

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steven Bellone
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Theresa Ward
Deputy County Executive and Commissioner

Department of
Economic Development and Planning

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE LEASE PROGRAM IN PECONIC BAY AND GARDINERS BAY

MEETING NOTICE

Yacht Clubs, Marinas, Boat Trades and Other Recreational Users Focus Group

The Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning is conducting intensive public outreach to obtain input during early stages of the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program (SCALP) Ten Year Review Project. Part of this effort involves convening a series of focus group meetings that will target specific stakeholders. The following four focus groups have been established:

1. Environmental/Conservation Organizations;
2. SCALP Leaseholders/Aquaculture-related Interests;
3. Yacht Clubs, Marinas, Boat Trades and Other Recreational Users; and
4. Commercial and Recreational Fishing.

Notice is hereby given that the Ten Year Review Yacht Clubs, Marinas, Boat Trades and Other Recreational Users Focus Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm in the first floor conference room, Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center, 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901-3071. The purpose of this focus group meeting is to obtain comments from sailors, boaters, marine trades and the water-related recreational user community about the Lease Program, its impacts, shellfish farm operational concerns and related issues, all of which will be used in the Ten Year Review Project. Staff from the Department of Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment will provide background on the Lease Program; and the Division's consultant, Cashin Associates, P.C., will serve as rapporteur.

Should any questions arise about this meeting notice, please contact Ms. Susan Filipowich of my staff at 631-853-4775

Sarah Lansdale, A.I.C.P.
Director
Division of Planning and Environment

Language Access Services are available for free to Limited-English Proficient individuals. Requests for telephonic interpretation services or other special needs must be communicated in writing or by telephone to the EDP Language Access Designee at least three business days prior to the meeting. Contact: Jeffrey Kryjak, Department of Economic Development and Planning, H. Lee Dennison Bldg., 11th Floor, 100 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788. Phone: (631) 853-5192, email: jeffrey.kryjak@suffolkcountyny.gov.

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SUFFOLK COUNTY AQUACULTURE LEASE PROGRAM TEN YEAR REVIEW

YACHT CLUBS, MARINAS, BOAT TRADES AND OTHER RECREATIONAL USERS FOCUS GROUP

April 10, 2019, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center,
First Floor Conference Room, 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, NY

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Short Presentation – Maps & Facts
3. Focus Group Discussion and Mapping Exercise:
 - Race routes and courses
 - Boating corridors
 - Areas used by other surface water recreational users
 - Other concerns
4. Discussion and request for additional information

Adjourn

Aquaculture Lease Program Ten Year Review website:

<https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/Planning-and-Environment/Environmental-Planning-and-Aquaculture/Aquaculture-Lease-Program/Ten-Year-Review>

*Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program in Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay
Ten Year Review*

**Yacht Clubs, Marinas, Boat Trades & Other Recreational Users Focus Group Meeting
April 10, 2019, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center,
First Floor Conference Room, 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, New York**

ATTENDANCE

S. C. Div. of Planning and Environment Staff

Sarah Lansdale
DeWitt Davies
Susan Filipowich

Attendees

1. Vincent Priore
2. Joan Priore
3. Curt Schade
4. Lucy Sachs
5. David Sullivan
6. August Ruckdeschel
7. Adam Younes
8. Krae Van Sickle

9. Jeff Strong
10. Josh Halsey
11. Peter Mendelman
12. Greg Cukor
13. Steve Schnee
14. Vanessa Rojano
15. Kimberly Quarty
16. Joseph Tomao
17. John Waters
18. Karen Rivara
19. Gregg Rivara
20. Will Peckham
21. Stephen Lamson
22. William J. Mills III
23. Bruce Brewer
24. Luke Babcock
25. Bill Lehnert
26. David Kilbride
27. Thebeze Gonsalves
28. Ellen Talbot

29. Peter Stein

Cashin Associates, P.C. (Contractor)

Gregory T. Greene
Keith Brewer

Representing

Lazy Point
Lazy Point
Devon Yacht Club
Gardiners Bay
Devon Yacht Club
S.C. Dept. of Economic Dev. & Planning
Promised Land Mariculture
Kite, Windsurf, Paddleboard, Surfider, Foil
Boarding, Wakeboarding
Strong's Marina
Peconic Land Trust
Sea, Inc.
Yacht Club Rep. (Peconic Bay Sailing Assoc.)
Founders Oyster Farm
Legislator Bridget Fleming
Peconic Land Trust
Mattituck Yacht Club
Gurneys Resort
Aeros Cultured Oyster/LIOGA
CCE – Suffolk
West Robins Oyster
Southampton Yacht Club
Shelter Island Yacht Club
Shelter Island Yacht Club
Breakwater Yacht Club
Old Cove Yacht Club
Peconic Bay Sailing Association
U.S. Coast Guard
Old Cove Yacht Club/East End Youth
Sailing Association

SUFFOLK COUNTY AQUACULTURE LEASE PROGRAM TEN YEAR REVIEW

Yacht Clubs, Marinas, Boat Trades & Other Recreational Users Focus Group Meeting – 4/10/19

Main Points

1. Use of floating gear is the primary concern expressed by boating groups.
 - a. A moratorium on floating gear should be established until a better process for lease site designation is implemented.
 - b. The program should have separate zones for floating gear and non-floating gear, based on specific local considerations. Floating gear would be acceptable in certain locations where user conflicts would be minimal.
 - c. Floating gear conflicts with navigational waterway rights (reference was made to OGC 9 NYSDEC: Enforcement Guidance: Public Rights of Navigation and Fishing).
 - d. Attendees think that the permitting agencies do not consider navigational issues when reviewing permit applications for lease sites; no agency in the process seems to be accountable for regulating floating gear.
2. Some attendees allege that the County's authority to lease bottom land for aquaculture does not apply to the water column or surface waters.
3. Attendees stated the County should implement restrictions on the type of gear used on leases.
4. Some existing lease sites are in areas with high boat traffic (e.g., west side of Robins Island, areas off Mattituck Creek, Napeague Bay).
5. Identify areas that would have less potential impact on boaters and recreational users, and that would also not interfere with visual resources available to shoreline residents, for future leases, which could include floating gear.
6. Some attendees believe that the Ten Year Review should not only focus on future aquaculture growth, but also review existing lease sites that are considered problematic to other user groups.
7. Navigational charts do not always show location of gear.
 - a. A better system of notifying boaters of gear location should be established.
 - b. One suggestion was to implement a cell phone app. that readily shows gear locations.
8. Areas within 1,000 feet of the shoreline should be considered for inclusion in the cultivation zone. (NYS ECL §13-0302 excluded areas within one thousand feet of the high water mark for leasing.)
 - a. Many areas near the shoreline would be good for the farmers and would avoid conflicts with navigation.
9. Applications to USCG do not include reference to type of gear.

10. Bottom gear and mid-water gear do not pose hazards to boaters, as long as the gear is located sufficiently below the water surface.
11. More areas of Gardiners Bay should be made available for inclusion in the cultivation zone (e.g., west side of Gardiners Island).
12. The information that was marked on the various maps and navigational charts used during the session should be compiled, analyzed and considered when revising the cultivation zone.
13. Written comments were also submitted by some attendees