

**EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021, 7:30 PM
EAST LYME TOWN HALL**

Chairman
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary
Craig Mason

Members Present: Steve Dinsmore, Don Landers, Joe Hitchery, Don MacKenzie, Greg Murin, Rick Kanter

Members Absent: Craig Mason,

Ex-Officio(s) Present:

Ex-Officio(s) Absent: P. Dagle, BOS liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER: S. Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2021

MOTION: (Landers/MacKenzie) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 16, 2021, as presented: Vote: APPROVED unanimously

3. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS:

- A. Delegations from the Public-none
- B. DOT Review of 156 Bridge Work

D. Landers reviewed the plan and informed the members that the existing drainage consists of four pipes, the proposed plan will replace the pipes with one larger pipe for better drainage. The new proposal will be beneficial to fish passage.

MOTION: (Landers/Kanter) finds the bridgework consistent with the Harbor Management Plan and the Shellfish Management Plan. Vote: APPROVED unanimously.

Sept 27, 2021 AT 1:15 AM/PM
Brielle Dinsmore AFC

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

4. REPORTS

- A. Treasurer-no report
- B. Ex-Officio-no report
- C. Harbor Master

R. Johnson stated he is working with Tracy Collins, E.L. Town Attorney and has identified all moorings on the East Lyme side of the Niantic River. He identified 72 moorings; most are associated with property owners along the river. R. Johnson stated T. Collins had received a letter from DEEP indicating there were too many moorings in the river. R. Johnson plans to remove illegal moorings which will need manpower.

J. Hitchery said Waterford has many more moorings in the Niantic River than East Lyme, and he is concerned that the state is not making a distinction between moorings and anchorage in the river.

The numerous anchorages at Sandy Point are the reason the area is closed for shell fishing.

Attorney Collins informed the Commission that Waterford has all their moorings identified and place on the town's GIS and they have offered to do East Lyme's as well.

S. Dinsmore shared an email from Alyissa Dragan, DABA, (see file copy) in which she understands it is the anchorage issue that is the problem. She stated that if this situation could be brought to acceptable levels, then the area could possibly be opened. It was noted that this activity is on the Waterford side of the river. The Commission questioned what an acceptable level is.

Fred Wise, Waterford Harbor Management Commission stated he is not personally aware of the concerns or the letter from A. Dragan.

R. Johnson stated there are a total of 250 moorings in East Lyme, D. Landers asked for a breakout of the moorings by area. R. Johnson also stated that he has not granted any requests for additional moorings.

It was noted that the number of moorings is minuscule compared to the marinas. D. MacKenzie stated that the marinas have not added slip space in several years.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Abandoned Boat in Marker 7 possession – update

S. Dinsmore reported he has spoken to Deputy Harbor Master, Marc Berger and Paul Dagle, BOS, but was not able to reach the First Selectman. The towns position is that the town has no liability for the boat. He is concerned if there is a derelict boat in town waters that poses a threat, they will not be able to get anyone to tow it out of harm's way. S. Dinsmore stated the town needs to give guidance to the Harbor Master in these situations. He has not received an answer from the town concerning the boat which was towed by Marker 7 and the storage fees are piling up daily. R. Johnson's opinion was that Marker 7 should pursue the charges with the owner of the boat and it was suggested that a lien could be put on the owner's property.

R. Johnson stated the mooring in Niantic Bay will be moved to the Niantic River which could be used in some situations concerning problem boats.

B. Shellfish Lease Renewal Process-no report

C. Londregan Lease Renewal (EL3)-Update: Craig Mason-no report

D. Habitat Restoration – Habitat studies – No action

E. Shellfish Management Plan-no action

F. Establish mooring policy – discussed earlier

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Correspondence-none

DEEP General Permit was presented, and a determination was not needed from the Commission

7. FINAL COMMENTS

R. Kanter informed the Commission there was a discussion at WELSCO about raising annual fees for shell fishing which would be substantial if approved.

