

RHODE ISLAND SHELLFISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION INC.
130 LINCOLN ST.
NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852-1220

Attn: Marc Johnson

Dear Marc;

The Rhode Island Shellfisherman's Association is in support of your proposal for a large scale public benefit shellfish hatchery to enhance shellfish stocks in Narragansett Bay. We thank you for attending our October 20, 2011 membership meeting and briefing members on your proposal.

For many years, our group has supported shellfish enhancement projects, especially through the transplant program. Just recently, we have begun to grow quahaug and oyster seed in upwellers in conjunction with Roger Williams College and RI DEM. This is our own, small scale, public benefit seeding enhancement project. Future funding for both the transplant program and our upweller project will be a challenge. These enhancement projects are needed to offset continuing water quality problems that limit access to some shellfish harvest areas. These shellfish enhancement projects have a very positive economic effect on the shellfish industry and our State's economy. In the neighborhood of 90% of all shellfish harvested in RI waters are shipped out of state.

Please keep us informed on the progress of your proposal. We certainly would offer future help in seeing your proposal through to completion.

Sincerely;
Michael McGiveney
President