OF ABILITY TO DRIVE TO WHAT SUCCESS IT WOULD BRING TO THE AREA. THOMAS AND CALLIE HAVE ALSO DONE EXTENSIVE RESEARCH IN ENSURING THEY ARE USING THE BEST SET UP FOR THE AREA AS THERE ARE MULTIPLE VARIATIONS OF OYSTER CAGES THAT CAN BE UTILIZED FOR A PROJECT LIKE THIS. AS SOMEONE WHO LOVES OYSTERS, I DONâ€™T FEEL THE WANT TO LEARN EVERY IN AND OUT OF EVERY OYSTER FARMING TECHNIQUE SO I LEAVE IT TO THE FARMERS, AND I TRUST THOSE FARMERS TO MAKE DECISIONS NOT JUST WITH THE FARM IN MIND, BUT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

6. FINALLY, Iâ€™M CALLING INTO QUESTION THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE LETTER FROM THE LAWYER ATTACHED TO PUBLIC COMMENT 185, AS THE DATE OF IT IS MAY 22, 2023, WHICH IS PRIOR TO WHEN THIS PROJECT WAS EVEN PROPOSED. IF THEY MEANT MAY 22, 2024, THEN I WOULD QUESTION ANY CLAIMS REPRESENTED IN THE LETTER WITHOUT THOROUGH REVIEW AS A MISTAKE AS OBVIOUS AS THE DATE WOULD LEAVE ME HEAVILY CAUTIOUS OF THE QUALITY OF THE FACTS REPRESENTED

OVERALL, I AM IN TOTAL SUPPORT OF THE 600 OYSTER CAGES AS PROPOSED BY THIS PROJECT, AND I OPTIMISTICALLY HOPE THE OPPOSERS THINK A LITTLE HARDER ON THEIR POSITION, AND LISTEN A LITTLE BETTER TO THOMAS AND CALLIE BY ACTUALLY TALKING TO THEM AND SEEING WHAT THESE OYSTER CAGES ARE REALLY LIKE. I DONâ€™T THINK THIS HAS TO BE A CONTENTIOUS MATTER AND THERE IS PEACE, WITH A FEW FLOATING OYSTER CAGES, ON THE HORIZON FOR ALL OF US IF WE CAN ALL JUST

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Habitat Management Public Comments
Application Number 20240849**

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

COME TOGETHER AND SHOW SUPPORT THESE OYSTER FARMERS.
-NICK NONNEMAKER

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Habitat Management Public Comments Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
187	KENNEDY DANIELS	06/05/2024 08:07:51 AM	OPPOSE

PLEASE RECORD THAT I AM OPPOSED TO THE PLAN FOR THOMAS HYDE TO PLACE COMMERCIAL OYSTER CAGES IN LITTLE OYSTER CREEK.\R\N\R\NKENNEDY DANIELS\R\NFOXWELLS, VA

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
188	KYLE M PERKINS	06/14/2024 09:02:02 AM	FAVOR

HELLO,

MY NAME IS KYLE PERKINS, I RECENTLY MADE THE DECISION TO MOVE FROM VERMONT TO COME THE THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AREA TO PURSUE MY COMMUNAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY CULINARY CAREER. I HAVE BEEN A IN THE CULINARY INDUSTRY FOR 14 YEARS AND HAVE EVOLVED INTO WHAT I AM AND WHAT I CAN PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY TODAY BECAUSE OF THIS.

I CAME FROM TWIN FARMS IN VERMONT WHICH SUPPORTS MORE THAN 200 HYPERLOCAL COMPANIES. SINCE STARTING AT THE TIDES INN IN NOVEMBER OF 2023, I HAVE ACQUIRED 8 LOCAL BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT. THESE ITEMS INCLUDE EGGS, ICE CREAM SANDWICHES, OYSTERS, SOFT SHELL CRABS, BEEF, CHEESE, AND MUCH MORE. I HAVE BIG PLANS AND GOALS FOR THE TIDES INN WHICH SUPPORTS MUCH OF ITS COMMUNITY THE SAME THAT THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTS US.

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THE FLOATING FARM APPLICATION ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK. AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE PRACTICES AND SMALL BUSINESSES, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THIS PROJECT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT. I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES. SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMY, PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, NURTURING ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND FOSTERING CONTINUED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. BY SUPPORTING THIS FLOATING FARM APPLICATION, WE ARE NOT ONLY ENCOURAGING A FAMILY-OWNED OPERATION BUT ALSO INVESTING IN THE GROWTH AND VITALITY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

FURTHERMORE, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF OYSTERS CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. OYSTERS ARE KNOWN AS "ECOSYSTEM ENGINEERS" DUE TO THEIR ABILITY TO FILTER AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY. THEY PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF OUR ECOSYSTEMS BY REMOVING EXCESS NUTRIENTS AND CONTAMINANTS FROM THE WATER. BY CULTIVATING OYSTERS ON LITTLE OYSTER CREEK, THIS FLOATING FARM WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, ENSURING A HEALTHIER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS FARM WILL NOT ONLY BRING ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO OUR COMMUNITY BUT ALSO SERVE AS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF RESPONSIBLE SEAFOOD PRODUCTION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Habitat Management Public Comments

