



## *Shellfish Lease Public Hearing*

*NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY*

NC Division of Marine Fisheries

Onslow County | February 12, 2026





## Troubleshooting

If you are having trouble hearing the meeting, try having the computer call your phone. Click on the audio tab at the top of the screen. In the dropdown box, click on Audio Connection, and type in your telephone number in the Call Me field.



Written comments will be accepted up to 24 hours following this hearing and may be submitted by mail or online at:

NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program  
PO Box 769  
Morehead City, NC 28557



[deq.nc.gov/onslow-county-shellfish-lease-hearing-comment-form](https://deq.nc.gov/onslow-county-shellfish-lease-hearing-comment-form)



## N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Public Hearing on Proposed Shellfish Leases in Onslow County February 12, 2026, 6 p.m.

We will take attendance at the beginning of the meeting and ask if you would like to speak. Later in the meeting, we will call the names of those who indicated they would like to speak. After we complete the list, we will ask anyone else who wants to speak to raise their hands.

Raise your hand by clicking on the hand icon at the bottom of the Participants panel.

To bring up the Participants panel, hover your cursor over the bottom of the page and click on the circular icon with a drawing of a person in it.







# ***Shellfish Leasing Process***

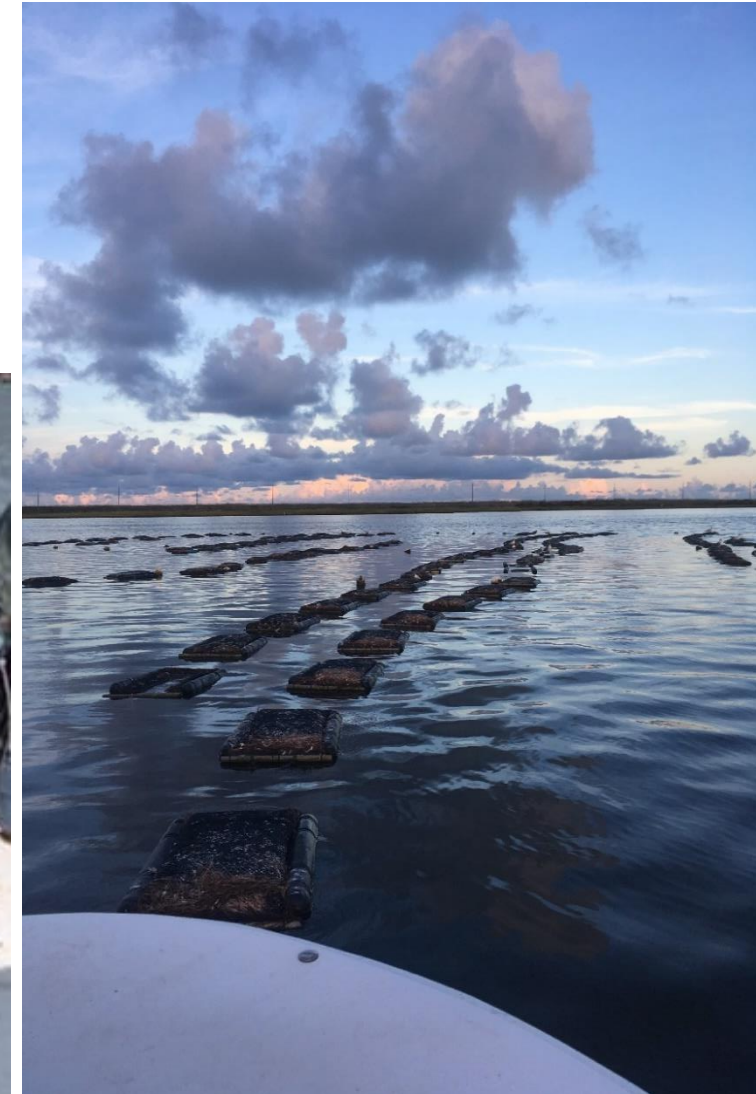
## ***Role of Public Hearing and Public Comment***





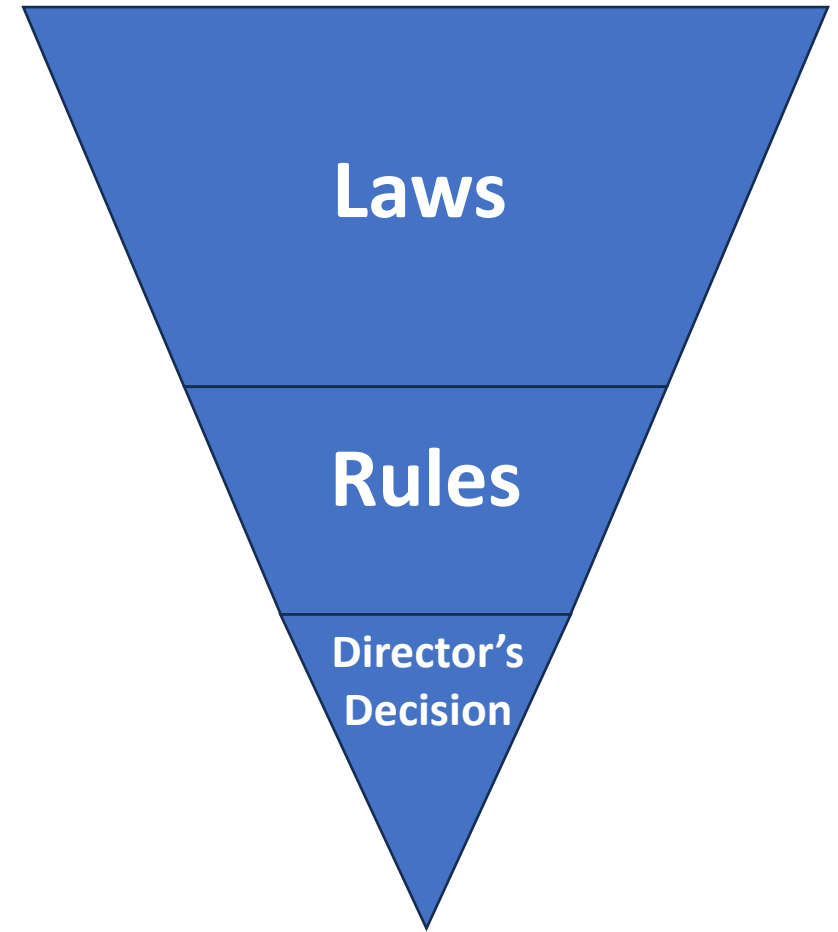
# Shellfish Leases Basics

- Public Trust Waters Leased for Shellfish Aquaculture
  - Artificially Propagated Stocks
  - Reared in “Controlled Environment”
  - Leases give private rights to shellfish in an area
  - Water is still navigable at your own risk

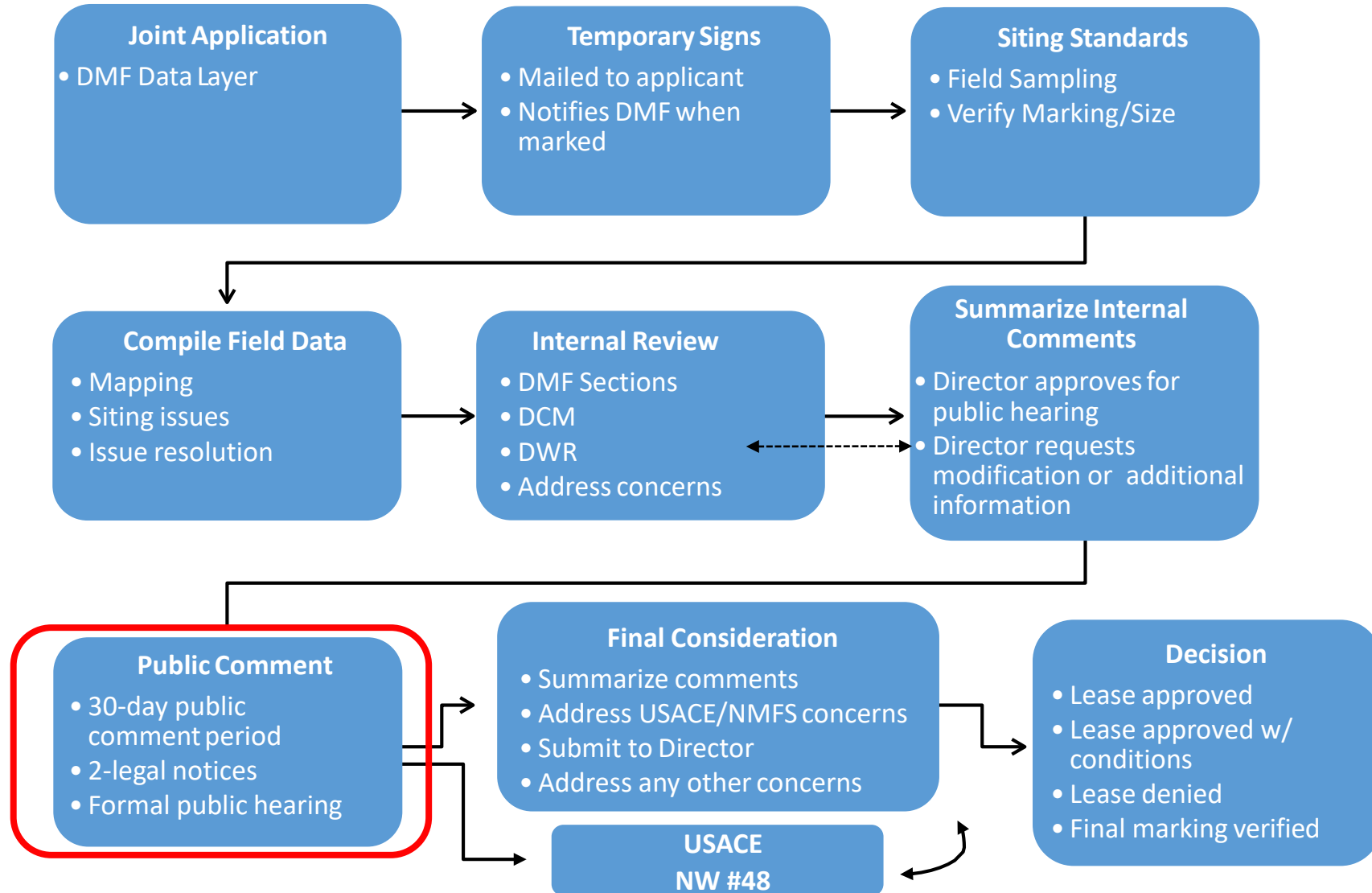


# Shellfish Leases are Governed by Law

- Shellfish Leases in General Statutes
  - NCGS Chapter 113 Article 16
    - Changes to Shellfish Leases
      - 26 Session Laws Since 1997 (FRA)
      - 48 Total Changes to General Statutes



# Shellfish Lease Application Process





# Shellfish Lease Investigation

- Marking Poles and Acreage
- Biological (SAV/Natural Shellfish)
- Navigation and Depth



