



Salt Ponds Coalition
PO Box 875, Charlestown, RI 02813

January 8, 2013

Dave Beutel, Aquaculture Coordinator
Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3
Wakefield, R.I. 02879-1900

RE: CRMC File No. 2012-10-067

Dear Dave:

The Salt Ponds Coalition wishes to express its concern about and opposition to the proposed aquaculture project to be located within the Quonochontaug Pond Shellfish Spawner Sanctuary. That area was designated and closed to shellfish harvesting in the late 1970s (RIFMC/DEM regulation 4.12.3) to serve as a spawning refuge. DEM regularly stocked scallops, quahaugs and oysters. From 2007-2009, stocking was undertaken by funding from a NOAA grant, where the Nature Conservancy, Salt Ponds Coalition and Save the Bay stocked 800 bushels of quahaugs. This was done in conjunction with the DEM/DOH bay transplant program. Save the Bay transplanted eelgrass on the site. In addition, it was agreed by the DEM and Office of Food Protection DOH that the area would not be re-opened for harvesting.

This Spawner Sanctuary has been identified in your aquaculture mapping project done with Dave Alves, as a priority for the public resource. Should CRMC permit this project, the private applicant would lay claim to thousands of quahaugs planted for the public trust.

With over 900 acres of Quonnie Pond, I'm sure that a suitable aquaculture site can be found. There are several critical sites to avoid. Between the Breachway and Nope's Island is one of the state's largest horseshoe crab mating sites, as well as a heavily used soft shell clam flat. In and around Bill's Island, as well as in front of the Weekapaug Inn are heavily fished recreationally.

I will be glad to work with you to find a more compatible location for private aquaculture.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Art Ganz".

Arthur R. Ganz, President

Cc: Director Janet Coit, RI DEM
Steven Hartford, Town of Westerly
Patricia Anderson, Town of Charlestown
Charles Vandermoer, USFWS