Application Number 20240849

Print Date: Thursday July 18 2024 12:22

Number	Name	Received	Position
189	HYDE GRABB	07/18/2024 07:57:36 AM	OPPOSE

I AM OPPOSED, EVEN MORE SO, NOW THAT THE SUMMER SEASON IS HERE. MY HUSBAND AND I ARE ROUTINELY KAYAKING, AS ARE OTHERS, THROUGH THIS PROPOSED AREA. WATER SKIERS, TUBERS, KNEE BOARDERS, PADDLE BOARDERS, AN OCCASIONAL WINDSURFER, ALONG WITH WAVE RIDERS, SMALL SAIL BOATS AND OTHER BOATERS ARE USING THE NARROW CREEK. RESTRICTING LITTLE OYSTER CREEK WITH 600 PLASTIC CAGES IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO SAFETY.

July 23, 2024

HABITAT MANAGEMENT DIVISION EVALUATION

PAUL FOX, VMRC #24-0719, requests authorization to install a 60-foot extension to an existing stone breakwater, including beach nourishment, serving 297 Windfall Lane situated along the Chesapeake Bay in Lancaster County. The request is protested by an adjacent property owner.

Narrative

Mr. Fox has applied to increase the length of an existing stone breakwater and install approximately 450 cubic yards of beach quality sand, a portion of which will extend channelward of mean low water. Mr. Fox's property is located along the Chesapeake Bay with a fetch that exceeds 35 miles in the northeast direction. On April 11, 2024, the Lancaster County Wetlands Board approved Mr. Fox's request to install a 150-foot riprap revetment landward of mean low water along his shoreline. His current request is to increase an existing breakwater including beach nourishment in hopes to reduce erosion and to further protect his property. A subaqueous permit is required due to the proposed encroachment over state-owned subaqueous bottom.

Issues

Mr. Daniel Lang, Principal of 6 Sheets Oyster LLC and the adjacent property owner to the south, has submitted comments outlining his concerns for the proposed project. Mr. Lang argues that the applicant, Mr. Fox, does not own the property that is the subject of this application request. Mr. Lang claims that the property is owned by the Henry's Island Homeowner's Association, therefore he believes the proper applicant should be the Henry's Island Homeowner's Association. Additionally, Mr. Lang believes the proposed project is inadequate and will have adverse effects to his property such as restricting the movement of sand and increased erosion on his shoreline.

Summary/Recommendation

Staff has confirmed with Lancaster County that Paul Fox is the legal owner of the property. Additionally, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) visited the site and commented that due to the low upland elevation and recent heavy erosion, there are limited solutions, and Mr. Fox's proposed plan was the most practicable solution to address the ongoing shoreline erosion. VIMS further suggested that the area landward of the breakwater be nourished with beach quality sand. Mr. Fox then amended his application to include the suggested beach nourishment.

Summary/Recommendation (cont'd)

After multiple site visits and meetings with the agent, County staff, and VIMS, staff is comfortable with the proposal, recognizing the severity of the shoreline erosion. Numerous breakwaters exist in the immediate area, and expanding an existing nearshore breakwater with beach nourishment appears to be a viable option for shoreline and property protection.

Accordingly, after evaluating the merits of the project against the concerns expressed by those in opposition to the project and after considering all the factors contained in §28.2-1205 of the Code of Virginia, staff recommends approval of the breakwater extension and beach nourishment as proposed.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION EVALUATION, 7/23/24

RECOMMENDATION: Recommendation on a proposal from the Recreational Fishing Advisory Board

**BACKGROUND
AND ISSUES:**

The Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund (VSRFDF) is made up of sales of Virginia saltwater recreational fishing licenses. The Recreational Fishing Advisory Board (RFAB) advises the Commission on expenditures from the VSRFDF, in accordance with §28.2-302.3.

The RFAB met on May 13, 2024 to hear presentations on projects for the 2024 cycle. Mr. Ellery Lundy presented a request for funding from the Broken Men Foundation, a mentorship program for children aged 11 to 18 in Richmond. The program consists of a 20-week mentorship program to educate boys a variety of life skills and incentivizes their completion of the program with end-of-session trips. Broken Men foundation curriculum includes life skills, college visit, talks with law enforcement, and camping trips.

Mr. Ellery described the importance of incentive-based goals and noted that fishing trips has recently been unavailable to the program. The program hopes to provide fishing rods to the program members to continue fishing after their time with the program.

Due to schedule limitations and a lack of a quorum at the May 13th meeting, it was decided to modify the 2024 request to fund a fishing event for the end of the Foundation's summer program (which also serves up approximately 45 participants) and to invite those who completed the program in the spring as well.

The RFAB met on July 9, 2024 and voted to recommend funding the 2024 Broken Men Foundation Incentive-Based Goal Fishing Trip for the Summer Program, in addition to other business. The RFAB plans to make recommendations on the 2025 program along with the other 2025 fishing event programs at their next meeting, so that all the fishing event programs will be on a consistent cycle.

RECOMMENDATION: The Recreational Fishing Advisory Board recommended funding 2024 Broken Men Foundation Incentive-Based Goal Fishing Trip for the Summer Program totaling \$13,975 from the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund.