



Shellfish Lease Public Hearing

NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

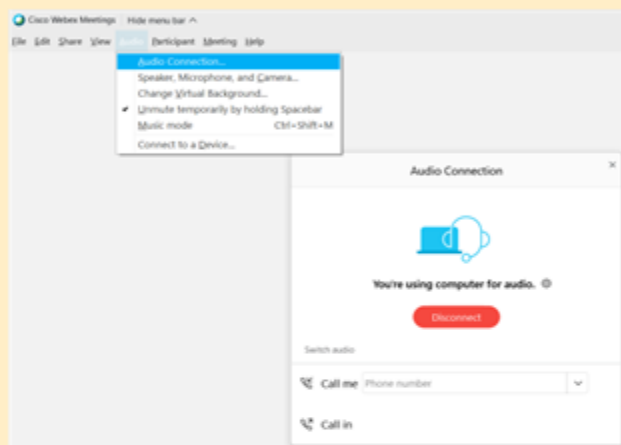
NC Division of Marine Fisheries

Onslow County | April 22, 2025



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:

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries
Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program
P.O. Box 769
Morehead City, NC 28557



deq.nc.gov/onslow-county-shellfish-lease-hearing-comment-form

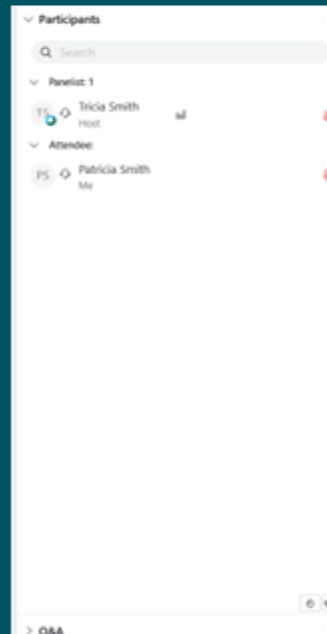


N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Public Hearing on Proposed Shellfish Leases in Onslow County April 22, 2025, at 6 p.m.

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.





