



Joint Agency Application to Conduct Marine Aquaculture in Connecticut

Part I. INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete the application form using blue or black ink.
2. Include all supporting documents (see checklist, page ii).
3. There is no fee for this application.
4. If applying to conduct aquaculture activity on more than one site, please submit a separate application for each site.
5. The review of this application will result in a written Joint Agency Response which will alert the applicant as to any additional information necessary for the review, any suggested changes to the proposed project, or to inform the applicant as to the next steps in the process.
6. The review of this application is for the proposed project that is identified in this application. If the applicant makes changes at any point, the processing of this application will stop and a new application must be submitted in its place.
7. This application is the first step in the permitting process. The end result of the process is a Certificate for Aquaculture Operations. This certificate is issued by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture (CT DA/BA) once all local, state and federal authorizations have been issued to the applicant, and copies of such documents have been forwarded by the applicant to CT DA/BA. **Then, and only then, may the aquaculture activity commence.**
8. Please keep a copy of this application for your records.
9. Submit the application, checklist and supporting documents to:

Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Aquaculture
P.O. Box 97, 190 Rogers Avenue
Milford, CT 06460

10. For questions about this form, please call CT DA/BA at (203) 874-0696 or email: agri.aquaculture@ct.gov.



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Part II. CHECKLIST

To be complete, the application must include the following supporting documents (as applicable). Check the applicable box below for each attachment being submitted with this form. Agency forms can be located at: <http://aquaculture.uconn.edu/commercial/>.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ENG-4345 [Form](#), completed and signed
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CZM Statement [Form](#), completed and signed
- General Location Map (see guidance, page 9 of this application package)
- Site Plan Diagram (see guidance, page 10 of this application package)
- Cross-sectional Diagram (see guidance, page 11 of this application package)
- If applicable*, Letter of permission from marina or dock owner
- If applicable*, Letter of permission from leaseholder or owner
- If applicable*, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) determination response letter and a copy of mitigation measures developed by applicant and approved by CT DEEP.
- I understand that if state or federally-listed endangered or threatened species, essential fish habitat or shellfish beds intended for public harvest are documented within the footprint of the proposed site, this application will require a consultation with one or more federal agencies. Depending on the project location and scope, this may extend the timeframe for permitting the project.
- I understand that due to the Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts, the use of longlines may be subjected to seasonal restrictions or the project will need to undergo an individual consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Applicant Name:



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Part III. APPLICATION

A. AGENCY USE ONLY

Date of Receipt of Application:

CT DEEP Program: Aquaculture Exemption Determination

Application Number:

CT DEEP Fee: \$0.00 REV ID: [# 2220]

CT DA/BA File:

USACE Application Number:

B. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant name:

Mailing address:

City/Town:

State:

Zip Code:

Business phone:

Business e-mail*:

Company name:

Contact person:

Contact phone:

Contact e-mail*:

* By providing an e-mail address you are agreeing to receive official correspondence from the regulatory agencies, at this electronic address, concerning the subject form. Please remember to check your security settings to be sure you can receive e-mails from agency addresses. Also, please notify the agency if your e-mail address changes.

C. PROJECT OVERVIEW

1. Project title (*Include: city, product, gear type, lease/lot number or location*):

2. Purpose of the activity (select all that apply):

- Commercial (*product intended for sale*)
- Habitat restoration (*product will **not** be sold*)
- Stock enhancement (*product will **not** be sold*)
- Research/education I (*three years or less in duration, product will **not** be sold*)
- Research/education II (*less than six months, less than 1000ft² footprint, no adverse impact to navigation, under direct supervision of CT DA/BA; product will **not** be sold*)

3. Indicate cultivated product (*State policy requires that only **native species** are cultivated. Some exceptions exist (see DA/BA). All stock transported from outside Connecticut requires a scientific/resource assessment license from CT DA/BA. This license must be obtained **prior to** any activity*):

- eastern oyster
- northern quahog
- blue mussel
- bay scallop
- sugar kelp
- other (please list)

4. Indicate origin of product:

Company Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Phone:

5. Indicate the timeframe for the proposed activity:

- year-round seasonally one-time, temporary

6. Indicate the start and end dates for the proposed activity:

Start (dd/mm/yyyy)

End (dd/mm/yyyy)

