January 2, 2013

Mark Gibson, Deputy Chief
RIDEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife
3 Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, RI 02835

RE: CRMC File No. 2012-10-067
Site Location: Quonochontaug Pond, Charlestown

Dear Mark:

The CRMC is in receipt of an application to conduct a small-scale, temporary commercial viability aquaculture operation in Quonochontaug Pond as described by the enclosed CRMC application materials. In accordance with RICRMP Section 300.11, as amended, such operations are permitable provided they are no larger than 1000 square feet and do not exceed a period of 36 months.

The intent of this letter is to provide notice to the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) that the CRMC intends to issue a letter of permission to conduct the proposed activity. However, the CRMC wishes to provide the DEM with a 30-day comment period regarding this application. Please provide this office with any information you feel the CRMC should consider in the processing of this application. Additionally, should the DEM determine that an objection is warranted the CRMC requests that any and all objections be consistent with section 110.3 of the RI Coastal Resources Management Program with regard to “substantive objections,” and Rhode Island General Laws § 20-10-5. If the DEM does not respond to this notification within the 30 day allotted notification-period, the CRMC will assume that the DEM does not wish to comment. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. The towns of Westerly and Charlestown have been contacted in a separate cover letter.

Sincerely,

David Beutel, Aquaculture Coordinator
Coastal Resources Management Council

DB/kc
Enclosure
cc: applicant
COMMERCIAL VIABILITY AQUACULTURE APPLICATION

File No. 2012-10-067

Applicant's Name: Graham Bradley

Mailing Address: PO Box 526, 26 Railroad Ave, West Kingston, RI 02892

State: RI Zip: 02892 Telephone Number: Bus: 401 714-2154

Fax: E-Mail: oceanstateshellfishcoop@gmail.com

PROJECT LOCATION

Water body Name: Quonochontaug Pond

City/Town: Charlestown, RI

Latitude-longitude coordinates of site: 41° 19' 53.00" N / 71° 44' 34.00" W

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED AQUACULTURE OPERATION:

Wire cages and 1" mesh stackable wire trays will be deployed for a period of 6-12 months to access growth/survival/predation characteristics of site. If suitable, a 3-acre site will be proposed for lease.

Proposed species (common name; genus and species): Eastern oyster/ Crassostrea virginica

Proposed start and end dates for experiment: 10-01-2012 to 04-01-2013

NOTE: The applicant acknowledges by evidence of their signature that they have reviewed the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program, Department of Environmental Management regulations and have, where possible adhered to the policies and standards outlined. The applicant also acknowledges by evidence of their signature that to the best of their knowledge the information contained in the application is true and valid. The filing of false information can result in the Coastal Resources Management Council revoking the state assent.

Applicant's Signature: [Signature]

Appendix A
Rev. 05/05

[Stamp: Received by the Office of the Governor on OCT 9, 2012]
OPERATIONAL PLAN

The proposed commercial viability site will be operated for an estimated 12-16 months in order to observe the growth, survival, and marketability of eastern oysters grown in cages and trays. The lease will consist of a maximum of 16 sets of trays and 10 cages for a total of 26 individual structures (see the attached specifications for details of the gear). The site will be accessed via the RI-DEM public access boat ramp at Quonochontaug breachway using a 20 foot skiff and/or via the Quonochontaug breachway by barge. Maintenance will consist of deploying and rotating dry cages and trays in order to adjust the density of oysters as needed. Gear will be brought back to a shoreside storage site to dry out when required. As oysters grow to market size in the fall of 2013, the animals will be planted on the bottom to assess the viability of bottom culture as well. If the site is deemed suitable, a single harvest of all marketable oysters will be made prior to a commercial lease application in 2014. However, this plan does not preclude the option of an earlier commercial lease application.

Seed oysters will be obtained from East Beach Farms, LLC (CRMC lease # 2005-04-042 and # 2009-07-028). All seed transfers to the proposed viability site will be sent to Roger Williams University for disease testing prior to transfer. It is anticipated that there will be two transfers of seed to the commercial viability site; one in the spring of 2013, and a second in the summer of 2013. If disease testing shows levels of disease that would prohibit seed transfer from Ninigret Pond, seed will be sourced from other approved hatcheries or suppliers.
8 Gauge Vinyl-covered Wood Raft, 2 Sheets

With 13 Sheets Where

1/2" Scale

DATE: 10/10/12
APPLICANT: CRAWFORD
GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS