

Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 15:21:42 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 1:42:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

Comments on Docket #2022-R-F-0014 -- Shellfish Aquaculture

Name: Rick Chamberlin

Phone: 3025001307

Email Address: detrooper@hotmail.com

Organization: Citizens advocating for cleaner bays and oyster farmers

Comments:

I am part of the group of scientists and citizens who have been working to establish the now operational hatchery at the UD campus. During the 3 years that we have been involved, the project has developed wide spread interest, including a local school district starting an aquaculture program, meetings on improving marketing for oysters, involvement on the federal level for funding to further many aspects of aquaculture, and plans to developed a \$15 million dollar Fisheries and Aquaculture Innovation Center at the UD campus in Lewes. But, it all starts with the farmers and helping them grow and developed this much needed business. When our group began researching this, I was told by an Aquaculture professor at a Florida university that Delaware was 10 years behind every other state on the eastern seaboard in Aquaculture science. More shellfish in the bays, as I am sure you know, will help clean the water; the bays bring in \$4.5 million a year and provide 30,000 jobs to Sussex County. Please consider an outside the box thinking approach, as all of these aspects are interrelated, and find in favor of these requests. This is a win win for our county and state. For the greater good, we need to play catch up. Thank you for listening. Best, Rick Chamberlin