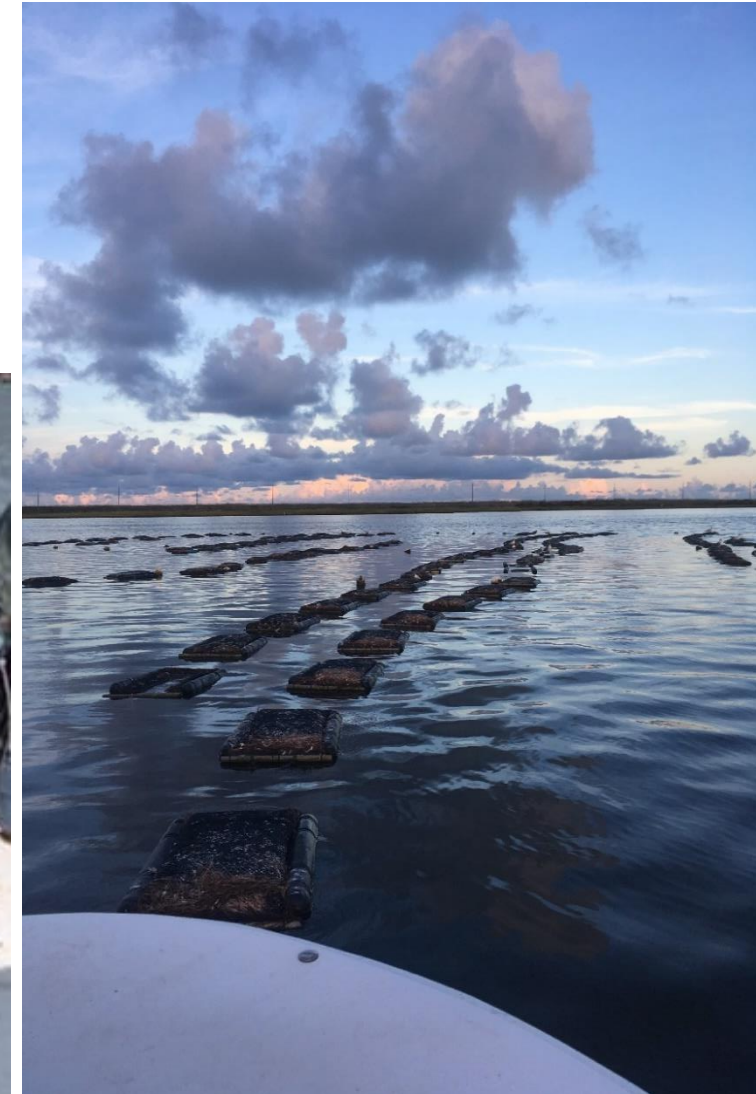
Shellfish Leasing Process

Role of Public Hearing and Public Comment



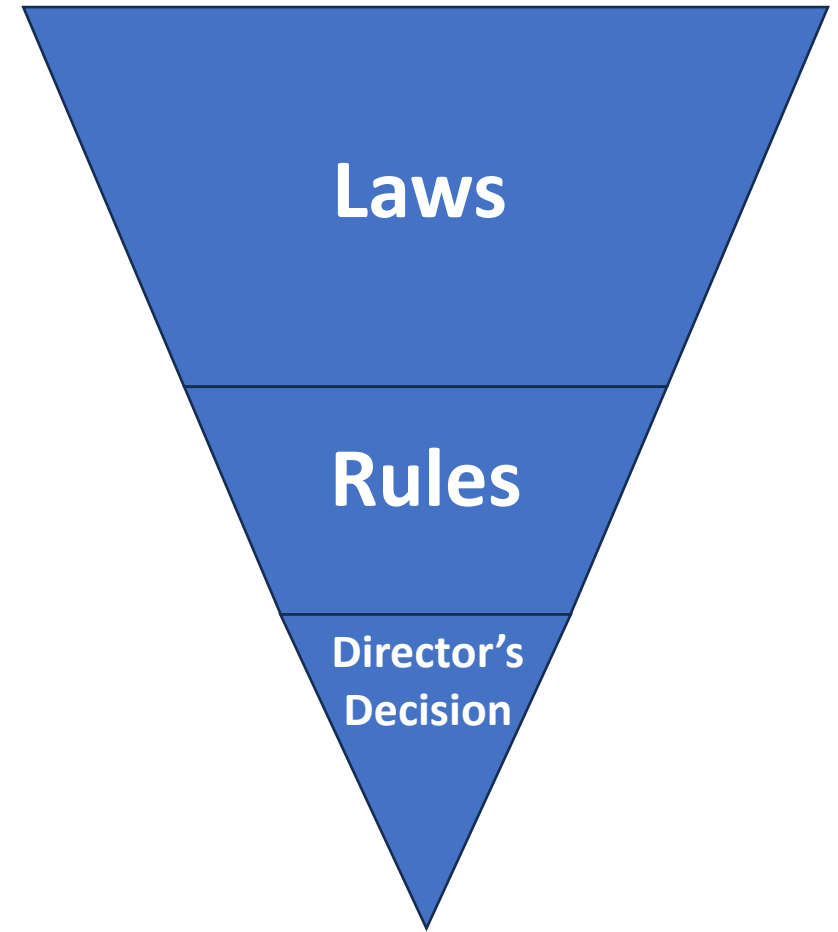
Shellfish Leases Basics

- 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