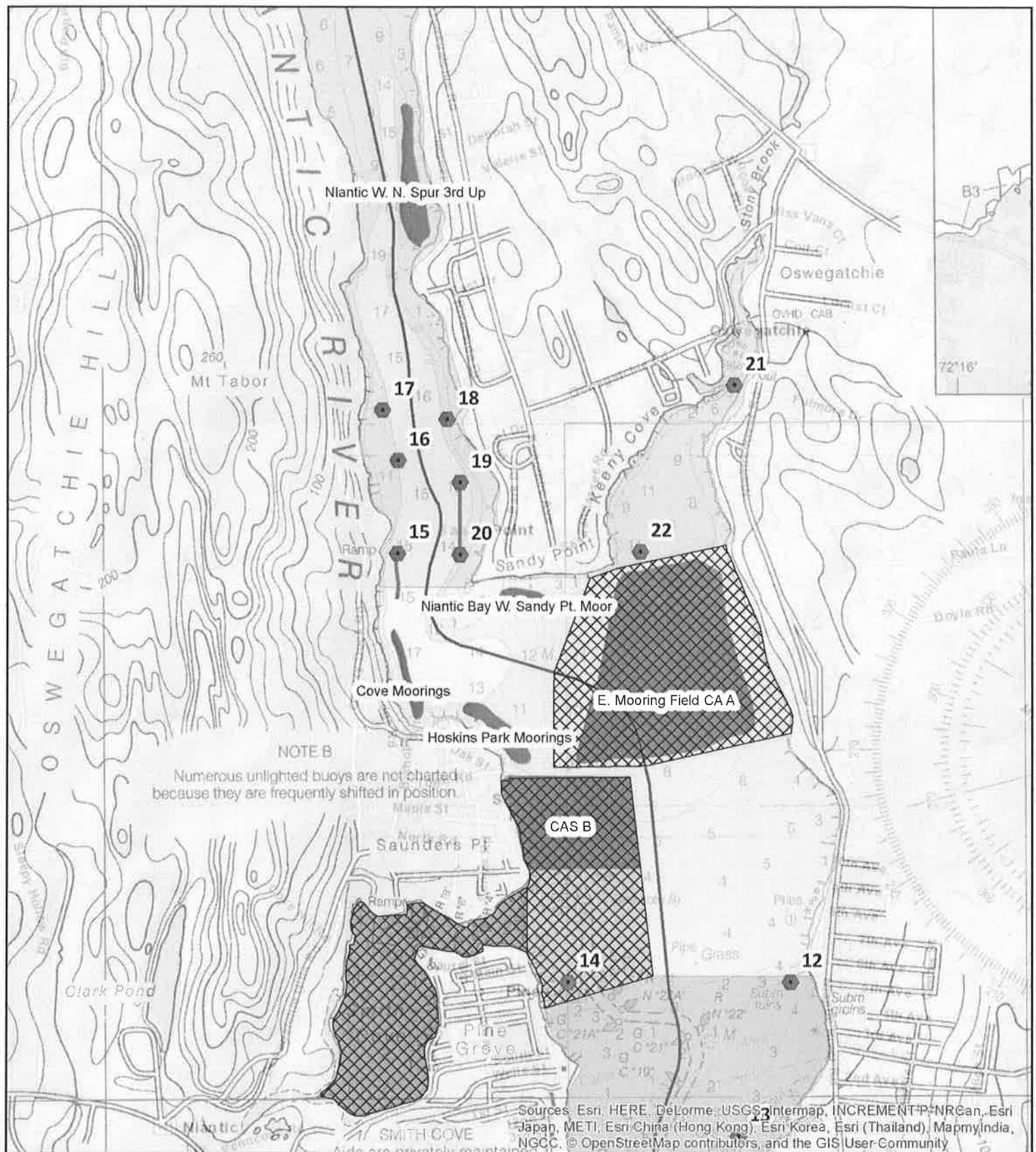
R. Kanter thought F. Wise had a good idea about a sub-committee composed of volunteers from Waterford and East Lyme Harbor Management Commissions for the purpose of better communication and possible recommendations concerning issues in the river. He volunteered to serve as a liaison.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Landers/Murin) to adjourn at 8:21 PM. Vote: Approved Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted
Sue Spang
Recording Secretary

2021 Meeting Dates: October 19, November 16 and December 21.



CT Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Aquaculture
Niantic River
East Lyme & Waterford, CT

0 875 1,750

3,500

5,250

Feet
7,000

Date: 6/3/2020



Niantic River Survey 2019

- CT Marinas
- 045 Survey Pts. 9/2019
- 045 Survey Lines 9/2019
- Marina Poly
- 045 Survey Poly 9/2019

