



## **Notice of Aquaculture Proposal within Long Island Sound Blue Plan Policy Area**

DEEP Fisheries has been notified of a project proposed within the Long Island Sound Blue Plan policy area. The proposal is for the establishment of a dedicated seaweed aquaculture farm located in Western Long Island Sound, south of the Norwalk Islands (see map below). One species of native kelp, *Saccharina lattissima* (sugar kelp), will be grown. This species is a winter crop that will be “planted” in early November of each year, with a final harvest in late May. The aquaculture lease (2016- SW# 3) is located immediately south of Sheffield Island and will have two gear deployments. Each deployment is identical and requires a 600-foot by 450-foot gear area. Within each site there will be (8) long-lines each 500-feet long. These long-lines will be anchored at each end and at a middle point using 500-pound mushroom anchors. The anchors will be attached to a surface float using 3/8-inch chain that is 1.5x the water depth (e.g., 20-feet water depth = 30-feet chain). Between the 500-foot line sections will be (8) 12-inch diameter buoys and (3) 24" diameter buoys spaced evenly to support the long-lines at a depth of approximately 3 to 5-feet below the water surface. The average water depth in this area at low tide is approximately 18-feet. Safe Boating markers with a minimum 36-inch visual exposure that reads “Danger Surface Gear Area” will be placed at each corner of the gear area. Additional Safe Boating markers will be placed at the halfway point of the corner markers along the perimeter of the gear area. The project will use suspended long-lines that will be deployed around November 1st of each year. Gear removal will begin immediately after final harvest, and all long-lines will be removed no later than June 1. Only the mooring anchors and anchor float markers will remain in the water year round.

For additional information, please contact the applicant Norm Bloom & Son at [info@coppsislandoysters.com](mailto:info@coppsislandoysters.com) .

**All comments regarding this proposal may be submitted via electronic email to the Fisheries Division at [deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov) no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this notice (deadline for comments = March 31, 2023).**

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