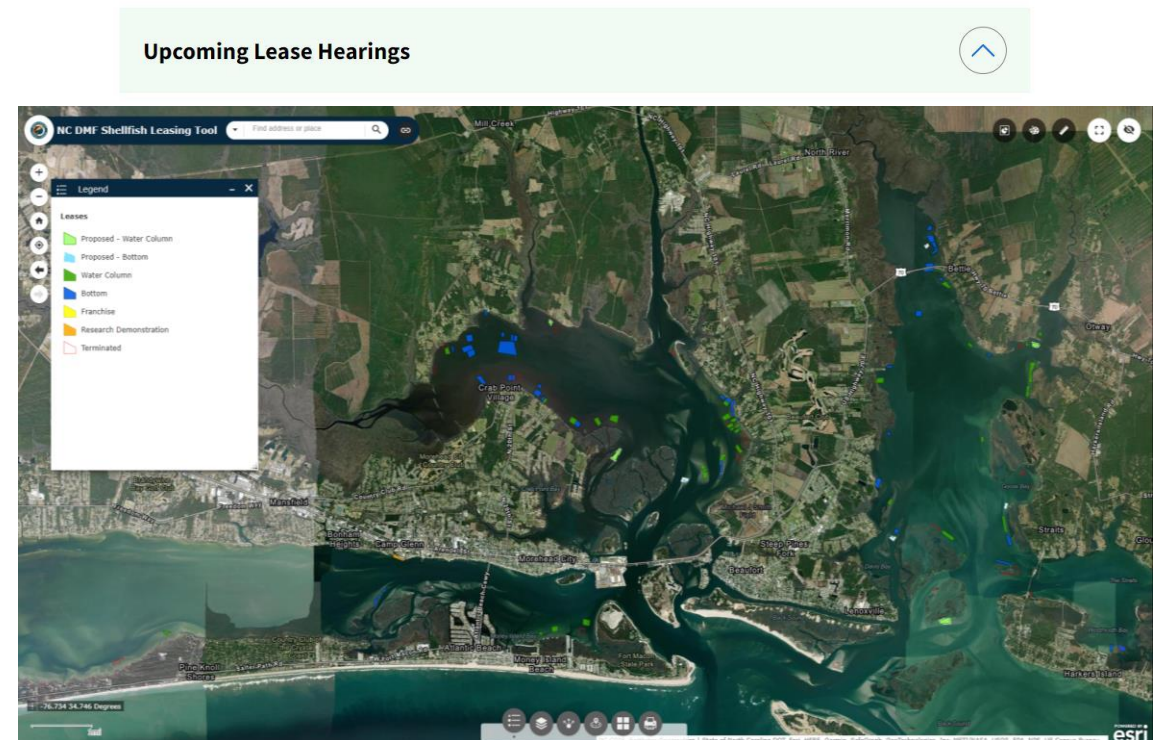


# Public Comment

- Evaluate Compatibility
  - Determine Effects on Public Trust Usage
  - Direct Impacts
  - Not a Vote
- Public Comment Collected
  - Comments at Public Hearing
  - Online and Letters During PC Period
- Additional Outreach
  - Shellfish Lease Website
  - Shellfish Leasing Tool
  - Press Release
  - Proclamations Mailing/Email List
  - Social Media Posts

## Shellfish Lease Hearings

The public hearing/public comment process is a requirement for all proposed shellfish leases in North Carolina. The Upcoming Lease Hearings accordion lists scheduled hearings and includes links to information about proposed shellfish leases. The Previous Lease Hearings accordion contains the hearing minutes and comments received during the public comment period.





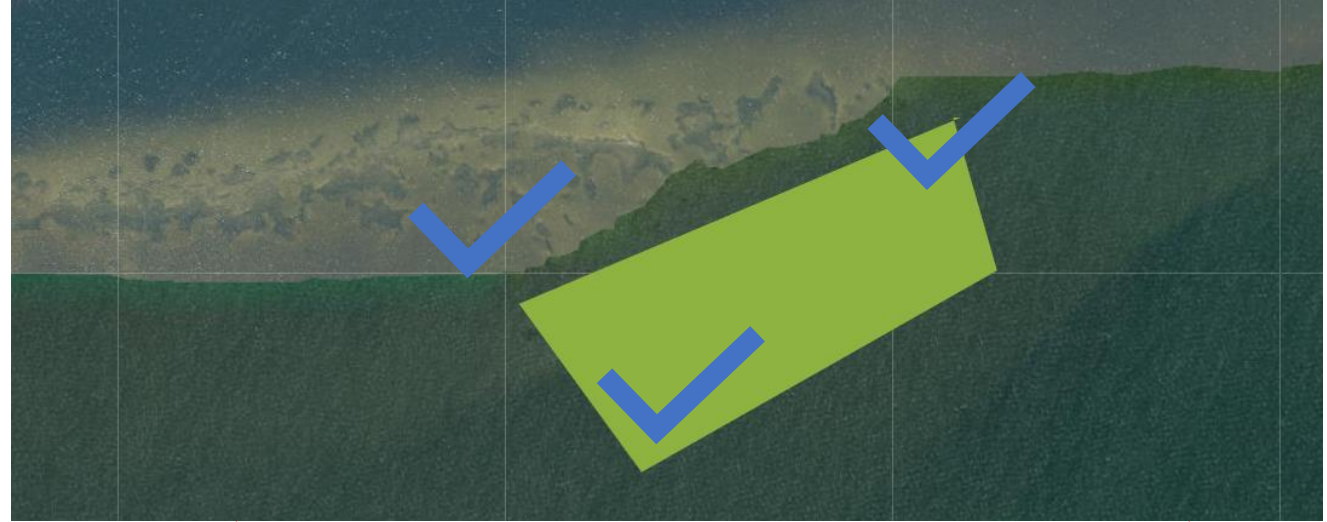
# Director's Decision

- Compatibility with Public Trust Usage
  - Navigation
  - Commercial Fishing
  - Recreational Fishing
  - Other Recreation
- Director's Decision
  - Approve
  - Approve with Conditions
  - Deny



# How to Make Public Comments

- Specific Uses of that Location
- Not General Waterbody Comments







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## *Onslow County Shellfish Lease Hearing*

### *February 12, 2026*

1. Old Baldy Aquaculture, LLC (Matthew T. Miller) – Shellfish Bottom – No. 25-001BL – 4.78 acres – New River below NC 172 bridge, Onslow County.
2. Old Baldy Aquaculture, LLC (Matthew T. Miller) – Shellfish Bottom – No. 25-002BL – 1.19 acres – Stones Bay, Onslow County.
3. Alonzo L. Davis III – Shellfish Bottom and Water Column – Nos. 25-003BL / 25-004WC – 0.76 acres – Seaside Areas, Onslow County.





