

I am Roger Sherman a Shellfish Commissioner for the Town of Groton for the last twenty five years. Twelve years ago we sponsored the development of the Noank Aquaculture CO-OP. This project has been successful to a point. The oysters have grown very well and have been very well received by the public. The market is essentially unlimited. The hard spot has been the disfunctional relationship with Dept. of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture. Every effort to open new water to harvesting or develop holding facilities ashore has been met with extreme foot dragging. Some of these permits have been dragging on unapproved for five or six years. We need to support this industry and expand it, not stymie it. Anything that can be done to improve the climate, mediate the disputes, etc. would be helpful. Without some form of improvement I fear that these young businesses will go away and find another state to work in. Thank You, Roger Sherman, 306 Fishtown Rd., Mystic, Ct.