

013124 Pender County Shellfish Lease Hearing Public Comments

Final

Created	First Name	Last Name	State	Please type your comments in the box below:
12/26/2023 12:20	jason	dail	North Carolina	<p>As a recreational angler, I strongly object to the issuance of any additional water column leases in waters bay, as this area has been traditionally used by recreational fishermen. Waters bay already has a tremendous amount of water column leases, which has consumed a large footprint of public trust waters, rendering many areas no long accessible by the public. These leases restrict traditional navigation, fishing, clamming, crabbing and oystering within the boundaries of the leases, in conflict with the State's public trust doctrine. As a citizen of north carolina, and recreational angler, I cannot support to the proliferation of these water column leases in our already pristine waters. As you may know, Waters bay is already considered "outstanding resource waters" by the NCDEQ so there is no argument that these leases are significantly promoting better water quality. Again, I object to the issuance of this lease at it will restrict public access to traditional open water and shallow bottom habitat for recreational purposes, inconsistent with the State of NC's public trust doctrine.</p> <p>When is enough enough? Every other surrounding county has placed a moratorium on water column leases so when will Pender and Onslow reach their threshold? When every square inch of waterbody is covered in cages?</p>
1/4/2024 13:04	Jason	Dail	North Carolina	I wish to withdraw my previously submitted objection(s) to this proposes lease.
1/5/2024 11:12	Drew	Arndt	North Carolina	<p>I am opposed to anymore water column leases in Pender for numerous reasons. There have been way too many approved over the last several years. You are taking away water access from recreational and commercial watermen alike. The breakthrough in oyster farming is great but it should be to supplement where we can't grow them naturally. If an area was good enough to be approved for a bottom lease then there is no reason for a water column lease. The water column leases should be in open, dead water areas no where near the shoreline. BC bay has already been consumed and taken away. Waters Bay is well on its way. What has been done around Permuda Island in Onslow is a disgrace. Leaseholders are leaving floating docks, derelict pontoon boats, and equipment to the point it looks like a junkyard out on the water. I have emailed dozens of pictures of litter from oyster cages breaking free and ending up on the shoreline and we haven't even faced a bad storm the last few years.</p> <p>Proposed lease 23-040 WC. I'm not sure why this one is even being considered due to submerged aquatic vegetation. It is clearly on the map and comes and goes year by year. This area is commonly used by commercial and recreational for crabbing and fishing and the area is not big enough to share once cages start going in. This area is commonly closed to shellfishing and is only going to get worse with the development of Edgewater and the Old landing area. I have not opposed the other leases out in the main area of Waters Bay but if those keep expanding there is going to be no accessible water left that is suppose to be for ALL.</p> <p>Proposed lease 23-002WC is an extremely busy and dynamic area. Sand moves in that area so much what may be accessible today may not be tomorrow. Many enjoy numerous activities in the shallow sandy area around that lease. Anyone wanting to access that section of marsh in Topsail sound will be hindered. One storm and that channel moves then everything is inaccessible.</p> <p>Please vote no to these 2 water column leases and please reconsider some that have already been approved who are leaving their mess for all to see and disturbing SAV getting in and out of their leases.</p>
1/18/2024 12:33	Kyle	Breuer	North Carolina	<p>Thank you</p> <p>The Town of Surf City would like to thank the Division of Marine Fisheries for holding public hearings on shellfish leases in and around the Town. Estuarine waters in and adjacent to the planning jurisdiction of Surf City provide important habitat for a diverse range of shellfish, birds, and other forms of marine wildlife. The Town supports actions that maintain or improve the quality of water and the abundance of the fisheries available to area residents and visitors, to include the propagation and availability of fin fish and shellfish.</p> <p>The siting of oyster column leases should address the need to ensure continued maritime navigation throughout public trust waters. A balance needs to be presented between shellfish production and the other commercial and recreational features that make Surf City a wonderful place.</p>
1/20/2024 18:10	Wilson	McGraw	North Carolina	Please make sure leases do not block access to areas for fishing opportunities. A balance has to be struck, but leases should not cut off or fully occupy areas such that boating traffic can't allow public access.
1/30/2024 10:26	Seth	Vernon	North Carolina	As a full time guide and user of these areas for more than 18years I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. Neither of the leasees have reached out to my charter business for comment about my use of these areas. Furthermore it stands in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine.
1/30/2024 10:39	Adam	Wallace	North Carolina	<p>To whom this may concern,</p> <p>My name is Adam Wallace and I reside in Hampstead. I'm a full time inshore fishing guide that makes a living on these waters. By leasing PUBLIC resources you, as a state are denying tax payers their right to utilize these waters. You are essentially stealing from the public for sheer profit. I, like other guides have not been contacted about any proposed lease in the topsail area which will have drastic negative economic impact on our businesses and way of life. I plead with the state and the commission to do what's right and deny these leases. If these leases are approved it will create even more turmoil and tension between the state and the residents of the state which we know are at an all time high. Please do the right thing and deny these leases. Thank you.</p>
1/30/2024 10:50	Jody	Lang	North Carolina	I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. Neither of the leasees have reached out to my charter business for comment about my use of these areas. Furthermore it stands in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine!
1/30/2024 10:56	Stephen	Harris	North Carolina	I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I have been fishing these waters for 12 years and I find this to be a private land grab on public land and it stands in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine.
1/30/2024 11:10	Dustin	Heath	North Carolina	I oppose leases 23-040wc in waters bay and lease number 23-001bl/23-002wc in topsail marshes.
1/30/2024 11:10	Ed	Mondello	North Carolina	<p>I use these regularly to fish and enjoy being in these area. I have a boat that is set up to fish shallow areas such as this. I enjoy fishing for reds and trout in this area. Approval of these leases will not only hinder navigation to these waters, but will also disturb the aquatic vegetation and ecosystem that these fish thrive on. There are very few waters like this in the Pender County area, which makes this area that much more vital to our fishery and recreational fisherman. if we continue to allow everyone that applies for a lease, permission, the available fishing waters in this area will be nonexistent. I am requesting protection of these areas, and further denial of these leases in the pender county area.</p> <p>I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I've been fishing these waters for years and it stands in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine.</p>

1/30/2024 11:18	James	Little	North Carolina	Oyster leases are continuing to run rampant in topsail sound excluding all fishermen from the resources. One of these leases is 10 acres!