## *Onslow County Shellfish Lease Hearing*

### *February 12, 2026*

4. Stump Sound Oyster Company, LLC (Shawn P. Burns) – Shellfish Bottom and Water Column – Nos. 25-015BL / 25-016WC – 4.77 acres – Stones Bay, Onslow County.
5. Anthony A. Grant – Shellfish Bottom – No. 25-017BL – 0.87 acres – Alligator Bay, Onslow County.
6. Alonzo L. Davis III – Shellfish Bottom and Water Column – Nos. 25-020BL / 25-021WC – 0.58 acres – Seaside Areas, Onslow County.



*Onslow County Shellfish Lease Hearing*  
*February 12, 2026*

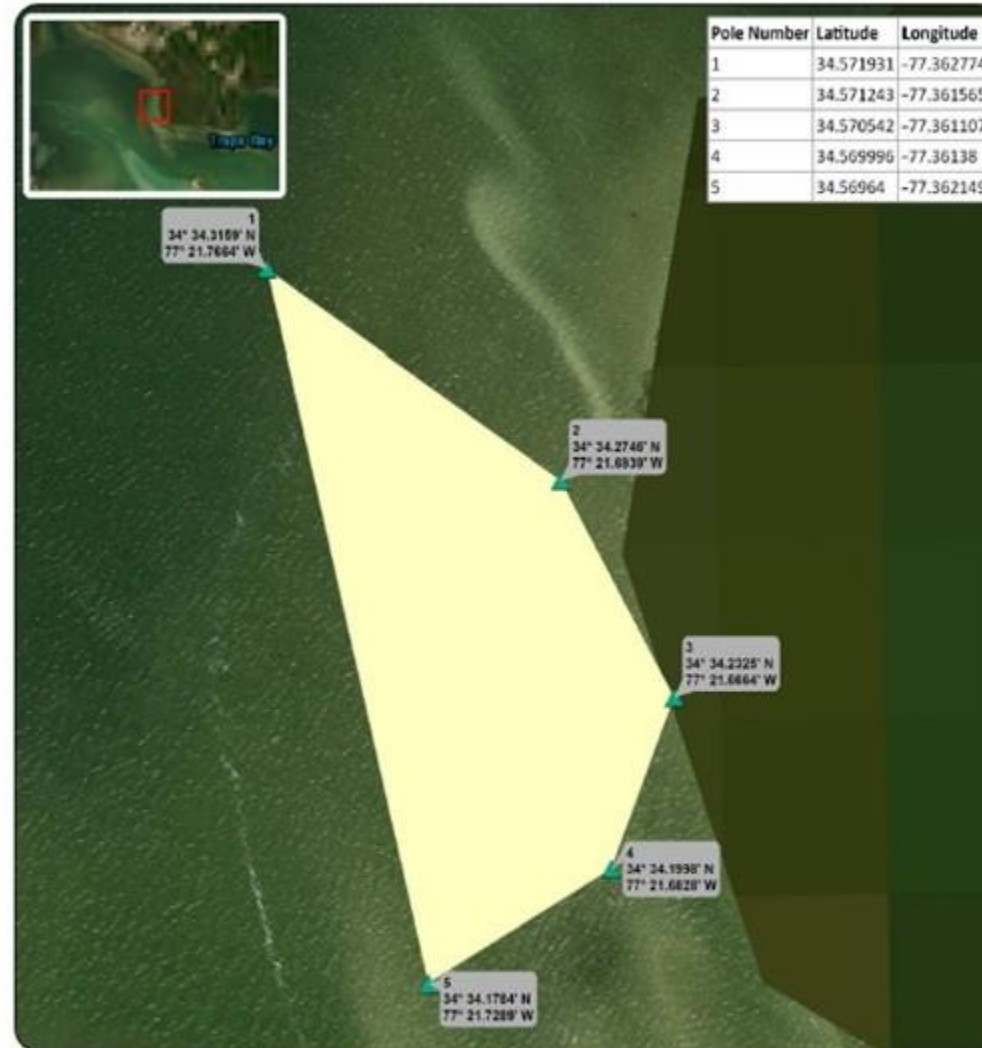
7. Joshua A. Thompson – Shellfish Bottom and Water Column – Nos. 25-026BL / 25-027WC – 3.73 acres – Ellis Cove, Onslow County.
8. Joshua A. Thompson – Shellfish Water Column – No. 25-028WC – 3.65 acres – New River below NC 172 bridge, Onslow County.
9. Joshua A. Thompson – Shellfish Water Column – No. 25-029WC – 4.24 acres – Stones Bay, Onslow County.