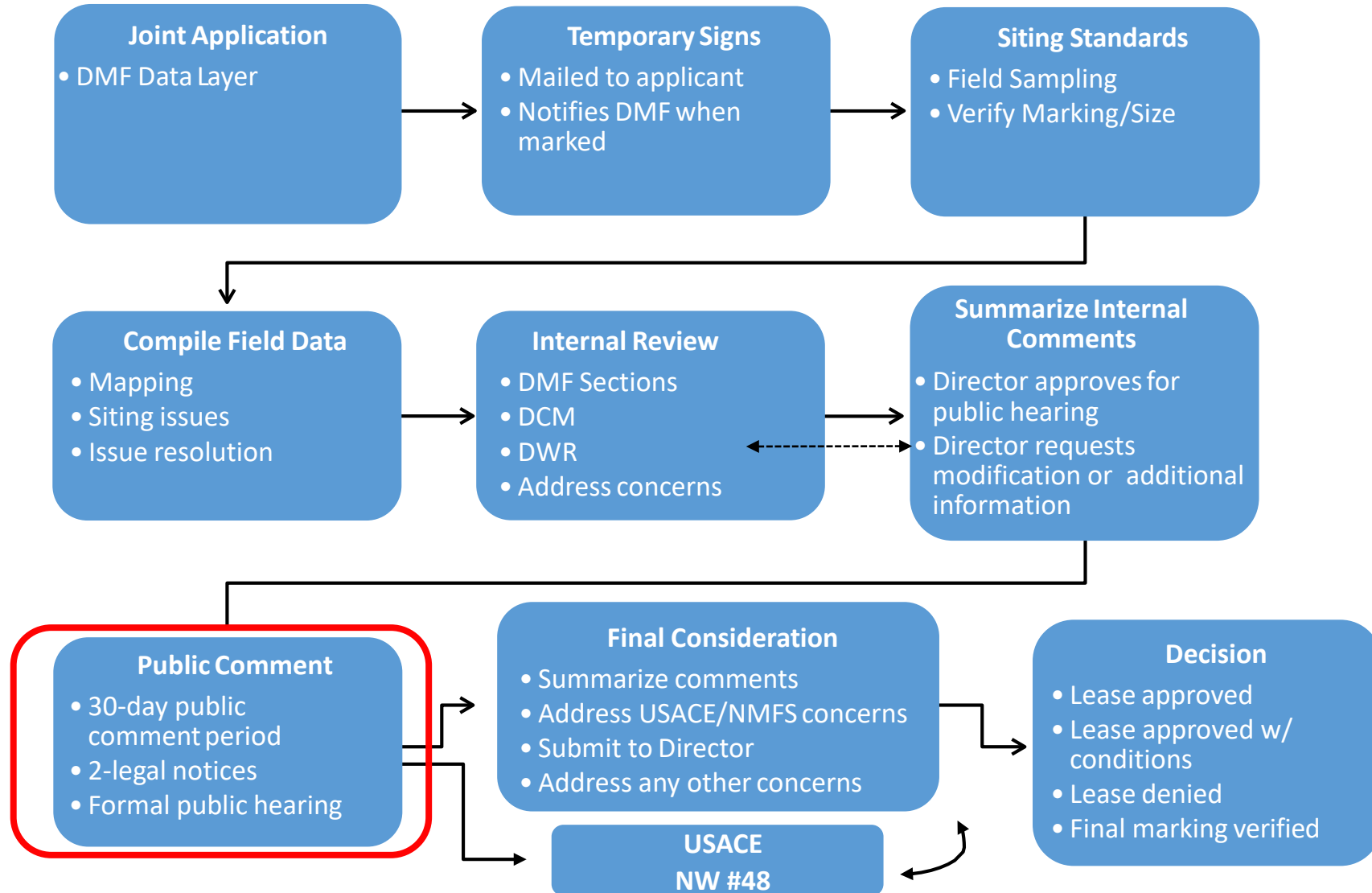


Shellfish Leases are Governed by Law

- 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



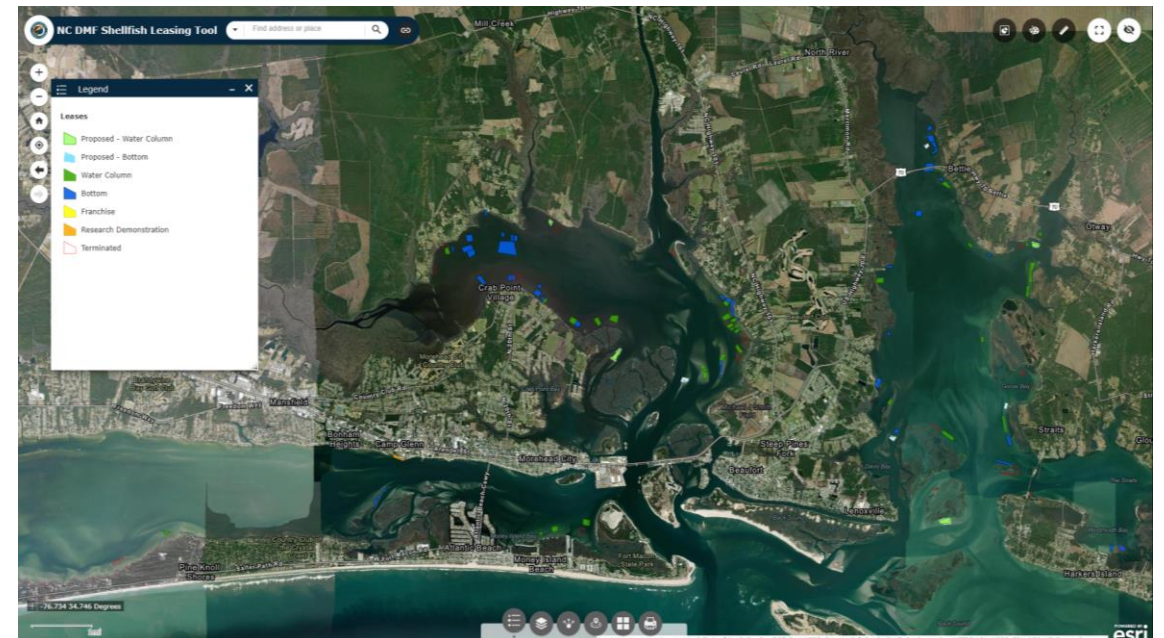
Public Comment

- 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.

Upcoming Lease Hearings



