

**Aquaculture Stakeholder Meeting
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Tuesday, May 22 2018**

Public Comments

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| Water Quality |
| Water quality is the major issue. |
| Bioengineering |
| How do we measure and quantify the beneficial bioextractive capabilities of shellfish aquaculture? |
| Explore the feasibility of seaweed cultivation; specifically looking at user conflicts. NIMBY: Not in my back yard. |
| Nitrogen |
| Septic systems with new builds in nearshore communities. |
| Addressing defective septic systems. |
| Conservation loan for septic replacement. |
| Help towns and county to develop better programs to update cesspools. Current programs are not working as they should. |
| County cesspool rehab program does not include LLC's. A cesspool is a cesspool and cesspools owned by LLC's should be included in program. |
| Prioritizing a strategy for nitrogen loading remediation (Big problem, low hanging fruit, what's next?). |
| Toxins |
| Toxins of emerging concern. |
| Marine Pollution |
| Microplastics impact on shellfish grown in Delaware. |
| Will we be able to measure what impact, if anything, legislation like the plastic bag ban will have on marine debris? |
| Storm Water |
| Storm water runoff, high impact. An action plan is needed to get government to do something. |
| Runoff leads to shellfish closures. |
| Use engineers to trace storm water runoff at every entry point to bays and harbors that can be found. For example, back to the origin point of drains that empty into the water bodies. |

Habitat

Updating our inventory of salt marsh and eelgrass beds in the Peconic Estuary; create a new baseline for projects.

Outreach

Brown/red/rust tide management through community engagement.

Public education on importance of aquaculture to local ecosystem, and the ecosystem services provided by species farmed.

Research vessel for work and education.

Estuary wide ad campaign that encourages the public (shames them) to think about the estuary and how to protect it.

Educate local governments on the importance of stopping storm runoff at the source.

Educate boaters and private dock owners about free pump out and marine pollution concerns. This could be done through brochures passed out with dock permits and marina invoices.

Consider ways to prevent risks, such as harmful tides.

Consider the effects of lawn watering on groundwater draw and saltwater pollution intrusion.

The aquaculture footprint in the estuary is relatively small compared to the overall area of surface waters.

Climate Change

Re-soften shoreline to lessen results of changing climate.

Oyster aquaculture and oyster restoration.

Reduce nitrogen.

Need dredges and barges, big lift.

Now insured crop loss program threshold to low.

Help us actually utilize shellfish in coastal resiliency i.e. easier permitting.

How can we reconcile the desire to create “living shorelines” with restrictions on aquaculture within 1,000 feet of shorelines?

Siting aquaculture to have the biggest benefit i.e. mitigate, do in conjunction with data collection and shore-side mitigation projects.

Access

Public Access: If they can't see it, or use it, no one will care.

Maintain reasonable access for all users of marine space on water; surface water use.

Conflict

Protection to allow farming practices.

Use of local waterways for aquaculture production, not just sailing and kayaking.

Perception of commercial farmers and how they contribute.

Multi-value of aquaculture: improves water-quality; jobs; contributes to shellfish population.

Fin Fish; when we talk about aquaculture, fish farming should be included. i.e. grown and certified in NY does not accept fish, only shellfish.

Operation

Measures

What are the metrics to determine success? When and how are they measured and reported?

How do we evaluate the impact of shellfish aquaculture on benthic habitat?

Independent from government water monitoring program for entire estuary. Data collection should be published to website in real time for the public.

Bring together all data being collected by many partners.

Coordination

Better coordination between various user groups, environmental groups, industry organizations and research/restoration groups to determine how we can all best function together to achieve goals. Especially water quality improvement (this is the major issue).

Encouragement of Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program and co-existence with all interested parties.

1-2 year plan: Encourage town government to spend the funds available in the Peconic taxes (which must be used in the year collected) give town boards a priority list, listing what they can do immediately.

No taxes on shellfish.

Tax conversation for shellfish aquaculture.

Facilitate user/access conversations.

Facilitate conversations around regulatory capabilities for aquaculture and water quality.

Research

Improve science-based regulation of marine space users.

Regulation should be based on a thorough understanding of environmental impacts.

HAB's impact on industry and environment; economics and ecological.

Develop understanding of the impact to produce solutions.

Quantitative data collection (actionnable).

Collaborative studies with private sector (water quality).

What are other states doing? Encourage NY to do what they are doing?

Encourage NY to embrace aquaculture like other states.

Further information on source of pathogens (human vs animal)