Proposed Lease ID/Number: 25-001BL  
Old Baldy Aquaculture, Matthew Miller

Date: 7/2/2025

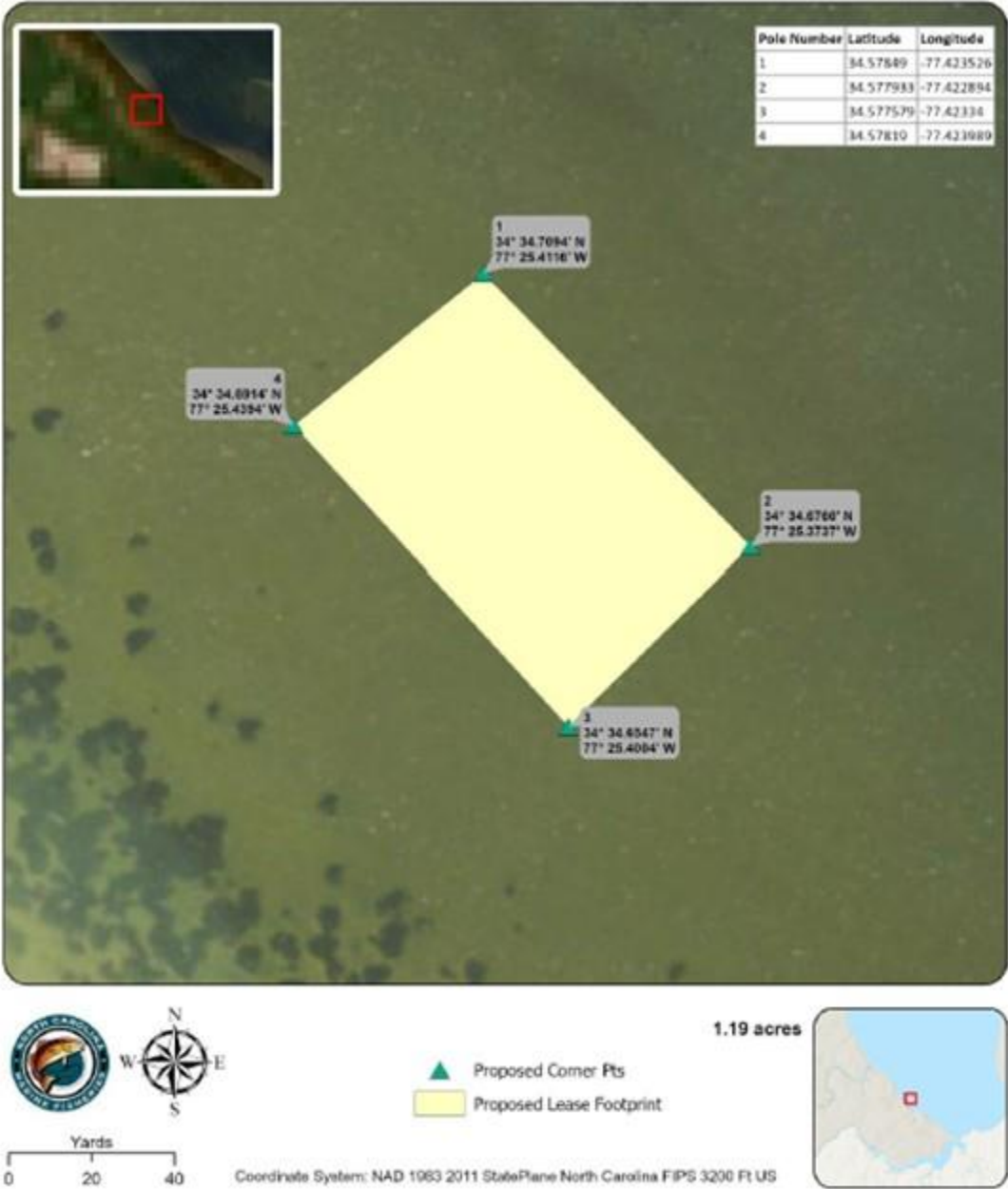


Coordinate System: NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane North Carolina FIPS 3200 FT US

Acreage: 4.78

- ▲ Application Corner Pts
- Proposed Lease Area







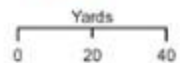
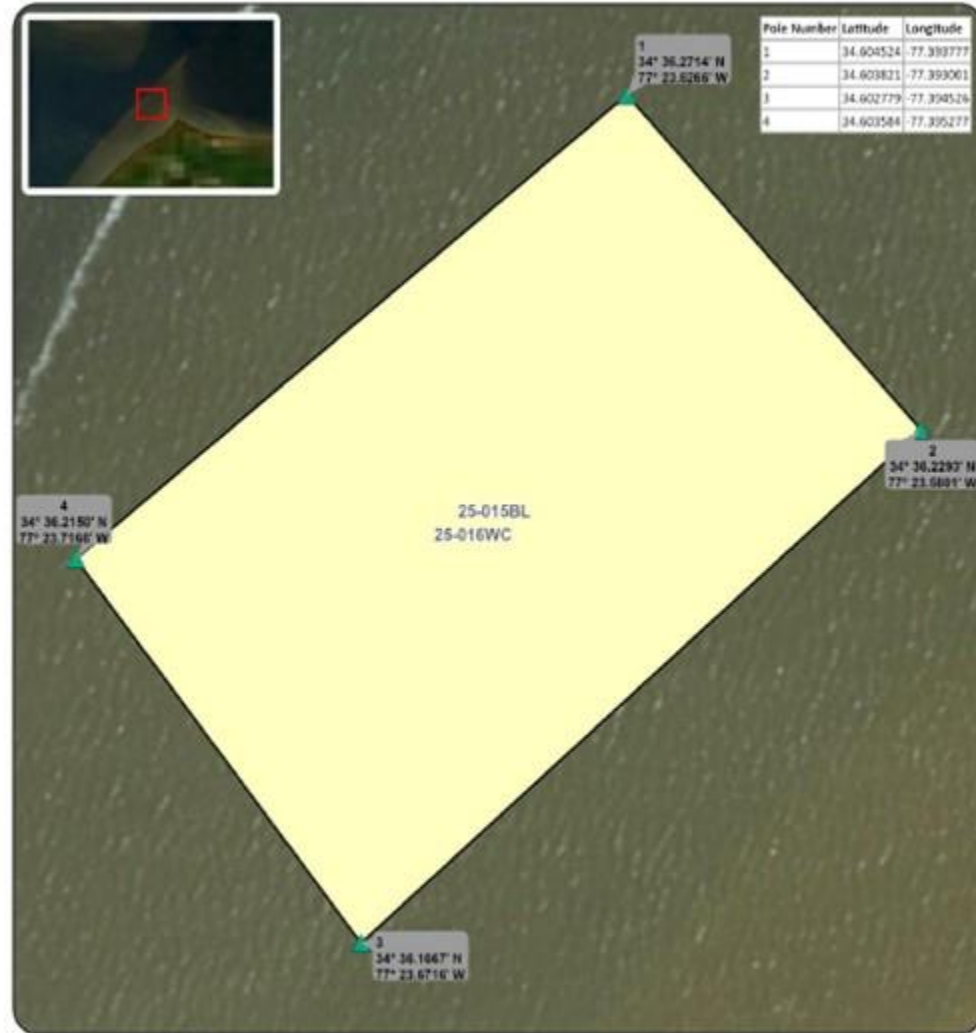
Proposed Lease ID/Number: 25-003BL/25-004WC  
Alonzo L. Davis III