1/30/2024 11:54	Mike	Kies	North Carolina	I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I've been fishing these waters for years and it stands in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine.
1/30/2024 12:00	Johnny	Whitley	North Carolina	I oppose the proposed lease in Waters Bay. My family fishes and flounder gigs this exact area. I love to fish this area and many others also, all inland waters resources should be open to everyone to enjoy not for any particular person or group. Thanks Johnny Whitley
1/30/2024 12:06	Spicer	Lanier	North Carolina	I do all kinds of fishing in nc I do red fish trout and many more species
1/30/2024 12:09	Spicer	Lanier	North Carolina	I oppose to this
1/30/2024 12:16	Jason	Ferree	North Carolina	Vote is no. We have to stop leading this for profit. Keep this open to wildlife and fishing and stop the commercial fishing industry
1/30/2024 12:18	Keegan	Posterna	North Carolina	There are enough leases in this area. We don't need anymore
1/30/2024 12:19	David	Mercer	North Carolina	Please don't allow this lease here. We fish this area which is already saturated and oyster pots will mess us the area and there will be less access to the public. I like to fish and flounder gig this area and this would ruin it for everyone except for those trying to line their pockets at the expense of the public along with messing us the natural state of the bay
1/30/2024 12:53	James	Reilly	North Carolina	Water column leases take access to public trust coastal resources away from me and thousands of my fellow citizens for the financial gain of one individual. It is absolutely criminal that NC coastal waters cannot be owned by anyone, but can be "rented" to one person and then completely off limits to all the rest of us so that person can benefit monetarily from OUR resources.
1/30/2024 13:00	Jason	Merrill	North Carolina	I oppose lease number 23-040WC in Waters Bay and 23-001BL, 23-00WC. These are in Topsail Marshes. I fish these areas often. These proposed areas effect my business as a fishing guide. This is absolutely insane. It's always more and more. When is enough an enough.
1/30/2024 13:01	Seth	Heath	North Carolina	I oppose leases 23-040wc in waters bay and lease number 23-001bl/23-002wc in topsail marshes. When are we going to stop this nonsense? It cannot always be about the almighty dollar bill.
1/30/2024 13:06	Andrew	Boyd	North Carolina	I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I believe granting of said leases, when taking into account leases already granted in the area, stand in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine, in that recreational fishermen are being denied access to prime fishing habitat in the area. Permuda Bay and the area just South of where the ICW and BC merge are prime fishing areas that have already been taken away from anglers. Several other areas are being taken as well. It is imperative that a way to approve or deny these permits that includes representation from hook and line fishermen be devised immediately.
1/30/2024 13:13	Tony	Rhodes	North Carolina	I am against the shell fish lease for several reasons. As a co owner of an outboard motor business as well as a fisherman I see in the past where it has hurt our access to shallow waters. I fish and care my kids swimming in shallow waters and with the oyster pots there we cannot use our natural resource. We have a lot of them hear in Permuda Bay and we have had to stop going in there swimming because it is full of oyster pots. It als restricts me from fishing the shore line. I would to see these things removed from our waters all together. They are a big problem for the recreational boaters. I hear it all the time in our shop. Plus I have been told by our local oyster fisherman that they think these farm raised oysters are bringing in a deserve that is killing the natural oysters.
1/30/2024 14:17	Benjamin	Blackmon	North Carolina	I oppose lease numbers 23-040WC and 23-001BL/23-002WC. I fish around these areas for drum and trout. This would be another area taken away from me and other anglers.
1/30/2024 14:55	Dr. Shane	Bartus	North Carolina	I am distressed to find out that there is continued pressure in Pender and Onslow Counties for water column oyster farms. Particularly given some potential environmental impacts recently reported here and other places: https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/ecological-consequences-of-oysters-culture-2332-2608-1000198.php?aid=83576#:~:text=Oysters%20farming%20usually%20results%20in,considered%20to%20cause%20environmental%20damage.. We live full-time on Topsail Island and regularly paddle and fish the entire area. Of particular concern are proposed Lease Numbers 23-040WC (M. Conor MacNair) which would cover 10 acres of prime fishing ground. For the same reason, I oppose the proposed shellfish lease by Pirate Oysters, LLC (Paul Spiers). Best regards, Dr. Shane Bartus
1/30/2024 15:14	James	Ormond	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/30/2024 15:29	William	Rabon	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/30/2024 15:30	William	Rabon	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. Thank you, Will Rabon [REDACTED]
1/30/2024 15:44	Corey	Durako	North Carolina	I oppose leases 23/040w and 23-001bl-23-002wc I have fished these areas for the last 20 years and can't imagine the destruction on our fishery that these leases are gonna cause. They have ruined enough of the waterway and need to be stopped. It is important to me that this fishery is around for my kids and generations to come Corey Durako [REDACTED]
1/30/2024 15:44	Howard	Hill	North Carolina	This would be detrimental to me and my family from using the publix sound and all waters. I have a life time fishing licenses that states that i can fish North Carolina Coastal waters. I Thank You. Howard Hill

1/30/2024 15:47	James Hardy	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/30/2024 15:52	Richard Wilkins	North Carolina	
1/30/2024 15:57	Richard Gilligan	North Carolina	I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I've been fishing these waters for years and it stands in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine. I oppose leases 23-040wc and leases 23-001bl/23-002wc. I'm not against all leases, but as an avid tournament fisherman I fish these areas all of the time and I've seen what they have done to other areas that I fish with the fish leaving and not coming back.
1/30/2024 17:00	Davis Boyd	North Carolina	I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I believe granting of said leases, when taking into account leases already granted in the area, stand in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine, in that recreational fishermen are being denied access to prime fishing habitat in the area. Permuda Bay and the area just South of where the ICW and BC merge are prime fishing areas that have already been taken away from anglers. Several other areas are being taken as well. It is imperative that a way to approve or deny these permits that includes representation from hook and line fishermen be devised immediately.
1/30/2024 17:18	William Keith	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/30/2024 17:18	George Stronach	North Carolina	Marshland and other marine areas should remain public and not privatized to the benefit of any single person or corporation! I am against the proposed shellfish leases. These benefit a few economically but hurt more than they help. The recreational sport fishing industry in NC could / should be one of the best in the country if managed properly, which it clearly is not.
