

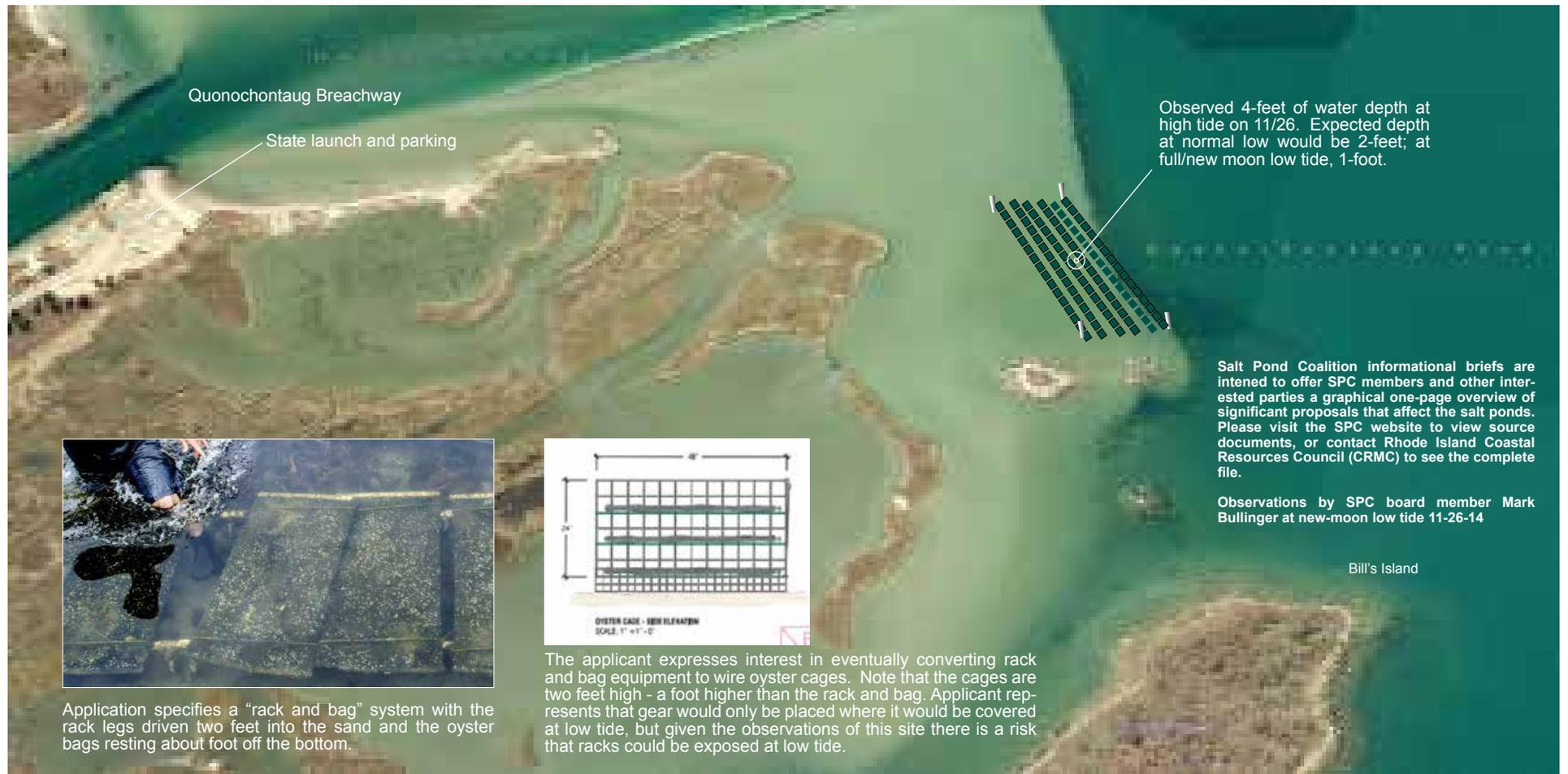


Informational Brief: Relating to Mandeville Oyster Farm Application (site 1) in Central Quonochontaug Pond

Applicant David Mandeville has filed an application for two sites in Quonochontaug Pond. This brief relates to site #1, located just east of the breachway. The proposed site is located at the edge of the large sand flow that has been slowly building into the pond since the breachway was dug in 1961. This location is well flushed with ocean water, but is also heavily utilized by clambers and fisher people who access the pond via the state parking lot by the breachway. This site does not seem to be a significant hinderance to navigation, but given the proximity to the tidal breachway there is potential for gear to break loose and move to other parts of the pond or the channel. Observed water depth (high tide on

11/26/14) was 4-feet suggesting about 2-feet of depth at a typical low and 1-foot at new-moon/full-moon low. Based on these observations it seems likely that some gear will be visible above water at certain times. The applicant expresses interest in converting to wire cages, which have a higher profile and would potentially be out of the water more often. This proposed plot is situated within the town of Charlestown, so there will be a hearing at the Charlestown Pond Commission meeting on January 5, 2015 at 7pm. See the SPC Calendar Page for more details.

For more information, please visit www.saltpondscoalition.org



Application specifies a "rack and bag" system with the rack legs driven two feet into the sand and the oyster bags resting about foot off the bottom.

The applicant expresses interest in eventually converting rack and bag equipment to wire oyster cages. Note that the cages are two feet high - a foot higher than the rack and bag. Applicant represents that gear would only be placed where it would be covered at low tide, but given the observations of this site there is a risk that racks could be exposed at low tide.