Date: 7/24/2025



Proposed Lease ID/Number: 25-015BL/25-016WC  
 Stump Sound Oyster Company, Shawn P. Burns (Agent)

Date: 9/3/2025



- ▲ Proposed Corner Points
- Proposed Lease Area

Acreage: 4.77

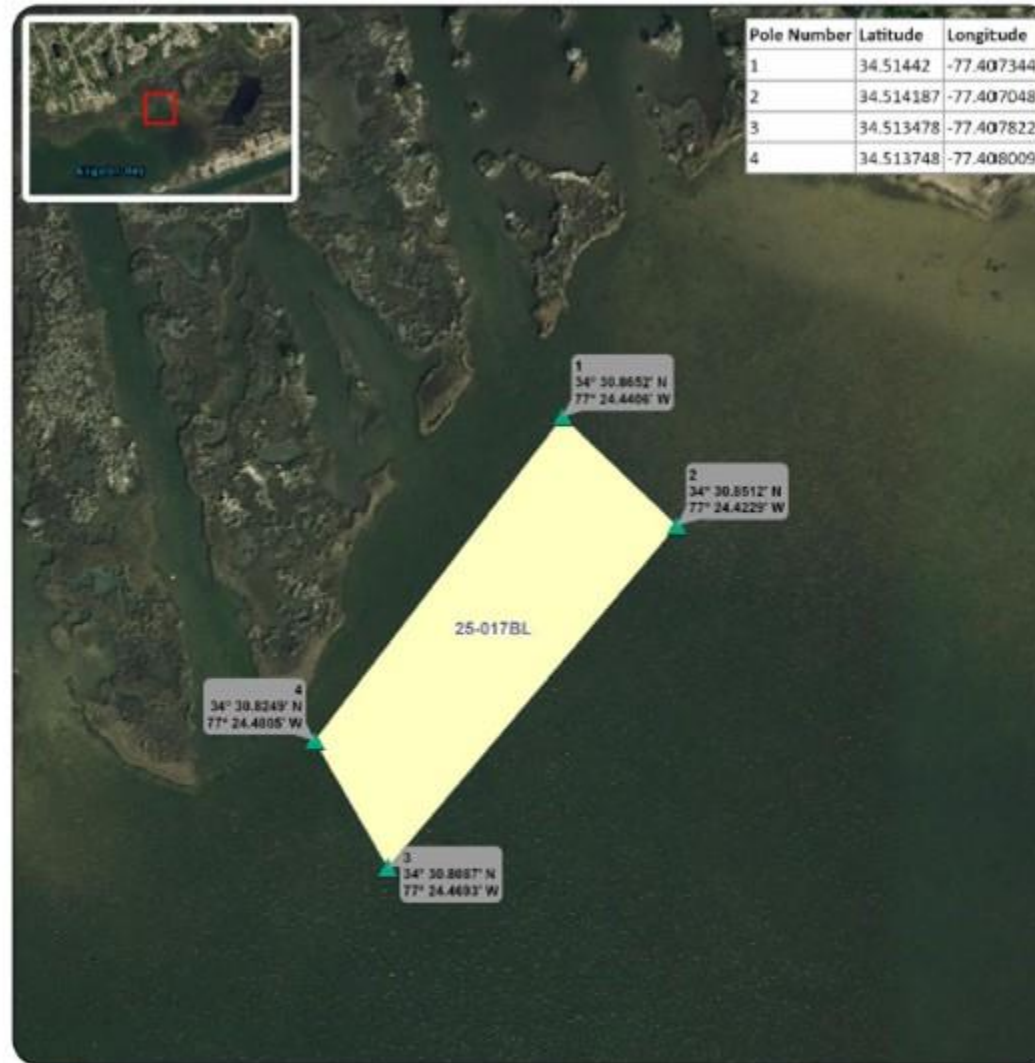
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane North Carolina FIPS 3200 F1 US