1/30/2024 17:35	Della Carson	North Carolina	As a local Realtor of Topsail Island, I respectfully oppose the 10 acre application for the floating Oyster lease. This lease would have a negative impact on recreational fishing, boating, kayaking, and paddle boarding. The structures impair the beauty of the water and could have an overall negative impact on tourism and people moving to the area.
1/30/2024 17:42	Noah Harrison	North Carolina	I am opposed to lease 23-040wc I live in this area and have been fishing this area for 10 years. Putting this oyster farm will destroy this great fishing spot that these fish have been coming to for years. Thank you. Noah Harrison [REDACTED]
1/30/2024 17:44	james reilly	North Carolina	Water column leases take access to public trust coastal resources away from me and thousands of my fellow citizens for the financial gain of one individual. It is absolutely criminal that NC coastal waters cannot be owned by anyone, but can be "rented" to one person and then completely off limits to all the rest of us so that person can benefit monetarily from OUR resources. The proposed water column lease in Waters Bay will have a dramatically negative impact on North Carolina anglers' ability to fully utilize their public trust resources.
1/30/2024 17:51	Bryan Watts	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/30/2024 17:51	Bryan Watts	North Carolina	
1/30/2024 17:57	Nathan Bray	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. I oppose 23-040. I grew up fishing this area and believe the boat and foot traffic of this operation will kill off local ecosystems. The eel grass in this bay is home to a plethora of vital organisms that feed more than just gamefish. With the addition of (23-040) birds, gamefish, and others will be greatly impacted in a negative way. Nathan Bray [REDACTED]
1/30/2024 18:12	Dan Pender	North Carolina	I oppose leases 23-040wc and lease 23-001bl and 23-002wc because these are popular fishing spots. Oyster leases will prevent access to many recreational fishermen for the benefit of the enrichment of a few individuals.
1/30/2024 18:19	TIM BARNES	North Carolina	"I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters." Then sign and put your telephone number.
1/30/2024 18:30	Keith Wells	North Carolina	I oppose lease 23-040wc in Waters bay. I am a guide that fishes this area quite often. I can't afford to lose anymore areas to fish. I also fish this area for recreational purposes. The oyster leases need to slow down. Thank you Captain Keith Wells
1/30/2024 18:38	Hayley Wells	North Carolina	I oppose lease 23-040wc in Waters Bay at Topsail Beach NC. My husband and I depend on the fishing in the areas around Topsail including Waters Bay. The oyster gardens leases are really negatively affected those of us who fish. Thank you Hayley Wells
1/30/2024 18:41	William Pope	North Carolina	I am against the expansion into this area. I've enjoyed fishing these waters and exploring with my family. Catching fish or just observing the the wildlife has brought many days of enjoyment for us and we would hate to see this scenery marred by more leases! There are enough of these wasteful eyesores on our coast!
1/30/2024 18:43	Jason Darden	North Carolina	I oppose lease number 23-040WC. My family has been going on vacation in Surf City for 20 plus years and we have rented and spent thousands on fishing guides over these years. I have fished these waters all over and find the fishing to be incredible, but my concern is this new lease will destroy some of the best and most productive fishing areas that I have enjoyed for many years. I want to continue to enjoy fishing in these areas as I have done for so long and would love for you to strongly consider my opposition to this lease.
1/30/2024 18:48	Grace Harris	North Carolina	I oppose lease 23-040WC. My family has been coming to Topsail for 15 year and my family rents a beach house here every year. Waters Bay is one of the areas we are able to access and fish while we are on vacation.
1/30/2024 19:00	Eric Luke	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC . I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust Waters.

1/30/2024 19:06	Stan	Griffith	North Carolina	I oppose 23-040 WC. I fish for redfish in that area. It is one of my best spots! This area needs to be left undisturbed. Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] Stan Griffith
1/30/2024 19:16	Debra	Griffith	North Carolina	I oppose 23-040 WC! My husband and I retired and bought a home on the island. Our enjoyment is sport fishing especially for redfish. We have fished this area for years. This area is one of the few areas left for fishing since so much of the waters here have been inundated with oyster farms. Also we can't even enjoy boating with our grandchildren because of the increase of oyster farms. I respectfully request that this water column lease be denied.
1/30/2024 19:18	Luke	Moser	North Carolina	I fish these waters. Have grown up fishing them and these are public waters. Adding Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers 23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay To these areas would be a detriment to the access and use of these areas for fisherman, duck hunters and non traditional use alike. I strongly advise against Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers 23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay
1/30/2024 19:22	Daniel	Brinson	North Carolina	I fish these waters and oppose those areas being used in this manner (privately owned oyster farms). As a recreational fisherman, I feel as though the rights to the water should belong to the public. One day I hope my kids can still fish these waters.
1/30/2024 19:26	Jon	Salvant	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases because they restrict access to publicly fished areas that are commonly used by myself and others. -23-404WC -23-001BL -23-002WC Jon S.
1/30/2024 19:28	Whitney	Moser	North Carolina	I object to Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers 23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay
1/30/2024 19:32	Len	James	North Carolina	This would greatly affect in a negative way the public use and right to these waters. I have been fishing and duck hunting these waters my whole life. Implementing the Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers 23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh M. And Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay would take this totally away from some of the best recreational use and rights to the water.
1/30/2024 19:34	Ryan	Stultz	North Carolina	Adding Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers 23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay to the area is taking away public rights to these bodies of water and Should not be allowed.
1/30/2024 19:35	Brad	Taydus	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters."
1/30/2024 19:36	Jim	Wallace	North Carolina	Do not allow Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers 23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay to happen in this area used in so many different ways by recreational users
1/30/2024 19:37	Kelli	Moser	North Carolina	My vote is no for Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers 23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh and M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay
1/30/2024 19:39	Eddie	Moser	North Carolina	My family has fished these waters for years the Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers 23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marshM. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay would destroy this. This should not even be a thought to be considered
1/30/2024 19:41	Ken	Asmuth	North Carolina	Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers23 001BL/23002WCTopsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay is a no and a disgrace to even be considered with the recreational use of fisherman and hunters boaters and other use far out waging the demand for this to be implemented

1/30/2024 19:42	David	Peele	North Carolina	Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers23-001BL/23-002WCTopsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay
1/30/2024 19:43	David	Peed	North Carolina	This is crazy and should not be allowed these are public waters. I oppose 23-040 WC . I am a recreational fisherman, and have been fishing these waters for many years. Myself and other fishermen have been forced out of our favorite fishing areas due to (oyster farming), and now you want to take one of our last bays for yet another oyster farm. These oyster farms only benefit that person for their financial gain, whereas recreational fishermen put money into many cash drawers. The recreational fisherman bring the entire family to this area where they spend money in the form of tourism and recreation. The oyster farm seeks to use our public resource to benefit their own financial gain. Please vote NO on this lease !
