
NRAC ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS: An annual progress report for each funded project must be provided to NRAC by June 30 of each year.

Project Title	Understanding public perceptions associated with design and siting of potential aquaculture projects
Reporting Period	<u>09/01/2020- 6/30/2021</u>
Author (Chair)	Tracey Dalton
Key Word	stated preference, choice experiment, New England, aquaculture, outreach
Funding Level	\$199,917
Participants: Names, Institutions and Contact Info	Tracey Dalton (URI; Dalton@uri.edu), Di Jin (WHOI; djin@whoi.edu), Dawn Kotowicz (URI; dkotowicz@uri.edu)
Project Objectives	<p>(1) Collect stated preference data on aquaculture development from southern New England coastal residents;</p> <p>(2) Develop a model to identify key preferences of aquaculture development in southern New England; and</p> <p>(3) Actively work with aquaculture industry representatives, managers, and extension agents to develop innovative, targeted outreach strategies to address negative perceptions at the earliest stages of project development.</p>

Anticipated Benefits	<p>State briefly how the project will benefit the aquaculture industry – directly or indirectly.</p> <p>The knowledge gained through the survey can be used by growers to create aquaculture proposals that will face less opposition from the public when first proposed, thus creating more expedient permitting of aquaculture farms and reducing costs in terms of time and effort spent by aquaculture growers to re-design their projects after multiple public comment periods and public meetings.</p> <p>Findings will also lead to more efficient and effective reviews of permits and leases, leading to an increase in the presence and practice of aquaculture farms and a reduction in costs in terms of time and effort spent by managers to facilitate a lengthy permitting process.</p>
Project Progress	<p>Summarize concisely for each objective the progress toward accomplishment to date. This has an 8,000 character limit.</p> <p>During the project reporting period, we have made progress on Project Objectives 1 & 3. We developed a plan for conducting focus groups that will be used to develop, refine and pre-test the survey instrument. Focus groups will be conducted virtually in July and August 2021. We also established and hosted a meeting of the Growers’ Advisory Panel.</p>
Accomplishments:	
Outreach Overview	<p>Describe in general how your results have been extended to the intended users. OR, if they haven’t yet, explain when & how this will occur.</p> <p>At this early stage of the project, we do not have any findings. Using the diffusion of innovations approach for how new ideas are communicated through specific channels to reach a broader audience, we expect to use existing aquaculture grower, practitioner and manager networks to communicate the project activities and results in the coming years.</p>
Targeted Audiences	<p>Provide information on the target audience for efforts designed to cause a change in knowledge, actions, or conditions.</p> <p>Target audiences include growers, practitioners and managers.</p>
Outputs:	<p>Outputs are tangible, measurable products (website, events, workshops, products [AV, curricula, models, software, technology, methods,</p>

	<p>websites, patents, etc.], trainees, etc.). Do NOT include publications as they're listed separately.</p> <p>The research team hosted a meeting with the Growers Advisory Panel.</p>
<p>Outcomes/Impacts:</p>	<p>Describe how findings, results, techniques, or other products that were developed or extended from the project generated or contributed to an outcome/impact. Outcomes/impacts are defined as changes in Knowledge, Action, or Condition.</p> <p>At this early stage of the project, there are no outcomes/impacts to report.</p>
<p>Impacts Summary</p>	<p>Provide short statements (2-3 sentences) about each of the following: (pre-established fields for Researchers to complete short statement answers)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevance: Issue – what was the problem? The primary barrier to aquaculture development and expansion in the Northeast region is related to residents' negative perceptions toward aquaculture operations. 2. Response: What was done? We are conducting a survey of residents in southern New England to identify key public preferences related to design and siting of potential aquaculture projects. 3. Results: How did your work make a difference (change in knowledge, actions, or conditions) to the target audiences? We expect that findings will modify grower behavior in terms of the types of projects they propose. Findings will also help practitioners address misconceptions of the public and help identify concerns held by specific groups. 4. Recap: One- sentence summary Through a survey of residents in southern New England, this study identifies public preferences of aquaculture farm designs and operations that can be used by growers to create more acceptable farm designs, by managers to more expediently review proposals, and by practitioners to address public misconceptions about aquaculture.
<p>Publications</p>	<p>Follow the format to list publications in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oral ○ Posters • Peer-reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Print (journal, etc.) ○ Digital (websites, videos, etc.) • Non-Peer-reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extension factsheets ○ Popular articles <p>At this early stage of the project, there are no publications yet.</p>

<p>Students/Participants:</p>	<p>Provide the following information for every student that worked with you during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name: Callan Yanoff • Whether Degree was completed during the reporting period (name, yes/no): no • New or Continuing Student: New • Capstone/Thesis Title (actual or anticipated): Public Perceptions and Social Barriers to Aquaculture Development in Southern New England • Date of Graduation: May 2022 • Provide link to thesis/dissertation document: n/a • Name: Gianna Lourenco • Whether Degree was completed during the reporting period (name, yes/no): no • New or Continuing Student: New • Capstone/Thesis Title (actual or anticipated): Public preferences for aquaculture farm designs • Date of Graduation: December 2021 • Provide link to thesis/dissertation document: n/a 										
<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>List any partners that you worked with on your project. Provide the following information for each Partner:</p> <p>At this early stage of the project, there are no new partnerships.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="550 1226 1430 1331"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="550 1226 745 1331">Partner</th> <th data-bbox="745 1226 972 1331">Specific Type Type</th> <th data-bbox="972 1226 1200 1331">Level Level</th> <th data-bbox="1200 1226 1430 1331">Nature of Partnership</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Partner	Specific Type Type	Level Level	Nature of Partnership				
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