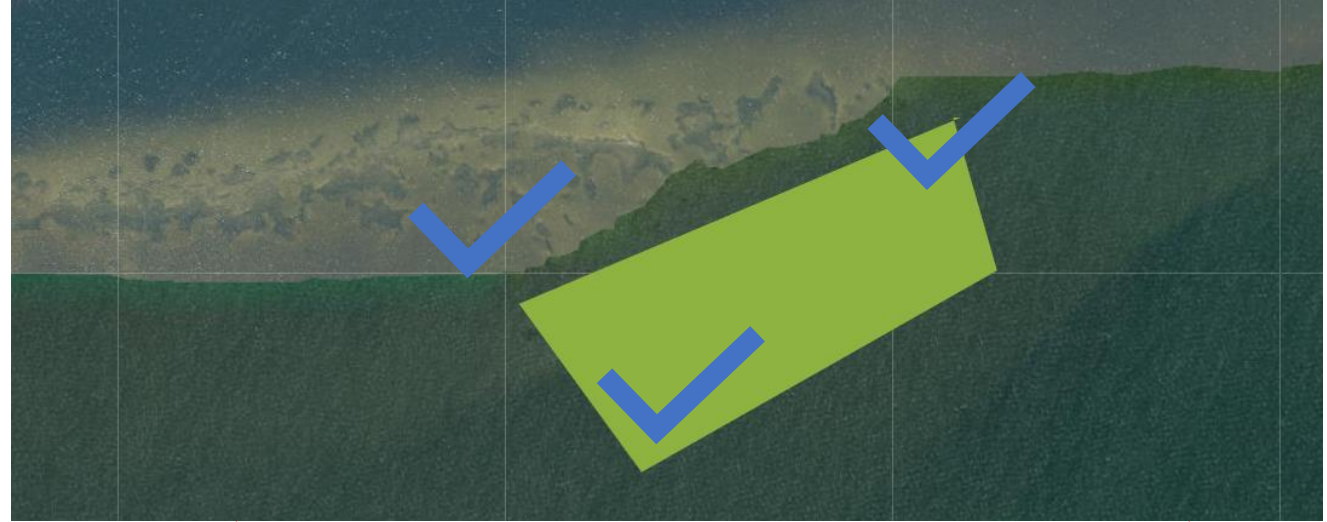
Director's Decision

- 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





Shellfish Lease Public Hearing

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Onslow County | April 22, 2025