1/30/2024 19:46	Ann	Peed	North Carolina	I oppose 23-040 WC I oppose 23-040 WC . I am a recreational fisherman, and have been fishing these waters for many years. Myself and other fishermen have been forced out of our favorite fishing areas due to (oyster farming), and now you want to take one of our last bays for yet another oyster farm. These oyster farms only benefit that person for their financial gain, whereas recreational fishermen put money into many cash drawers. The recreational fisherman bring the entire family to this area where they spend money in the form of tourism and recreation. The oyster farm seeks to use our public resource to benefit their own financial gain. Please vote NO on this lease !
1/30/2024 19:47	Steve	Foster	North Carolina	I oppose 23-040 WC This should not even be a public hearing or even a thought these are public waters this should not happen Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers 23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay
1/30/2024 19:51	Sammy	Moser	North Carolina	DO NOT ALLOW! Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay
1/30/2024 19:52	Pat	Moser	North Carolina	Should not happen!!
1/30/2024 20:03	Keith	Sanders	North Carolina	Pirate oysters, LLC Paul Spiers23-001BL/23-002WC Topsail marsh M. Conor MacNair 23-040WC Waters bay
1/30/2024 20:07	Eddie	Exley	North Carolina	I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I believe granting of said leases, when taking into account leases already granted in the area, stand in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine, in that recreational fishermen are being unfairly denied access to fishing grounds they should have equal access to enjoy as everyone else. I fish in these areas and use them regularly and there are already other areas in proximity to these where I cannot fish because of these leases.
1/30/2024 20:08	Chris	McLeod	North Carolina	Me and my family fish waters bay. Please don't let them farm this area it would be a big lost for the community. I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I believe granting of said leases, when taking into account leases already granted in the area, stand in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine, in that recreational fishermen are being unfairly denied access to fishing grounds they should have equal access to enjoy as everyone else. I fish in these areas and use them regularly and there are already other areas in proximity to these where I cannot fish because of these leases.
1/30/2024 20:12	Joshua	Carr	North Carolina	I oppose shellfish leases 23-404wc, 23-001bl and 23-002wc for far to long the commercial industry has taken advantage our state resources! This will have restrictive effects for wildlife, rec anglers and boaters!
1/30/2024 20:12	Todd	Smith	North Carolina	I oppose 23494wc, 23001bl, and 32002wc leases. For 25 years my family and I have been enjoying the right to fish these waters. You have taken away so much of our fisheries and our species please don't allow this . Thank you and God bless you all in this decision.
1/30/2024 20:14	Nathan	Pate	North Carolina	I appose lease number 23-040WC I am the founder of Casting Coastal Kayak Fishing club and this bay is a staple to our group members when it comes to kayak fishing. This area produces a safe place for us kayak fisherman to fish away from most boat traffic and has always been a go to place for fishing outings! This lease will DESTROY the red population in the area and will disturb much more in the surrounding areas. In a club of over 2,500 members almost 1,000 live in this area and would not only horrendously affect our ability to be safe while also having fun but will also destroy a precious ecosystem that we fight hard to protect knowing this lease WILL NOT be beneficial for anything other than lining pockets!
1/30/2024 20:28	Trish	Salvant	North Carolina	I oppose the following oyster leases under review. 23-404wc 23-001BL 23-002WC These restrict access to commonly fished areas used by me and my family.
1/30/2024 20:40	Ben	Aman	North Carolina	Fill out form saying "I oppose lease number 22-040WC because it's a place recreational, kayakers and paddle boards paddle. It has live eelgrass and turtle grass. We as a community should be able to have this access.
1/30/2024 20:43	Jeffrey	Cronk	North Carolina	I am opposed to Lease number 23-040wc. This lease will be very close to a new fishing pier and boat ramp and since this is a water column lease that will completely shut down access to these fishing waters for all recreational and commercial fishermen.
1/30/2024 20:45	Thomas	Kosinski	New Jersey	As a traveling angler who vacations in the area multiple times per year, I strongly suggest that this lease is not approved. This activity will damage the bottom and kill sealife. If the area becomes void of grass and sea life, the fish will not be there. Without fish, the local guides and charter operators will suffer and the overall economy will be damaged. Regards, Capt. Thomas Kosinski

1/30/2024 20:47	Ray	Jenkins	North Carolina	Olivia oppose lease number 22-040WC because it will disrupt a bunch of sea life and also the recreational kayak and paddle boarders use this area. It also has eel grass and turtle grass that need to be protected . Not to mention the eye sore and disruption so close to the Surf City boat ramp . I respect the shellfish industry but, this is not the location for it. So many other areas to do this besides the proposed location!
1/30/2024 20:50	Caiden	Jenkins	North Carolina	I oppose lease number 22-040WC I am a fishing guide here in topsail and I love eating oysters but I do not enjoy watching the oyster farm workers tearing through everything around them to get into the area. This area is full of beautiful grass clean water lots of fish sea turtle's dolphins you name it. I have watched areas turn to dead lands overtime due to these cages and I don't want to see it happen here as well.