D. PROJECT LOCATION AND SIZE

1. Name of waterbody where project is proposed *(If applicable):*

2. Street address *(If applicable):*

City: **State:** **Zip Code:**

3. Tax assessor's reference *(If applicable):*

Map: **Block:** **Lot:**

4. Lease Area Coordinates *(Use decimal degrees)*

NE Corner Latitude: **Longitude:**

SE Corner Latitude: **Longitude:**

SW Corner Latitude: **Longitude:**

NW Corner Latitude: **Longitude:**

5. Gear/Structure Area Coordinates *(Use decimal degrees)*

NE Corner Latitude: **Longitude:**

SE Corner Latitude: **Longitude:**

SW Corner Latitude: **Longitude:**

NW Corner Latitude: **Longitude:**

6. Identify method of determination for coordinates:

- GPS
- USGS Map *(provide quadrangle name):*
- Other *(please specify):*

7. Identify datum for coordinates: *(If you obtain latitude/longitude information from a GPS unit or from the Connecticut Aquaculture Mapping Atlas: <http://s.uconn.edu/aquaculture>, the default datum is WGS84.)*

8. Will the project be located within a designated shellfish lease, lot or franchise?

Yes No

If no, skip to question #12.

9. Specify the type of lease, lot or franchise:

Town State

10. Specify the number of the lease, lot or franchise:

11. Are you the leaseholder or owner?

Yes No

If no, you must include a letter of permission from the leaseholder or owner with this application.

12. Will the project be located in a marina or attached to a private docking facility?

Yes No

If yes, you must include a letter of permission from the owner of the facility with this application.

E. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Use the items in the checklist below to create a detailed project description on the next page.

- Aquaculture product and final product size
- Site location (city, lease/lot number or location, as applicable)
- Lease size (acreage)
- Gear area size (acreage)
- Cultivation gear (type, number, configuration, material and anchoring system)
- Harvest equipment and method
- Gear maintenance practices and frequency
- If applicable*, location used to land product or stage gear (if not on private property)
- If applicable*, location for storage of equipment and gear when not in use
- If applicable*, indicate any water-based support facilities or structures (number, type, size, configuration, material and anchoring system)
- If applicable*, indicate any piles to be driven (number, type-wood or steel, diameter), installation method (e.g. vibratory, hammer, slow-start), and if a sound analysis has been conducted (see: the NOAA GARFO Effects Analysis: Acoustic Impacts at: <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected/section7/guidance/consultation/index.html>)
- If applicable*, identify gear, anchors or lines that will be left in the water at the end of the product growing season

Project description:

F. VESSEL AND FACILITY INFORMATION

1. Provide information about vessel(s) you will use:

Vessel name:

Vessel length:

Vessel speed (average when in vicinity of project, in knots):

Vessel berthing location:

Street address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

2. Will water be diverted to, or discharged from, the site?

Yes No Not applicable (*If not applicable, skip to Section G*)

3. Diversion volume:

gallons per day or Not applicable

4. Discharge volume:

gallons per day or Not applicable

5. Will the project include a flow through water system?

Yes No Not applicable

6. Will you make any biological (e.g. algae), chemical, (e.g. nutrients) or physical changes (e.g. heat) to the water?

Yes No Not applicable (*If not applicable, skip to Section G*)

7. Describe changes to the water:

G. POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS

1. If known, describe the bottom characteristics (e.g. bedrock, cobble, pebble, soft bottom) at the proposed project location:

Not applicable

2. Is there eelgrass at the proposed project location?

Yes No Not applicable

To answer this question please use the Connecticut Aquaculture Mapping Atlas:

<http://s.uconn.edu/aquaculture>. Select "2017 Eelgrass Layer" in the Layer List in the upper left-hand corner of window. Eelgrass is considered Essential Fish Habitat and is protected by state and federal law. Please note that a buffer between the proposed activity and eelgrass may be required. In general, gear may not be placed within 25 feet of any eelgrass bed.

3. Has an eelgrass survey been conducted at the proposed project location?

Yes No (If no, skip to question #5)

The applicant may be required to conduct an eelgrass survey if the project is in proximity to an eelgrass bed. To learn how to conduct an eelgrass survey which must be completed during the growing season, see the joint federal agency guidance (Tier 1 Methodology):

[http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/portals/74/docs/regulatory/JurisdictionalLimits/Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Survey Guidance\(11-Aug-2016\).pdf](http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/portals/74/docs/regulatory/JurisdictionalLimits/Submerged_Aquatic_Vegetation_Survey_Guidance(11-Aug-2016).pdf) or obtain a copy from CT DA/BA.