Brooke Stevens

From: Sue Spang <suespang58@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Karen Galbo; Brooke Stevens; Sue Spang
Subject: Fwd: FW: Niantic River <<Not-Sensitive>>
Attachments: Nlantic River 2020 -1.jpg

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dinsmore, Stephen D <SDINSMOR@gdeb.com>
Date: Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 8:10 AM
Subject: FW: Niantic River <<Not-Sensitive>>
To: Sue Spang <suespang58@gmail.com>

FYI

Steve Dinsmore

D448 Ship Control Trainers

(860)867-5494

From: Dragan, Alissa <Alissa.Dragan@ct.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:17 AM
To: Dinsmore, Stephen D <SDINSMOR@gdeb.com>
Subject: Re: Niantic River <<Not-Sensitive>>

EB Security Warning: This email is from an external source. Proceed with caution when clicking links, opening attachments or interacting with the sender.

Hi Steve,

The problem in the northern portion of the River is twofold. The attached map shows the outlines of the mooring fields (in purple) as mapped by me on the water. The cross hatched bubbles around them are the dilution closure area needed around the moorings. As you can see the mooring field on the Waterford side seems to have grown and now extends into East Lyme waters.

Initially, I had hoped to argue to keep the northern area open based on the new mooring area chapter in the Model Ordinance. However, when an area is being utilized as a party anchorage, that becomes an impossibility.

I have seen pictures of the area on weekends. Based on those, I would say there are more than several boats rafting up, partying, and even washing their vessels in the area.

If that type of activity can be halted in some way, enforced, and routinely documented we would be able to justify the area remaining open.

I am not sure if the same type of activities occur within the actual mooring areas. Those areas would also need to be routinely monitored and documented.

It might be possible but, the type and frequency of monitoring is not something we could take on, and it would fall on the towns to cover this work. That would include evening and weekend "policing" and photographs of the activities in the two mooring fields and Sandy point throughout the boating season. This would have to happen every week and each year for the area to remain open. Just one person vomiting in the area could cause a norovirus outbreak that could also impact the commercial area in the Bay.

Another option could be closing the area on weekends and sampling meats and waters, initially, then just waters on a weekly basis to reopen. That would give you a couple of open days a week if the lab can accommodate the samples.

If the folks partying there are the same folks who want to shellfish there, perhaps the towns could try an educational approach to try and stop the activity?

Best Regards,

Alissa Dragan
Environmental Analyst III
Bureau of Aquaculture and Laboratory
Conn. State Dept. of Agriculture

Phone: 203-874-0696 ext. 119

Cell: 860-818-7034
Fax: 203-783-9976

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- [Testing Farm Employees](#)
- [COVID Resources for Farmers](#)
- COVID questions: Email us at AGR.COVID19@ct.gov



<https://ctgrown.org/>

From: Dinsmore, Stephen D <SDINSMOR@gdeb.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Dragan, Alissa <Alissa.Dragan@ct.gov>
Subject: Niantic River <<Not-Sensitive>>

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Alissa,

We've recently been having a discussion about boats in the Niantic River. It's a bit of a logistical nightmare because of 3 overlapping jurisdictions. Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission is tasked with the management of the Shell fishing within the Niantic river. East Lyme Harbor Management Shellfish commission is tasked with Harbor Management issues on the west side of the town boundary. Waterford Harbor Management is tasked with Harbor Management Issues on the east side of the river.

On the East Lyme side of the river, we have a pretty good control on the number of moorings in the river. Most moorings to the north belong to home owners. Our harbor master will not approve new moorings in this area.

On the Waterford side, there are a few northerly moorings, but again, they are mostly homeowners along the river with riparian rights.

Where we get into trouble is in the Sandy point area. During the summer, many transitory boaters will go up there and anchor. We seldom get a lot of them on weekdays. Weekends we can get several. You closed the Sandy Point Shell fishing area because of the number of boats in the area. We can control the number of moorings, but it's hard to

control the number of transitory anchorages. What conditions would we need to meet to be allowed to reopen that area? Perhaps signs limiting the number of anchorages in the area? But what would be the limit?

