STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
21 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0021

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

PATRICK C. KELIHER
COMMISSIONER

NOTICE OF EXPERIMENTAL AQUACULTURE LEASE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

TO: Riparian (shorefront) landowners within 1,000 ft. of proposed aquaculture lease site
Town of Newcastle
General and Specific Mailing Lists for lease application #2016-10-E

FROM: Diantha C. Robinson, Aquaculture Hearing Officer DCR

DATE: August 31, 2016

APPLICATION: Maine Oyster, Inc. has applied to the Department of Marine Resources for a limited-purpose (experimental) aquaculture lease to grow American/Eastern oysters on a 4.00 acre site located east of Lehman Island, upper Sheepscot River, Newcastle, Maine using bottom culture techniques. The application, Docket # 2016-1-1E, is posted under "Pending Aquaculture Lease Applications" on the Department's website, www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture.

To request a paper copy of the application, please call Cindy Burke at (207) 624-6567 or email cindy.l.burke@maine.gov. The aquaculture page of the DMR website also has information on how the public can participate in the aquaculture leasing process.

COMMENT PERIOD: The Department of Marine Resources announces a **30-day public comment period** during which interested persons may submit written comments or request a public hearing on the application. A hearing is optional for experimental lease applications unless the Department receives five or more written requests from interested persons during the 30-day comment period. A copy of the public notice advertising the comment period is attached. The legal authority for this notice is Title 12, MRSA §6072-A (5) and DMR Rules Chapter 2.64 (4) (C).

CONTACT THE APPLICANT: Eric Horne of Maine Oyster, Inc. has asked us to encourage you to contact him directly to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about this proposed lease. His contact information is:

Maine Oyster, Inc.
Attn: Eric Horne
62 Pine Street
Freeport, ME 04032
E-mail: ericLhorne@hotmail.com Telephone: (207) 522-1520

DMR REVIEW: In the course of our review, Department biologists will visit and assess the site in light of the legal requirements for aquaculture leases. Other state and federal agencies will also review the application, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

QUESTIONS? Contact Cindy Burke, (207) 624-6567, cindy.l.burke@maine.gov, or Diantha Robinson (207) 624-6577, diantha.robinson@maine.gov