The Narragansett Bay Commission
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Executive Director

November 5, 2014

Mr. Mark Johnson
9 Seminole Street
Warwick, RI 02889

Dear Mr. Johnson,

It was a pleasure speaking to you about the Narragansett Bay Shellfish Hatchery and Restocking Project that you are proposing. A viable shellfishing industry in Rhode Island is important to the culture, environment and economics of the state.

Shellfishing is a multi-million dollar industry in Rhode Island, and clean water is essential to the business. The Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) and its rate payers have dedicated millions of dollars to improving the water quality of its name sake, Narragansett Bay. Through the NBC's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Abatement Project, the pathogen levels in the Providence River have been reduced by 37%. This reduction prompted the RI Department of Environmental Management to change the closure regulations in the Conditional Shellfishing Areas A & B to allow for more days of shellfishing. In addition to the NBC's CSO Project, the NBC invested millions of dollars to upgrade our two wastewater treatment facilities to provide biological nitrogen removal. Through these upgrades, the NBC has reduced nitrogen loading to the Bay by 74% since 2003, the year of the Greenwich Bay fish kill. Through the infrastructure investments made by the NBC, water quality will continue to improve in Narragansett Bay, supporting a healthy marine environment and thriving shellfish population.

The Narragansett Bay Shellfish Hatchery and Restocking Project embodies the concepts and ideas that the NBC has been proposing for years, such as beneficially utilizing excess nitrogen to raise shellfish. The plankton enriched waters of upper Narragansett Bay are an ideal location to raise shellfish to restore vital fisheries stocks throughout the Bay. The NBC supports this project and its mission to restock commercially important shellfish species to Narragansett Bay, expand the commercial fishing industry and build a sustainable economy in Rhode Island.

We wish you success with this project!

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Uva
Director of Planning, Policy & Regulation
Narragansett Bay Commission