Onslow County Shellfish Lease Hearing

April 21, 2025

1. Troy T. Davis applied for a Shellfish Bottom Lease (23-030BL) with a Water Column Amendment (23-031WC) in Ellis Cove for 9.83 acres.
2. SeWee Shellfish, LLC, agents Alberto Solana and Jonathan Kent, applied for a Shellfish Bottom Lease (24-019BL) with a Water Column Amendment (24-020WC) in Stones Bay for 1.01 acres.
3. Kelly M. Robertson and Brassai M. Mustin applied for a Shellfish Water Column Amendment (24-025WC) in New River below 172 bridge for 1.02 acres.



Onslow County Shellfish Lease Hearing

April 21, 2025

4. Gator Bay Oyster Company, LLC, agent Nelson C. Bullock, applied for a Shellfish Bottom Lease (24-028BL) with a Water Column Amendment (24-029WC) in Ellis Cove for 3.82 acres.
5. Middle Sound Mariculture, LLC, agent James M. Hargrove, applied for a Shellfish Bottom Lease (24-034BL) with a Water Column Amendment (24-035WC) in New River for 9.18 acres.
6. Big Cypress Mariculture, LLC, agent John W. Eynon, applied for a Shellfish Bottom Lease (24-039BL) with a Water Column Amendment (24-040WC) in Sneads Creek for 2.73 acres.



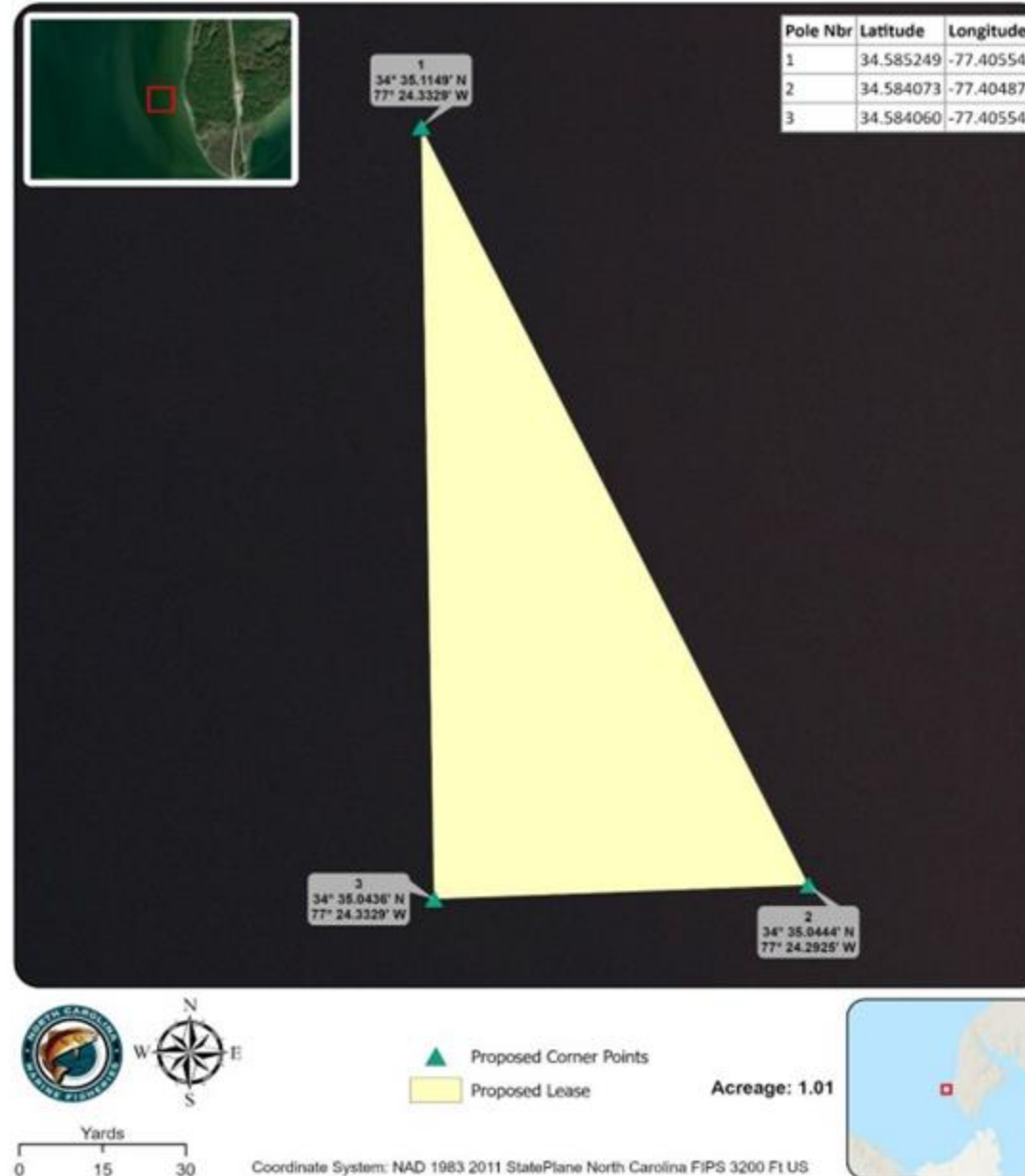
Proposed Lease ID/Number: 23-030BL/23-031WC
Troy T. Davis