4. Date of eelgrass survey (mm/dd/yyyy):

5. Please describe any knowledge of other water-dependent uses (e.g. fishing, boating, etc.) on the proposed site and identify any measures you will take to prevent or mitigate the impact of your project on such uses:

Established uses such as fishing, boating, navigation and shipping are considered in the evaluation of proposed aquaculture activities. Please be aware that in most instances aquaculture activity cannot interfere with established right of fishing in state waters per Connecticut General Statutes 26-204.

6. **Is any portion of the proposed project located in an area used for shellfish harvest by the public?**
To determine the answer, please use the Connecticut Aquaculture Mapping Atlas:
<http://s.uconn.edu/aquaculture> – select “Recreational Shellfish Beds” and “Natural Shellfish Beds”
in the Layer List in the upper left-hand corner of window).
 Yes No

7. **Is the proposed project location in an area identified as, or otherwise known to be, a habitat for Connecticut endangered, threatened or special concern species?**
 Yes No Date of Map:
To determine the answer, please use the Connecticut Aquaculture Mapping Atlas:
<http://s.uconn.edu/aquaculture> – select “Natural Diversity Database Area” in the Layer List in the
upper left-hand corner of window). Please be aware that the proposed project will be evaluated to
assess the potential for adverse impacts to endangered, threatened or special concern species.

8. **If you answered YES to the previous question, STOP HERE! You must complete and submit a
[Request for NDDDB State Listed Species Review Form](#) (DEEP-APP-007) to the address specified on
the form, prior to submitting this application.**

Please note NDDDB review generally takes 4 to 6 weeks and may require the applicant to produce additional documentation, such as ecological surveys, which must be completed prior to submitting this application form. A copy of the NDDDB Determination response letter that has not expired must be submitted with this application. Include a copy of any mitigation measures developed for this activity and approved by NDDDB. Be aware that you must renew your NDDDB Determination if it expires before project work commences. For more information visit the CT DEEP website: www.ct.gov/deep/nddbrequest or call 860-424-3011.

Please note that if state-listed species are present, it is highly likely that federally-listed species may also be present. The regulatory agencies will determine whether species have been identified within the footprint of the proposed site. If federally-listed species have been identified, a consultation with additional federal agencies is required. Depending on the project location and scope, this may extend the timeframe for permitting the project. While it is not the applicant’s responsibility to self-determine the presence of federally-listed species, the following resources are available:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Information for Planning and Consulting
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/> Click “get started” and follow directions.
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, ESA Section 7 Mapper
<https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected/section7/listing/index.html> Click on ESA Section 7 Mapper. Note that the entirety of Long Island Sound is noted as an area that requires consultation with the agency.



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Part IV. Signature

All submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature:

Date:



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Part V. Guidance for Project Map and Diagrams

A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

A set of three maps/diagrams should accompany this screening form:

- Figure 1. General Location Map
- Figure 2. Site Plan Diagram
- Figure 3. Cross-Sectional Diagram

If more than one gear type is proposed, you should complete a set of figures for each gear type and label accordingly. Each figure must be on an 8.5 x 11-inch sheet with a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch margin at the top of the sheet. Use black and white ink only. These figures can be hand drawn or applicants may use the *Connecticut Aquaculture Mapping Atlas*: <http://s.uconn.edu/aquaculture>. Instructions for developing each specific figure can be found on the following pages.

All figures should include the title of the figure and a legend with the following information:

- Business Name or Organization
- Town, State
- Waterbody
- Lease/Lot Number or Location
- Date of this application

B. INSTRUCTIONS FOR FIGURE 1 (GENERAL LOCATION MAP)

This map should show the area where the project/activity will take place. Use the list below to create this map and place a check mark next to completed items:

- Download or print a NOAA navigational chart to use as the base map
- Insert the title "Figure 1. General Location Map" at the top center of the page
- Insert a legend with date at the lower left corner of the page
- Draw the lease/lot or project area perimeter
- Draw the gear area perimeter (*if different than lease/lot area*)
- Indicate the gear area (in *acres*); enter it next to the gear area
- Indicate the coordinates (in *decimal degrees*); enter them next to the gear area
- Include an arrow for direction of true North; enter this next to the legend
- Include an approximate scale (*e.g. 1 inch = 0.25 miles*); enter this next to the legend
- Indicate the average speed (in *knots*) and direction of surface currents¹; enter this next to the legend