1/30/2024 20:53	Alea	Burke	North Carolina	I am opposing any lease for oyster farming in our area. Ouster farms create a risk of depleting their natural ocean resources and populations. Oyster farming also increases the possibility of disease. It's a well-known fact that animal agriculture increases the likelihood of animal-based and zoonotic diseases. Disease has been known to wipe out entire oyster populations across coastal regions. The controlled process of mating oysters can increase the likelihood of spreading diseases among populations. Evidence suggests oyster farms that harvest the oysters before 18 months can actually protect local ecosystems from disease through water filtration. However, there currently exist no U.S. federal guidelines aimed at protecting against disease spread by utilizing this research, and most farmers don't harvest their oysters before two years. Also, the trade and transfer of oyster spat can introduce invasive species into ecosystems, such as the Mytilicola orientalis pest introduced to Ireland as a result of oyster farming. Oyster farms can also physically disturb the seabeds with machinery and structures, and collection equipment can harm local ecosystems. Most oyster farming equipment is not cost-effective to remove from the ocean, so farmers will often leave it in the seafloor, which can change tidal patterns, create silt build-up, and negatively affect marine life. Farming practices have been shown to reduce seagrasses and benthos, the organisms living on the ocean floor. What's more, these populations tend to grow again if the oyster farms are left unstocked.
1/30/2024 21:01	Maynard	Sinclair	North Carolina	I oppose lease 23-040wc. I'm an inshore guide who fishes the area. I oppose the closure of fishing grounds of the area lease 23-040wc
1/30/2024 21:04	Brandon	Gilbert	Colorado	I oppose lease number 22-040WC because it is a place full of sea life that should not be used as a oyster lease site it will be torn to bare bottom due to workers giving no respect to anything around them, this area holds sea turtles, fish, turtle and eel grass, dolphins, porpoises, etc
1/30/2024 21:06	Jamie	Kelley	North Carolina	I'm a Nc residential kayak fisherman who fishes the area around lease 23-040WC and I oppose the closure of the area.
1/30/2024 21:10	Rennie	Clark	North Carolina	I strongly oppose the water column lease in Waters Bay behind topsail island. I have been fishing that area for over 20 years. The particular area it is being proposed is the location where schools of redfish roam and stge onto the grass flats as the water rises. These water column leases and the structures placed in them are the worst idea you guys have ever come up with. They block navigavition into these flats and also block shoreline and move fish. The flats behind topsail inlet were once some of the most pristine and abundant flats for trout, flounder, and redfish in the country. Now our once beautiful and pristine flats are barren of fish amd these oyster harvesters run in and out constantly with their outboards not only disturbing fish but tearing up the grass on the bottom. Please stop this non sense!
1/30/2024 21:14	Steve	Aman	North Carolina	I oppose lease number 22-040WC because it is used recreationally by fisherman prominently who take care of the area and respect it for what it is as a natural area and will not run there boats through it destroying the bottom and aquatic life in the area.
1/30/2024 21:16	Christine	Aman	North Carolina	I oppose lease number 22-040WC I enjoy eating oysters but I do not enjoy them from a farm they bake in the sun all day and that doesn't seem healthy at all. This area is use for recreation and wildlife inhabits the area as well which will be taken up by oyster leases and not open for animals to travel through.
1/30/2024 21:22	Jeffrey	Patten	North Carolina	I oppose the below lease #'s 23-404WC - OPPOSED 23-001BL - OPPOSED 23-002WC - OPPOSED Restricting access to fishing grounds that should be available to ALL people who pay fees for an annual fishing license should NOT be allowed.
1/30/2024 21:36	Steve	Brewster	North Carolina	Opposing lease 23-040WC. Further discussion is needed between stakeholders about how to incorporate the farms without restricting access to the public.
1/30/2024 21:42	Chris	Aman	North Carolina	Good cause
1/30/2024 21:45	Samuel	Kuca	North Carolina	I oppose lease number 22-040WC because the negative impacts it will have on the environment. This area is used by anglers and charters as well as other locals who enjoy the outdoors. This would have a direct impact. The live eel grass and turtle grass are a necessity to the environment.
1/30/2024 21:54	Amanda	Herrington	North Carolina	I oppose lease 23-040WC. My family has been coming to topsail island and renting a house each summer for almost 40 years. Morris Landing Rd. Is one of the areas that we are able to access by foot and launch kayaks. We have also hired numerous guides in the area that have taken us to this location in the past and have caught many fish there. Please consider denying this lease based on ease of access for the general public. Amanda Herrington Newton Grove, NC [REDACTED]
1/30/2024 22:07	Fred	Abernathy	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL and M. Conner MacNair 23-040WC. My family fishes these areas. We use these waters and it will affect our ability these public trust waters. Fred Abernathy [REDACTED]
1/30/2024 22:34	Chase	Overcash	North Carolina	This comment is in opposition to the 10acre water column lease in waters bay. As a homeowner in pender county and nc resident we have used this area to recreationally fish, flounder gig , and kayak for 30 years. We have enough leases in this area already and need to leave it clear and accessible for all residents. Any additional lease , especially 10acres is not acceptable

1/30/2024 22:50	Robert	Thiele	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Connor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. Robert Thiele [REDACTED]
1/30/2024 23:06	Roland	Royal	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/ 23-002WC and M Conor MacNair23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. Roland Guy Royal [REDACTED]
1/30/2024 23:28	Rebecca	Royal	North Carolina	Add oppose the following leases. Pirate oysters 23-001BL/ 23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 22-040WC. I fish and use the waters and will affect my ability to use these ability to use these public trust waters. Rebecca Royal [REDACTED]
1/30/2024 23:30	Austin	Cavenaugh	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/30/2024 23:52	Andy	Hodges	North Carolina	Good evening. My name is Andy Hodges. I am a homeowner in Surf City and have been visiting this island for nearly 50 years. I'm here because I want to help preserve the beauty and safety of the waters around Topsail Island . This issue with building floating oyster farms is unfair to the citizens and it basically comes down to greed. One individual gets to take control of a body of water that doesn't belong to him. He's legally allowed to create a unnatural hazardous eyesore to grow and harvest oysters quicker and easier for his personal gain. It's all about the money. The people on this island don't appreciate it.This is a serious threat to take away bodies of water that we all enjoy in many different ways. We'd rather the oysters be grown the way nature intended, on the bottom not a glob of plastic floating on the water for a flock of birds to sit and poop all over creating a nasty sight to have to look at. With the construction of these farms, We will no longer be able to boat, fish, swim, gig, or enjoy these areas in any capacity any more. All for one person's financial gain. Anyone with the exception of the one who has the big dollar signs in his eyes, can see that this process ruins everything that brings people to topsail island. So we ask those with the power to do so, to stop this development, ask yourself what's more important. The beauty of this island, the safe recreational activities that the people enjoy on the water or the profits of the few? When is enough enough? I OPPOSE LEASE 23-040WC. Shame on you. You are supposed to protect our waters but you lease and make money from destruction. Typical politicians.