Proposed Lease ID/Number: 25-017BL  
Anthony Grant

Date: 9/3/2025



▲ Proposed Corner Points  
■ Modified Proposed Lease Area

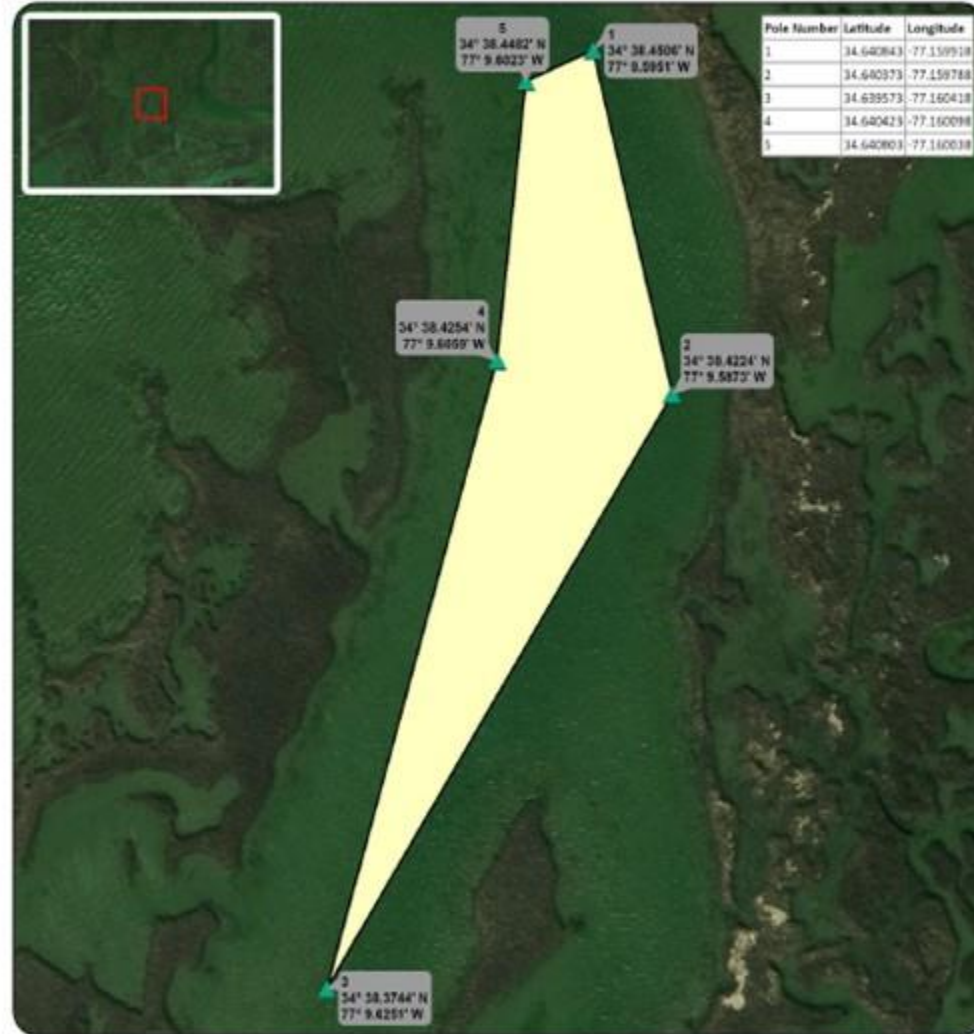
Acreage: 0.87

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane North Carolina FIPS 3200 Ft US

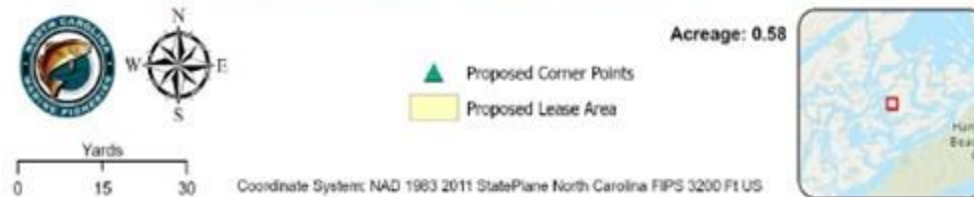


Proposed Lease ID/Number: 25-020BL/25-021WC  
Alonzo L. Davis III

Date: 9/18/2025



Pole Number	Latitude	Longitude
1	34.640843	-77.159918
2	34.640973	-77.159788
3	34.639573	-77.160418
4	34.640423	-77.160098
5	34.640803	-77.160038





Proposed Lease ID/Number: 25-026BL/25-027WC  
Joshua A. Thompson

Date: 9/5/2025



▲ Proposed Corner Points  
■ Proposed Lease Area

Yards  
0 40 80

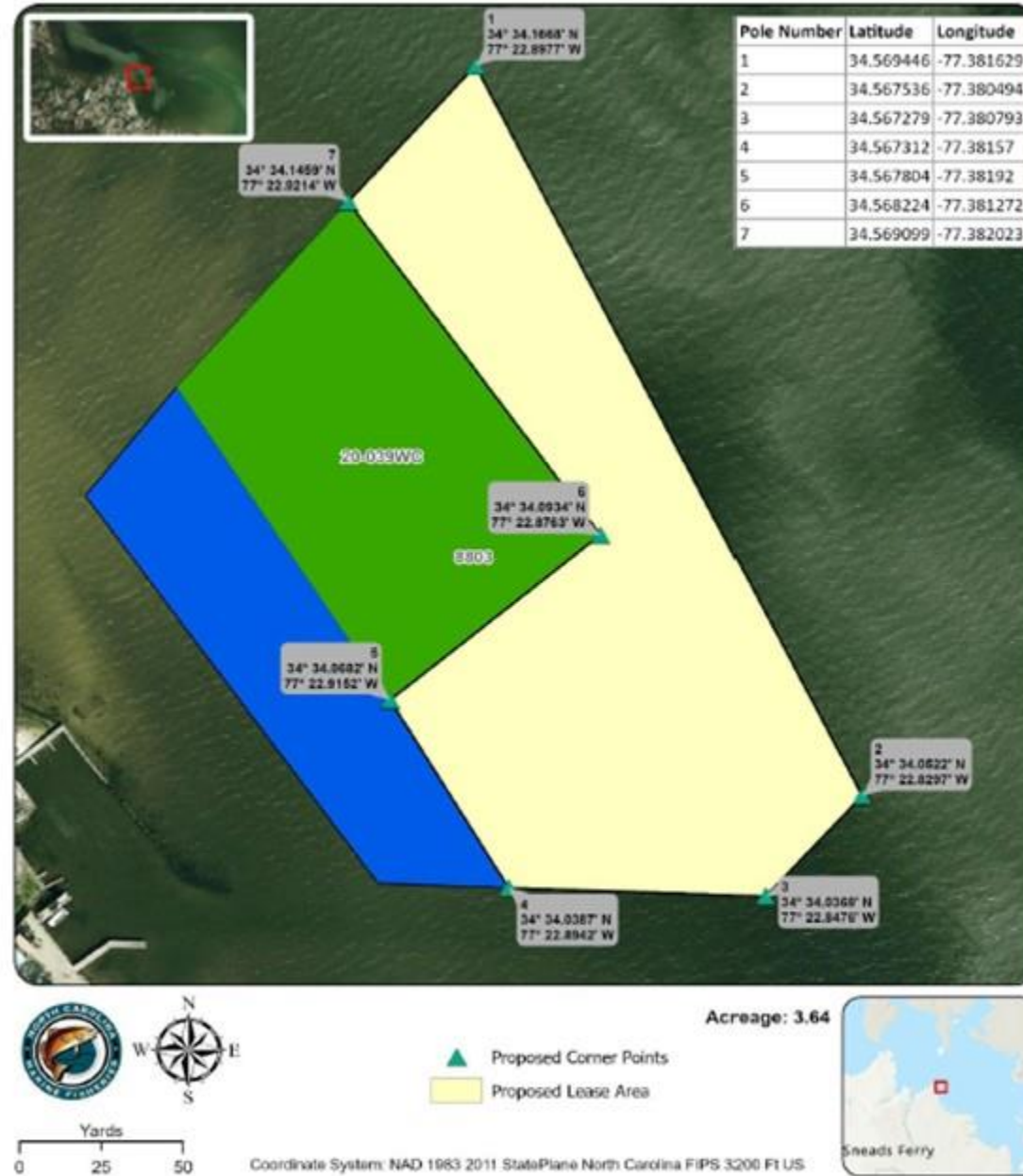
Acreage: 3.73

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane North Carolina FIPS 3200 Ft US