Indicate location **and** enter the distance to the following items:

- Federal channel(s) (*if within 1000 feet of project/gear perimeter*)
- Eelgrass (*if within 100 feet of project/gear perimeter*)
- Intertidal flat (*if within 25 feet of project/gear perimeter*)²
- Sandbar/shoal or beach (*if within 100 feet of project/gear perimeter*)
- Shipwrecks (*if within 100 feet of project/gear perimeter*)³
- Tidal wetlands (*if within 25 feet of project/gear perimeter*)⁴
- Two fixed structures OR landmarks in the vicinity of the gear area (*if within 1000 feet of project/gear perimeter*), e.g. green can buoy, other channel marker, named obstruction, boat ramp, marina, etc.

To access map data, see Connecticut Aquaculture Mapping Atlas <http://s.uconn.edu/aquaculture>:

- ¹ Select "Natural Resources/Habitats", then "Bottom Currents" and "Surface Currents"; zoom to proposed site location.
- ² Select "Natural Resources/Habitats", then "ESI Shoreline"; zoom to proposed site location.
- ³ Select "Navigation/Transportation", then "Wrecks and Obstructions"; zoom to proposed site location.
- ⁴ Select "Natural Resources/Habitats", then "Coastal Wetlands"; zoom to proposed site location.

C. INSTRUCTIONS FOR FIGURE 2 (SITE PLAN DIAGRAM)

This diagram should depict the layout of the gear from overhead. Use the list below (as applicable) to create this diagram:

- Use the NOAA navigational chart as the base map
- Insert title "Figure 2. Site Plan Diagram" at the top center of the page
- Insert legend with date at the lower left corner of the page
- Include an arrow for direction of true North; enter this next to the legend
- Include an approximate scale (*e.g. 1 inch = 0.25 miles*); enter this next to the legend
- Draw the gear area perimeter using the maximum extent of the page
- Draw the gear field as it would be configured within the gear area
- Indicate the length of the set of gear; enter this next to the set
- Indicate the distance between each set of gear; enter this between the sets
- Draw the anchors as they would be configured within the gear area
- Indicate the distance between each anchor and gear unit
- Draw the surface buoys as they would be configured within the gear area
- Indicate the location of any regulatory marker buoys; note that the distance between regulatory marker buoys must be no more than 300 feet apart around the perimeter
- Draw accessory structure(s) to be installed (*e.g. docks, piers, catwalks*); enter the distance between the structure(s) and gear set
- Draw any piles; enter the distance between the pile(s) and the gear set

Additional instructions for longline or trawl line systems:

- Indicate length of horizontal long line
- Indicate location and color of floatation buoys
- Indicate location and type (*e.g. sinking/floating*) of vertical anchor lines

D. INSTRUCTIONS FOR FIGURE 3 (CROSS-SECTIONAL DIAGRAM)

This diagram should depict aquaculture gear from a side/cross-sectional view. Use the list below (as applicable) to create this diagram:

- Label this diagram "Figure 3. Cross Sectional Diagram" at the top center of the page
- Insert legend with date at the lower left corner of the page
- Draw and label the dimensions of an individual gear unit showing its position relative to the sea floor and sea surface.
- Indicate the distance between individual gear units
- Indicate vertical distance (if any) from bottom of gear unit (or product, in the case of kelp) to sea floor
- Indicate the water depth at Mean High Water and Mean Lower Low Water in relation to gear
- Indicate configuration and color of floatation buoys
- Draw the anchoring configuration; indicate anchor type and holding power. (*Note that the use of concrete blocks for anchors is discouraged. These lose almost half of their holding power when placed in water. See attached alternative options at <http://aquaculture.uconn.edu/commercial/>.*)
- Indicate length, type (*e.g. sinking/floating*), diameter and breaking strength (pounds) of material use for any vertical or horizontal lines. (*Note that any vertical lines in the upper water column, at least the top five feet below water surface, must be weighted and/or should use chain or PVC sheathing to prevent potential entanglements with protected marine species*)

Additional instructions for longline systems:

- Indicate distance between horizontal longline and sea surface at mean lower low water and mean high water
- Indicate distance between horizontal longline and seafloor