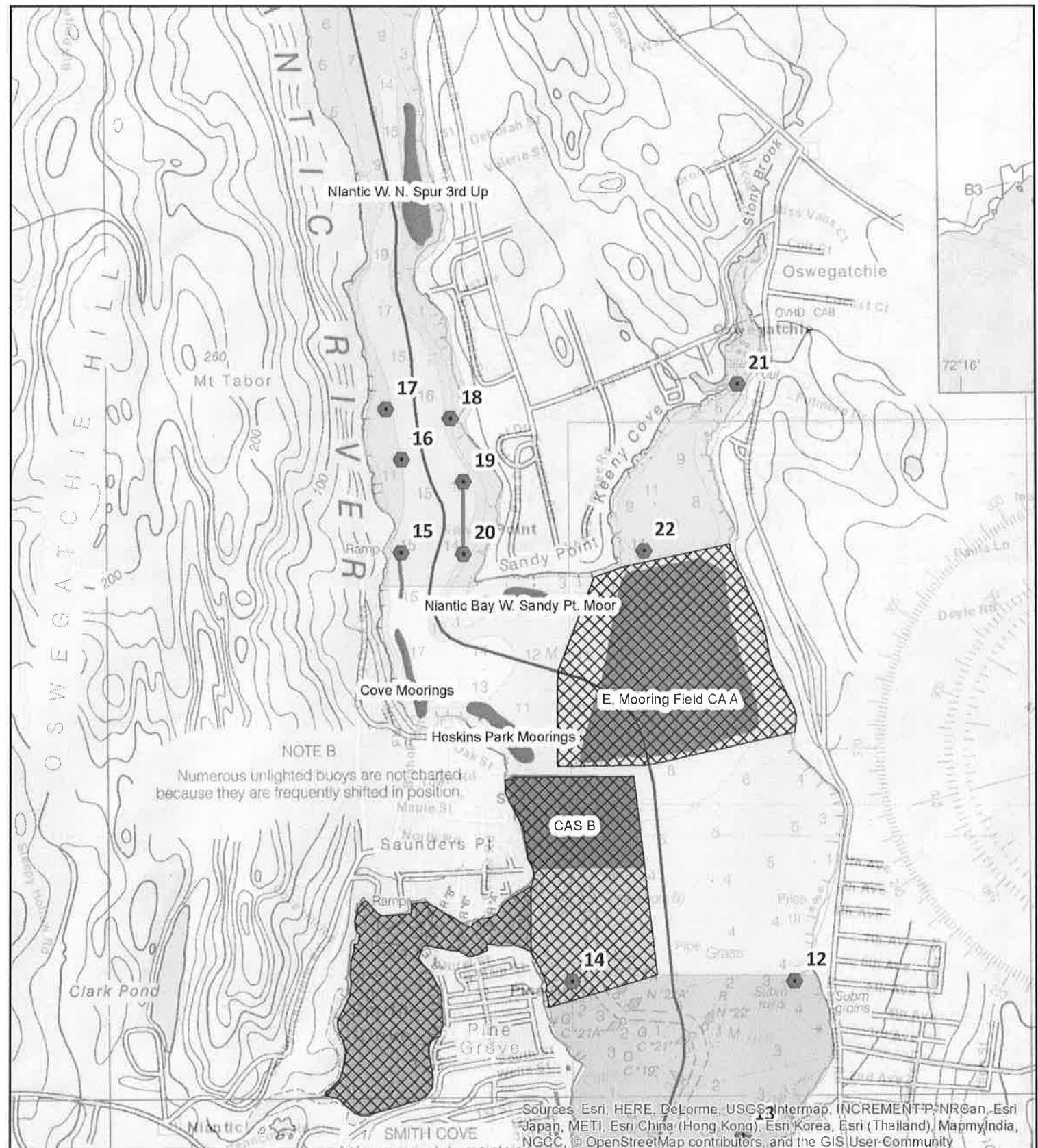
As the chair of East Lyme Harbor Management, I would like to work with WELSCO and Waterford Harbor management to try to control traffic. I need to quantify the acceptable levels.

Thanks,

Steve Dinsmore

Chairman – East Lyme Harbor Management Shellfish Commission

(860)867-5494



CT Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Aquaculture
Niantic River
East Lyme & Waterford, CT

0 875 1,750 3,500 5,250 7,000 Feet

Date: 6/3/2020



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