

Appendix 2. Roles of Regulatory Agencies

Aquaculture and Commercial Shellfisheries

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture is the lead state agency for aquaculture development in Connecticut. The responsibilities of the DA/BA include leasing submerged State lands to shellfish producers, classifying shellfishing waters, monitoring water quality, identifying sources of pollution and seeking corrective actions, and the licensing of all commercial shellfish operations and research or educational activities. With respect to aquaculture, the DA/BA Director acts as a liaison among local, State and federal permitting officials, and is the official State Aquaculture Coordinator.

The Bureau has exclusive State authority for granting or denying aquaculture permits pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §22-11h, except for matters concerning discharges from marine aquaculture operations, water diversions, and placement of floating or submerged aquaculture structures in the coastal zone that require permitting through the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and Connecticut's Coastal Management Program (CCMP). These activities are regulated cooperatively at the state and federal level with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England District.

In 1999, Public Act 99-93 (later codified as CGS §22-11h) was passed which transferred regulatory authority of most shellfish aquaculture activities from the Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Agriculture. However, the CT DEEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs (DEEP/OLISP) remains responsible for the review of aquaculture applications to determine whether or not a project meets the exemptions for aquaculture-related activities as identified in CGS §22-11h(c). Specifically, DEEP/OLISP has retained its regulatory authority of marine aquaculture discharges, water diversions and placement of structures in the coastal zone. These activities require consistency review with the State's Coastal Management Program, which is administered by the DEEP/OLISP.

Following codification of PA 99-93, there lacked a process to coordinate review of proposed aquaculture activities among local, state and federal regulatory agencies. In response, the USACE New England District modified the existing Connecticut Programmatic General Permit for Aquaculture (PGP) to incorporate DEEP/OLISP CZMA consistency requirements not otherwise considered by the Public Act's transfer of regulatory authority for aquaculture on leased beds to the DA/BA. A joint permit application was developed for aquaculture activities that ensures compliance with coastal zone management consistency among all responsible regulatory agencies with the DA/BA as the first point of contact for receipt.

Recreational Shellfisheries

[work in progress]

Shellfish Habitat Restoration

[work in progress]