1/31/2024 1:16	Rudy	Desten	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 1:46	Travis	Gentzler	Pennsylvania	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 4:31	Christopher	McGeorge	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 4:42	Dale	Collins	North Carolina	I am opposed to Lease number 23-040wc. This lease will be very close to a new fishing pier and boat ramp and since this is a water column lease that will completely shut down access to these fishing waters for all recreational and commercial fishermen.
1/31/2024 6:02	Leigh	Kelly	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 6:15	Christopher	Midkiff	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 7:17	Nick	Adams	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters
1/31/2024 7:22	David	Pope	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; pirate oysters 23-001BL 23-001WC and m Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I I use these public waters and this well effect my ability too fish the public waters. Name.David Pope Numbe [REDACTED]
1/31/2024 7:30	Terry	wright	North Carolina	I oppose lease#23-404wc,23-001bc and 23-002 wc. Thank you
1/31/2024 7:34	Jonathan	Kelly	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases. Private Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Connor MacNair 23-040WC I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these Public Trust Waters
1/31/2024 7:57	Lloyd	Godwin	North Carolina	"I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters."

1/31/2024 8:04 Herb	Ormond	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases: Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. This will be a nightmare if approved! It's already bad and this will make it much worse!!!! Herb Ormond, home at Topsail Beach NC; [REDACTED]
1/31/2024 8:11 Tom	Shivar	North Carolina	"I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters."
1/31/2024 8:17 Harold	Byerly	North Carolina	As it concerns lease #'s 23-404WC 23-001BL 23-002WC They will inhibit access to fishing areas that will affect my families right to use local waters. I am not against oyster farming as a whole, just not where it restricts abilities to use waters.
1/31/2024 8:24 Bryant	Crawford	North Carolina	I oppose to 23 404wc 23 001 bl 23 002 wc Lease Due to impeding access to fishing areas where this will be need to move to another area plus the fact that fish habitat area that you're also taking away for 10 years
1/31/2024 8:28 Io	Harris	Minnesota	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 8:31 Janet	Farmer	North Carolina	I am a Pender County resident & I support both of these leases. The value of increasing the quantity of oysters in the water can't be overstated given the volume of water that they are able to filter per day. I am also a boater & avid paddler and, while a new farm may require me to modify my previously taken routes, I do not find that they prevent me from enjoying and navigating the waterways. I also support local farming, in this case aquaculture, as it brings valuable jobs and dollars to our local economy. I have paddled around another lease owned by Conor MacNair and have found his lease to always be maintained in good order; clean & secure, and see no reason to believe an additional water column lease would not be maintained in similar fashion.
1/31/2024 8:33 Stuart	Creighton	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases: Pirate Oysters 23-001BL & 23-002WC and M Connor MacNair 23-040WC. I am a public angler that uses this area and approval of these leases would adversely affect my ability to use these public trust waters. I want to be clear that I support mariculture, it is a truly sustainable means of commercial fishing that, when done right, can improve water quality and reduce pressure on our critically endangered native oyster reefs. However, what has happened in New Stump Sound and what COULD happen here is NOT the right way to do things. In an area where public access to productive fishing waters is limited, you will be denying access to key fishing grounds. This is what must stop. YOU CANNOT CONTINUE GRANTING LEASES THST HARM THE PUBLIC RIGHT TO FISH!! We have seen the deleterious effects in numerous areas already, and this "approve" em all practice must stop. I am sure, with a little more research, more suitable areas could be found that do not further take away public fishing access. How will the division repay the public sector for their loss of access to these areas? Is the division going to remove commercial access to other areas of water in this region to repay those lost to the public sector?? Is the division going to enhance nearby public fishing habitat as an equitable trade for the acreage lost if these leases are approved? No, I didn't think so. For the reasons above, these leases should be denied! Sincerely, Stuart Creighton Oriental, NC
1/31/2024 8:45 Jim	Davis	North Carolina	I'm opposed to this lease.
1/31/2024 8:47 John	Tedder	North Carolina	I strongly oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 8:59 Dave	Lesesky	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 9:03 Emily	Bell	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 9:04 Emily	Bell	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 9:13 Renzo	Bugnatto	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. Hi I live and own properties directly in front of suggested lease 23-040WC. Approving this lease will devalue my properties by impacting the view. It may also impact from noise and other items associated with the production and required platform and piping. I will also be unable to fish in this area, this will also impact other fisherman in the area who fish here. There are other better options and am asking the state to reject this lease. This approval of this lease would be in essence taking money from me to give to another company. As a single parent I am trying to show my kids the wonder of North Carolina and how the state is a good steward of our natural resources. I love oyster and believe in oyster farming but there are better locations for this.
1/31/2024 9:14 Stephen	Myslinski	North Carolina	As a war veteran. I use fishing to help with PTSD. And NC is slowly taking this from all of us. Especially veterans who need this as an outlet. Our area of new river/Snead's ferry/North and South topsail is too small as it is for the amount of commercial fishing taking place. Our fishery has been nearly destroyed as is. We are too small an area and have no desire to see this kind of commercial activity take place here.
1/31/2024 9:41 Michael	Williams	North Carolina	I oppose these new shellfish leases. It's not fair to the tax paying fishermen of NC to hinder navigable access and fishing access because it's blocked by oyster pots. Our particular area holds some of the best wild oysters in NC, and these oyster farm leases give competition to our hardworking oyster harvesters, who also maintain and help build the oyster population by dumping shells and selective harvesting in the areas
1/31/2024 9:48 Michael	Mattice	North Carolina	I oppose 23-040wc. I run Redfish Madness a live release Redfish tourney series. We have 100-110 anglers that bring alot of money to our economy. We have raised over 60k to donate to local charities in 4 years. Waters bay is a great redfish area. I oppose the oyster leases. Thank you
1/31/2024 9:49 Christopher	Cox	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.

