



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
21 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0021

PATRICK C. KELIHER
COMMISSIONER

Date: January 30, 2024

To: Town of South Bristol, Municipal Officials and Harbormaster
Riparian (shorefront) landowners within 1,000 ft. of the aquaculture lease site
Lease applicant
ME IF&W, and DACF
GovDelivery Aquaculture List

Re: Notice of Aquaculture Lease Hearing

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is holding a public hearing on the standard lease proposal listed below. Please carefully review the schedule of the proceeding as there is an important deadline regarding participation.

<p>Applicant Name: Heron Island Oyster Company Culture Type: Bottom and Suspended Culture of Oysters Location: Damariscotta River, Fitch Cove Acres and Term Requested: 1.0 acres for 20 years</p>
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Schedule of proceeding:

1. Registering to Participate and Apply for Intervenor Status

A. Registration: Anyone wishing to attend the hearing is asked to register. **Persons intending to ask questions of the parties or testify about the proposed lease (“Interested Persons”) must register with DMR to participate in this manner.** Failure to register will limit your ability to participate in the proceeding. Persons who are unable to register online or need assistance with the form must contact DMR.

B. Intervening: Intervenor applications must be requested from DMR at the contact information below. DMR will decide whether to grant intervenor status five days before the hearing. If you are granted intervenor status, you become a legal party to the proceeding.

The deadline to register is 5:00 p.m. on February 28, 2024. Applications to intervene must also be **received** by this date and time.

2. Hearing

The hearing will be held in-person as follows:

March 14, 2024
Department of Marine Resources
194 McKown Point Road
West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575

The hearing will begin at 1:00 pm.

If the hearing listed above is postponed or continued, it will be held on **March 21, 2024**, at the same time, location, and format. Notice of a postponement or a continuance will be posted on DMR's website.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the adjudicatory proceeding provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (5 M.R.S.A., ch. 375, subchapter 4). Any interested person may attend the hearing and registered participants may ask questions of the parties or testify about the application.

Registration is available at: <https://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture>.
[The application is posted to DMR's aquaculture webpage under "Pending Lease Applications."](#)

Address questions to:
Maine Department of Marine Resources
Attn: Aquaculture Division
21 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0021
DMRaquaculture@maine.gov

For disability accommodations, contact:
(207) 624-6553, or 877-243-2823, TTY 711

RELEVANT AUTHORITY: The rules governing the leasing program are found in Chapter 2 of DMR regulations. The statutory provisions are: 5 M.R.S.A. §9051 et seq. & 12 M.R.S.A. §6072(1) et seq., & 12 M.R.S.A. §6072-A(1) et seq.