

**Department of Natural Resources**

Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator

From: Chris Southwood, DNR Director

Date: October 6, 2020

**Subject: Edward Laspina: Nantucket Sound Bay Scallop Company
Aquaculture Hearing October 6, 2020**

Selectmen,

As per MGL Chap 130 Sec 60, this Public Hearing was duly advertised in a local newspaper, The Cape Cod Times, on September 24, 2020 and a Notice of Public hearing was posted in three public places, Town of Bourne Homepage (News and Announcements), Town Hall, and three Post Offices (Buzzards Bay, Pocasset and Cataumet) on September 24, 2020. The 21 abutters to this proposed aquaculture grant have been notified. The abutters were notified by Certified Mail on September 28, 2020.

I have reviewed and support the application submitted on September 4, 2020 by Mr. Edward Laspina (Nantucket Sound Bay Scallop Company) of 895 Shore Road, Pocasset for a proposed aquaculture operation to be kept at Scallop Bay Marina.

Mr. Laspina is applying for a permit to perform commercial aquaculture activities including to start a commercial scallop hatchery in the existing building and to locate floating upwellers, downwellers and trays within and under the existing permitted dock systems. The proposed plan for the hatchery at the Scallop Bay Marina is only to produce bay scallops seed in the hatchery. All hatchery production will occur within the existing building at the Scallop Bay Marina, 18 Wings Neck Rd., Pocasset, MA 02559. The nursery system will include floating upwellers, floating downwellers, and hanging trays located under the existing floats. Floating upwellers are known within the aquaculture industry as FLUPSYs (Floating Upweller SYstems), which protect fragile juvenile shellfish (bay scallops), and help increase food (microalgae) passing by the growing shellfish. The shellfish are transferred from a hatchery at approximately 1 mm (about the size of a grain of sand). Up to 1 million shellfish are then placed within the 8 bays of the upweller, where they are grown until approximately ½-1", when they can then be sold or transferred to the grow out site.

Licenses will be issued only to domiciled residents of the Town of Bourne who have the knowledge, experience, and resources to fulfill the responsibilities specified in the license. This operation will help meet the demand for seed by local growers located in the Southeastern Mass and Cape and Islands areas. Mr. Laspina has been employed with the Nantucket Sound Bay Scallop Company since March 2020, and has been involved with aquaculture planning, permitting and development throughout that period. He has extensive experience in shellfish harvesting, and will bring his knowledge of bay scallop farming to Bourne.

There would be no impacts to any public recreational water activities at this location. The bottom of the proposed area is not currently conducive to shellfish growth or survival, and therefore the water column above the poor quality bottom would be ideal to avoid conflicts with commercial and recreational shellfishermen.

Unlike a permit for growing shellfish on the bottom in tidal areas, this method of shellfish propagation would not require the approval of the Bourne Conservation Commission.

The public hearing for this proposed permit was duly advertised in the Cape Cod Times on September 24, 2020. For your reference I have included the State Aquaculture Statute and local Aquaculture Regulations and Procedures.