

Re. the Long Island Aquaculture Lease

Written by Erick Swanson



Thursday, October 04, 2007

Dear Editor:

I am writing to inform your readers that, from the beginning, the purpose of the proposed Long Island lease has been to consolidate our primary marine operation to the Long Island Dunham's Cove location, terminating our Tinker Island lease, and downsizing our total lease acreage.

Through improvements in our yields and overall efficiency we do not need as much gear in the water as we originally thought and, therefore, do not need to lease as many acres. The result, should our application be approved, is we would terminate our 54-acre Tinker Island lease which has capacity for 60 long lines and redeploy the remaining equipment to the new, we hope, 36-acre Long Island lease with capacity for 30 long lines. Some of the long lines that were deployed at the Tinker Island lease have already been redeployed on our recently approved Long Island lease.

Armed with this information, only Friends of Blue Hill Bay could conclude that the Department of Marine Resources would like to privatize Blue Hill Bay with "yet another large scale mussel farm." Where they get this stuff from I have no idea.

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