

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



Steven Bellone
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Department of
Economic Development and Planning**

Joanne Minieri
Deputy County Executive and Commissioner

**Division of Planning
and Environment**

November 3, 2014

Hon. Steven Bellone
Suffolk County Executive
100 Veterans Memorial Highway – 12th Floor
Hauppauge, NY 11788-0099

RE: Suffolk County Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Program in Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay -
Shellfish Cultivation Zone Five-Year Review and Determination

Dear County Executive Bellone:

The Department of Economic Development and Planning (Department) is designated as the County entity responsible for implementing the Suffolk County Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Program in Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay (Lease Program), pursuant to Chapter 475, Article II of the Suffolk County Code, as amended.

Suffolk County is required by NYS Environmental Conservation Law §13-0302 and Chapter 475, Article II, § 475-13. B. of the Suffolk County Code to complete a five-year administrative review of the Shellfish Cultivation Zone, which was originally adopted by the County on August 4, 2009. A report on the review must also be submitted to the Suffolk County Executive and Suffolk County Legislature. This letter fulfills the reporting requirement; it summarizes the review process conducted and the determination that has been made.

The Department issued a 45-day Public Notice on February 21, 2014, which requested receipt of written comments on the Shellfish Cultivation Zone by April 7, 2014. Attachment #1 shows the Shellfish Cultivation Zone Review Public Notice and its associated Distribution List.

During the public comment period, the County received two comments; neither made any objections or requested changes to the existing Shellfish Cultivation Zone. The first response received was from Anthony Aloisio, Director, Town of Huntington Department of Planning & Environment, which stated that his department had no comments. Lease Application Cycle #1 Leaseholder Michael Craig of East End Oysters, submitted the second comment in which he offered his support and appreciation for the County's Shellfish Aquaculture Lease Program.

In its deliberations, Department staff also considered factors other than public comments in its review of the Shellfish Cultivation Zone. These factors included grandfathered Temporary Marine Area Use Assignment sites that are no longer eligible for leasing, and changes in the ownership status of some oyster grant parcels. Incorporation of minor changes relating to these factors through modification of the Shellfish Cultivation Zone would have no significant effect on the extent of the area within which sites could be made available for lease over the next five years. It is pointed out that any amendment to the Shellfish Cultivation Zone would require preparation of a new map certified by the County Land Surveyor that would then need to be formally adopted by local law.

Therefore, given the results of the public comment process and analysis of other factors as described above, I have made the determination that the Shellfish Cultivation Zone should not be changed at this time. This determination will enable the Department to proceed with initiating the 2015 Lease Application Cycle by the end of this year. An in-depth review of all administrative aspects of the Lease Program will be conducted during the next five-year period.

I will be happy to answer any questions that may arise on the above.

Sincerely,



Sarah Lansdale, A.I.C.P.
Director of Planning

SL/bd

Enclosure: Attachment #1

cc w/enclosure:

- Joanne Minieri, Deputy County Executive and Commissioner, Department of Economic Development and Planning
- All 18 Suffolk County Legislators
- Timothy Laube, Clerk of the Legislature