1/31/2024 9:55	Rick Sasser	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases: Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. The state needs to slow down the Wild West mentality of leasing. A hold needs to be put in place until a comprehensive plan can be developed that includes- 1) Public Access to Traditional Areas of Recreational Use 2) View Shed Rights 3) Performance Bonds to Insure Removal of Abandoned Sites
1/31/2024 10:00	Michael Copelan	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 10:14	Kevin Maynard	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 10:19	Eli Bell	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor Macnair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. Eli Bell [REDACTED]
1/31/2024 10:19	Dace Hennessee	North Carolina	Hey, I own a 2nd home in the area, and I am looking to retire to the area. I am a recreational fisherman and love to kayak fish. I also love oysters but putting oyster farms on top of prime fishing area is not good for anyone. The recreational fishing areas bring vital tourisms and money into the area, and you need to maintain that, or we are all going to suffer. These are public waters so let's keep them that way, so I oppose the following leases: Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC.
1/31/2024 10:41	Gary Hurley	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 10:46	Tim Best	North Carolina	I do not want floating oyster pots in waters bay.23-040wc .I fish this area all the time
1/31/2024 10:48	Gary Szabo	North Carolina	I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I've been fishing these waters for years and it stands in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine.
1/31/2024 11:11	Hunter Hawkins	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 11:23	Samuel Johns	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. - Sam Johns [REDACTED]
1/31/2024 11:26	Michael Giberson Jr	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 11:28	Michael Giberson Jr	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 11:51	Chase Heath	North Carolina	I oppose leases 23-040w in waters bay and lease number 23-001b/23-002wc in topsail marshes. I fish these areas regularly and really enjoy the untouched area. It would be a shame to destroy such a beautiful place. Thank you!
1/31/2024 12:14	Jacob Henthorn	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. Jacob Henthorn [REDACTED]
1/31/2024 12:32	Norwood West	North Carolina	I highly oppose lease 23-040WC. I own and manage property there. I have boat slip at the Marina and this lease is adjacent to the Marina. Norwood West [REDACTED]
1/31/2024 12:41	Tad Thomas	North Carolina	."I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters." Tad L Thomas Hampstead NC 1-31-24
1/31/2024 12:50	Jamal Pointe	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. Jamal Pointe [REDACTED]
1/31/2024 12:52	Craig Reigle	Pennsylvania	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters." Then sign and put your telephone number.
1/31/2024 12:56	Joni Kane	North Carolina	I am opposed to having oyster beds in the water directly at the end of my back yard. A better area would be south of the Oyster Co. property that is located on Old Landing Road where there are no houses. These oyster beds will eliminate our small development's ability to use our water equipment (paddle boards, small boats, canoes, etc.
1/31/2024 12:59	Jonathan Huff	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor McNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. Jonathan Huff [REDACTED]

1/31/2024 13:01 Rufus	Temple	North Carolina	<p>I'm against the lease expansion for several reasons. For one, the impact that hybrid oyster farms will have on the native shellfish population will ultimately reduce the amount of spat in the water and not return that spat into the water column the way the wild bivalves do, thus reducing wild population and water cleanliness. The impact will be most evident around the area of the leases which will push harvesters into other areas putting more pressure there.</p> <p>Secondly, the lease proposed does not qualify in accordance to the requirements by DNR. Though testing may have been performed, it was not thorough enough and did not include razor clams, which are vital to water clarity. The proposed area is full of razor clam beds and the current methods of assessing a presence of shellfish do not assess them, but they should. Technically wild razor clam beds should make the lease non approvable. But the methods focus on assessing oyster and quahog populations. That must be addressed prior to the approval to avoid legal action.</p> <p>Secondly, many of my neighbors who enjoy fishing, boating, and sightseeing in our waterway have complained about the eyesore of these leases and the cages and operation used in such leases. It restricts the publics ability to freely navigate the estuaries and diminishes the natural beauty in our area.</p> <p>Thirdly, the party applying for the lease are not originally from North Carolina and a vote should be held on whether or not their should be limitations created by DNR on how rapidly an operation can expand and how long one should live in the state of North Carolina before they are allowed to aquire or lease land. This would prevent out of state oyster companies from moving here to exploit the salinity and habitat and turn our beloved sounds into a commercial bivalves factory, which could have severe consequences. Please do take this letter in consideration as it reflects not only my opinion but many others who I've spoken to and may not have the time or ability to express their concerns.</p> <p>Forth and final, adding these leases created more area for an already overstretched marine patrol to concern itself with. We have added so many new laws and regulations, we should give marine patrol a more manageable area of enforcement.</p>
1/31/2024 13:03 Melissa	Carter	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 13:03 Mark	Deal	Ohio	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 13:05 Alexander	Acosta	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 13:05 Rufus	Temple	North Carolina	<p>I hereby oppose leases 23-040wc in waters bay and 23-001bl/23-002wc in topsail marshes. I am against the lease expansion for several reasons. For one, the impact that hybrid oyster farms will have on the native shellfish population will ultimately reduce the amount of spat in the water and not return that spat into the water column the way the wild bivalves do, thus reducing wild population and water cleanliness. The impact will be most evident around the area of the leases which will will push harvesters into other areas putting more pressure there.</p> <p>Secondly, the lease proposed does not qualify in accordance to the requirements by DNR. Though testing may have been performed, it was not thorough enough and did not include razor clams, which are vital to water clarity. The proposed area is full of razor clam beds and the current methods of assessing a presence of shellfish do not assess them, but they should. Technically wild razor clam beds should make the lease non approvable. But the methods focus on assessing oyster and quahog populations. That must be addressed prior to the approval to avoid legal action.</p> <p>Secondly, many of my neighbors who enjoy fishing, boating, and sightseeing in our waterway have complained about the eyesore of these leases and the cages and operation used in such leases. It restricts the publics ability to freely navigate the estuaries and diminishes the natural beauty in our area.</p> <p>Thirdly, the party applying for the lease are not originally from North Carolina and a vote should be held on whether or not their should be limitations created by DNR on how rapidly an operation can expand and how long one should live in the state of North Carolina before they are allowed to aquire or lease land. This would prevent out of state oyster companies from moving here to exploit the salinity and habitat and turn our beloved sounds into a commercial bivalves factory, which could have severe consequences. Please do take this letter in consideration as it reflects not only my opinion but many others who I've spoken to and may not have the time or ability to express their concerns.</p> <p>Forth and final, adding these leases created more area for an already overstretched marine patrol to concern itself with. We have added so many new laws and regulations, we should give marine patrol a more manageable area of enforcement.</p>
1/31/2024 13:10 Scott	Carter	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 13:12 Ted	Fulford	North Carolina	I stand in opposition to the proposed shellfish leases #'s 23-001BL/23-002WC & 23-040WC. I believe granting of said leases, when taking into account leases already granted in the area, stand in opposition to NC State public trust doctrine, in that recreational fishermen are being unfairly denied access to fishing grounds they should have equal access to enjoy as everyone else. I fish in these areas and use them regularly and there are already other areas in proximity to these where I cannot fish because of these leases.