Proposed Lease ID/Number: 25-028WC  
Joshua A. Thompson

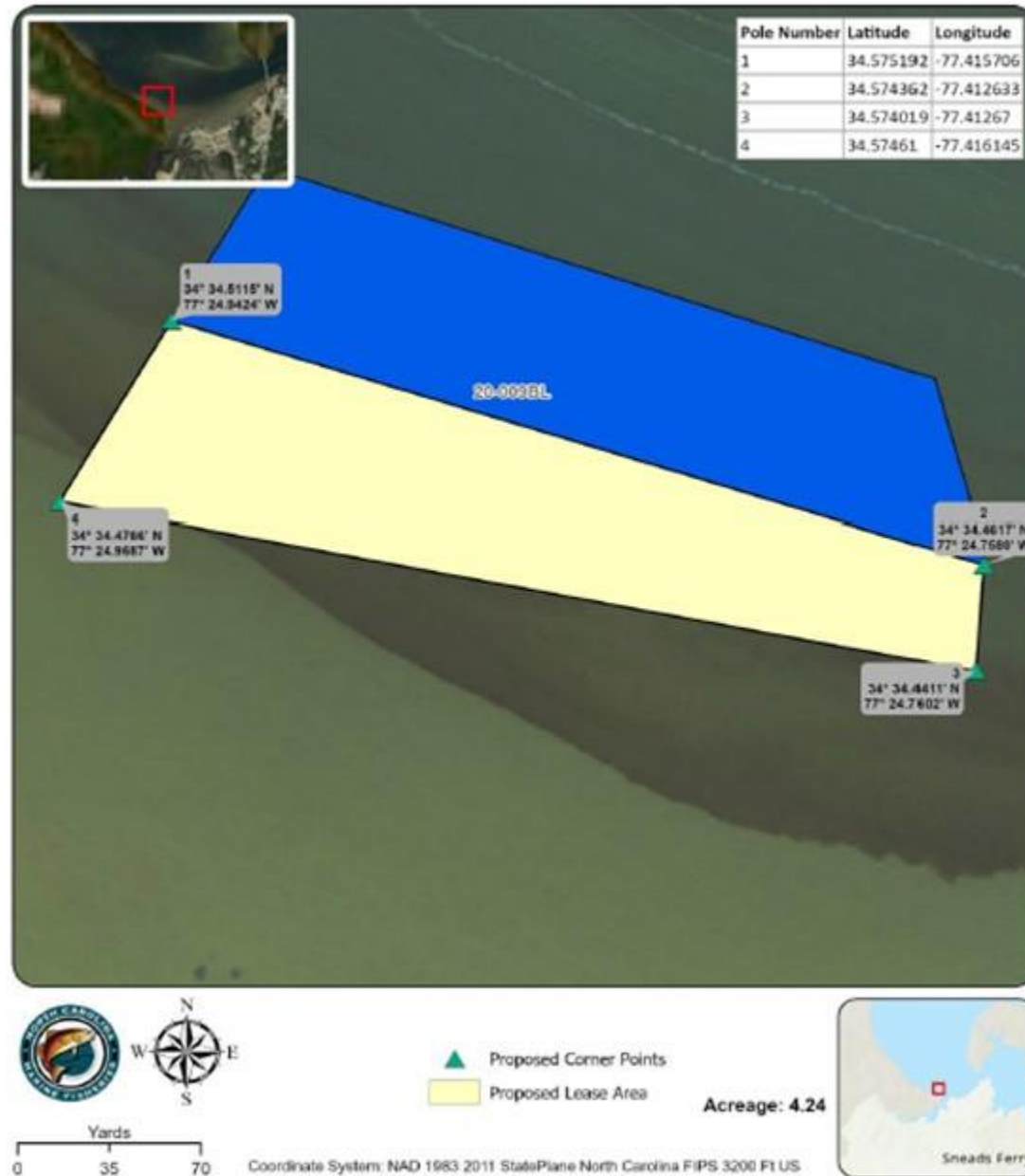
Date: 10/16/2025





Proposed Lease ID/Number: 25-029WC  
Joshua A. Thompson

Date: 10/15/2025





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# Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program

[deq.nc.gov/shellfish-lease](http://deq.nc.gov/shellfish-lease)

## NC DMF Shellfish Leasing Tool

[arcg.is/0LD5zS](http://arcg.is/0LD5zS)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

[deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/licenses-permits-and-leases/shellfish-lease-and-franchise/lease-faqs](http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/licenses-permits-and-leases/shellfish-lease-and-franchise/lease-faqs)



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## Contact Information

NC Division of Marine Fisheries

### Casey Silva

Program Coordinator

(252) 723-8866

[casey.silva@deq.nc.gov](mailto:casey.silva@deq.nc.gov)

### Marla Chuffo

Program Administrative Officer

(252) 515-5480

[marla.chuffo@deq.nc.gov](mailto:marla.chuffo@deq.nc.gov)

### Kristina Flanigan

Leasing Biologist

(252) 515-5505

[kristina.flanigan@deq.nc.gov](mailto:kristina.flanigan@deq.nc.gov)

### Stephen Johnson

Mapping Biologist

(252) 515-5487

[stephen.johnson@deq.nc.gov](mailto:stephen.johnson@deq.nc.gov)

**[SLAP@deq.nc.gov](mailto:SLAP@deq.nc.gov)**