Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture
P.O. Box 97, 190 Rogers Avenue, Milford, CT 06460
203-874-0696 | Agri.Aquaculture@ct.gov

Shell Planting Application

No shell can be planted in Long Island Sound or its tributaries without the explicit approval of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture (DoAG) through the receipt of a Shell Planting Aquaculture certificate. Shellfish Harvesters licensed by the DoAG are authorized to plant up to 1,500 bushels/acre of cured shell on their leased grounds. All other entities are required to complete this application process.

DoAG Requirements:

- All entities desiring to plant shell must be, or receive shell from, an authorized Shell Recovery Program. Authorized Shell Recovery Programs have been approved by the DoAG to collect, recover, and cure shell at designated locations (Authorized Programs have successfully completed DoAG's proposal process).
- No shell from the European Union (EU) may be planted in Long Island Sound or its tributaries. Authorized Shell Recovery Programs are prohibited from collecting shell from the EU.
- Shell must be cured at authorized locations for a minimum of 6 months before it can be planted.
- Shell is not a monetized commodity; therefore, the DoAG does not condone the sale of cured shell for any purposes from authorized Shell Recovery Programs.
- The DoAG, or local shellfish commissions, can facilitate planting donated shell on the State's natural beds.

DEEP Requirements:
The placement of cultch, defined as a substrate appropriate for larval oyster attachment consisting of gravel or shell material, is also covered under the DEEP General Permit for Coastal Maintenance. Placement of shell must comply with the following regulations:

- Such placement of cultch shall only be conducted by a licensed shellfish operator in beds or areas designated for shellfishing under section 26-194 or section 26-242 of the General Statutes.
- Such placement of cultch shall be conducted only in appropriate locations for colonization by oysters, based upon factors of salinity, water quality, water circulation patterns and substrate composition.
- Such placement of cultch shall not be conducted in areas of tidal wetlands or submerged aquatic vegetation beds.
- Prior to the commencement of such placement of cultch, such licensed shellfish operator obtains all required authorizations from the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture and Laboratory and the local shellfish commission, as applicable.
- Prior to the commencement of such placement of cultch, such licensed shellfish operator obtains permission in writing from the owner or lessee of such shellfish bed or area.
- Such placement of cultch shall be conducted in such a manner that it does not exceed a layer of cultch on the seafloor greater than 12" in depth.
- Such placement of cultch shall be conducted such that the placement does not exceed 1,500 bushels per acre of seafloor
- All applicants approved by the DoAG must annually report the amount of shell placed in Long Island Sound to the DEEP.

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Applicant: _____
(Full name)   (Phone number)   (Email)

Entity: _____
(Town, scientific, educational, non-profit, etc.)

Source(s) of shell: _____

Vehicles that will be used to transport shell: _____

Vessels that will be used to transport shell: _____

Proposed Location(s) to Plant Shell (including coordinates):_____

_____

Attach agreement with local Shellfish Commission, Town, or other appropriate administrative authority, if applicable.

I hereby attest that the above information is true, and agree to abide by all DoAG and DEEP regulations as they pertain to planting shell in Long Island Sound. I understand that failing to meet any one of the regulations could result in the revocation of my Shell Planting Aquaculture Certificate and a financial penalty in accordance with State Statute.

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