Date: 10/4/2024



Proposed Lease ID/Number:24-019BL/24-020WC
Sewee Shellfish, LLC Alberto Solana and Jonathan Kent

Date: 1/6/2025



24-025WC on Existing Franchise
Kelly M. Robertson and Brassai M. Mustin

Date: 12/27/2024



Proposed Lease ID/Number: 24-028BL/24-029WC
Gator Bay Oyster Company, LLC – Nelson C. Bullock

Date: 12/27/2024



▲ Proposed Corner Points
■ Proposed Lease Area

Acreage: 3.23

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



Modified Proposed Lease: 24-034BL/24-035WC
Middle Sound Mariculture, LLC – James M. Hargrove

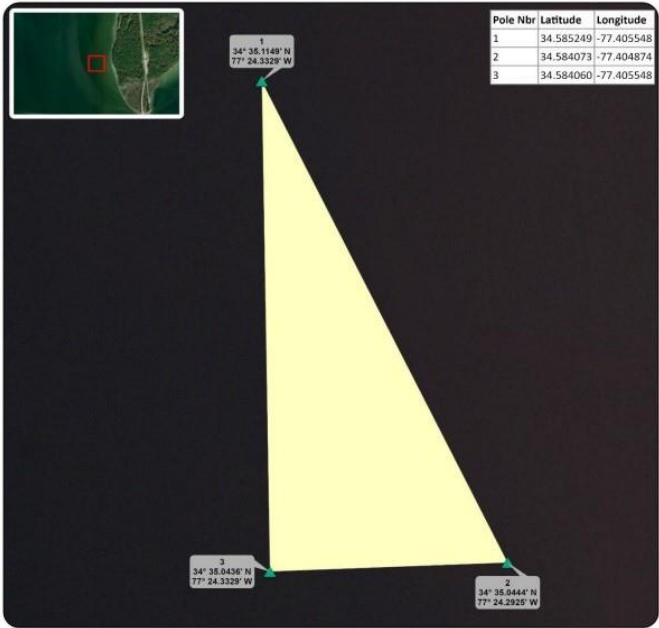
Date: 12/27/2024



Proposed Lease – 24-039BL/24-040WC Big Cypress Mariculture, LLC, John W. Eynon

Date: 1/6/2025





Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program

deq.nc.gov/shellfish-lease

NC DMF Shellfish Leasing Tool

arcg.is/0LD5zS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/licenses-permits-and-leases/shellfish-lease-and-franchise/lease-faqs



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