1/31/2024 13:17 Mark	Anders	North Carolina	As the co-founder of Ocean Fest, a Surf City-based nonprofit dedicated to preserving our ocean and marine waters, I support responsible, sustainable shellfish farming. I understand the important role shellfish can play in helping keep our coastal waters clean, and I value the rich history of the seafood industry as part of the cultural fabric of the Surf City area. With that in mind, I personally am in favor of the leases of M Conor MACNAIR (23-040WC).
1/31/2024 13:25 Robert	Carr	North Carolina	<p>These are the floating cages that are not only an eye sore but block access to our prime fishing</p> <p>I oppose these specific lease #'s</p> <p>23-404WC</p> <p>23-001BL</p> <p>23-002WC</p>
1/31/2024 13:33 Jesse	Worley	North Carolina	<p>Im opposed as these leases are restricting access to fishing grounds that should be accessible to all who share the water as resource for fishing, oystering etc.</p> <p>I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001bl/23-002wc, and M Connor Macnair 23-040WC . I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.</p>
1/31/2024 13:42 Jason	Simas	North Carolina	<p>Jesse Worley [REDACTED]</p> <p>I am a resident of Surf City NC. I also own Shuckin' Shack Oyster Bar in Surf City NC. I am in support if additional oyster leases in our local waterways. There is NO other creature that can bring the positive results to our waters than the oyster. Not only that they provide a local harvestable item that we can serve at our restaurants. This area is the premier spot to harvest oysters. Our local oystermen have been here for decades. There is more than enough room on the water for commercial fisherman and the tourism focus is the ocean, not the intracoastal waterway.</p>

1/31/2024 13:43	Tad	Thomas	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 13:44	David	Hawkins	North Carolina	Tad Thomas The leases will take away from recreational fishing access to areas commonly fished by our family and friends. With limited area it and procommercial fishing its getting harder and harder to replace lost fishing due to commercial fishing.
1/31/2024 13:51	Christopher	Gates	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 14:07	Greg	Reynolds	North Carolina	"I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. It affects my ability to use the waters involved. I'm an avid boater, kayaker and fisherman. The waters around here and the ability to use them was my reason for making this area my home 27 years ago. Enough is enough.
1/31/2024 14:27	Beverly	Simas	North Carolina	Please approve without reservation new Oyster Farm Leases. The environmental benefits to filling our waters with oysters completely eclipses any minor complaints from a passing boater that oyster farms aren't appealing to look at. The oyster provides industry, sustainable food source, clean water, and a unique economic boost specific to North Carolina. We should celebrate and be grateful for oysters and the environmentalists willing to farm or harvest them. The oyster is a win-win and should be supported. Without oysters, other aquatic recreation is mute. Nobody wants to swim or boat in filthy water.
1/31/2024 14:27	Margaret	Temple	North Carolina	I am writing to object to the following leases: 23-040wc in waters bay and 23-001bl/23-002 in topsail marshes. Protection of these areas is very important from an ecological and aesthetic standpoint, and water column leases are unsightly, obtrusive and prevent boating and fishing. Column leases should not be allowed in populated areas.
1/31/2024 14:34	Ray	Brown	North Carolina	I object to any new water column leases in Pender and Onslow counties since public trust waters are for the use of the entire public with utilization for all, equally. Not reserved for the few. The idea of leasing out an entire water column is against the public trust doctrine that is granted by both state and federal law and has been the law of this country for years and upheld many times including the public versus New Port, RI. Do we have to sue NC over this too?
1/31/2024 14:42	Margaret	Temple	North Carolina	I am writing to object to the following leases: 23-040wc in Waters bay, and 23-001bl/23-002wc in Topsail marshes. Protection of these areas is very important from an ecological and aesthetic standpoint, and water column leases are unsightly and obtrusive and prevent boating and fishing. Column leases should not be allowed in populated areas.
1/31/2024 14:50	Johnathan	Garrett	North Carolina	I am opposed to Lease number 23-040wc. This lease will be very close to a new fishing pier and boat ramp and since this is a water column lease that will completely shut down access to these fishing waters for all recreational and commercial fishermen.
1/31/2024 14:53	Lance	Goodgion	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. There is already an overabundance of these vertical leases in the area.
1/31/2024 15:18	Rober	Pearsall	North Carolina	I oppose leases 23-040w in waters bay and lease number 23-001b/23-002w in topsail marshes. I use these areas regularly to fish and enjoy being in these. This lease will make these areas un accessible to the citizens of North Carolina. Furthermore, the use of hybrid oysters in this lease will be detrimental to the native oyster population
1/31/2024 15:28	Stephen	Blanton	North Carolina	I oppose leases 23-040w in waters bay and lease number 23-001bl/ 23-002wc in topsail marshes. I use these regularly to fish and enjoy being in these areas. A public resource should not be fenced off for commercial interests.
1/31/2024 15:34	Rodney	Jones	North Carolina	I am opposed to any and all new shellfish leases in NC. I have had nothing but unpleasant experiences dealing with specifically those people working for pirates LLC and NC oyster company. Their oyster cages drifted off their lease and jammed up in my boat propeller. Then when I confronted them they told me to get a life. Their leases are an eyesore and a complete disgrace in our waterways
1/31/2024 15:42	Alton	Batts	North Carolina	I support conner McNair. I support oysters in topsail
1/31/2024 15:42	Dennis	Jay	North Carolina	It is already an eye sore the number of leases they have given south of the surf city high bridge. I really takes away property values by destroying the views. I am a Real Estate Broker on the Island and a Majority of the clients are looking for a View, not water with a bunch of plastic pipes sticking up out of it. That is just a small part of it. The loss to recreational fishing far out weighs the ugliness of the leases. I remember drift fishing for Flounder back in the late 60's and early 70's with my uncle Clarence. Good luck doing that now , all the good fishing spots are taken over by plastic pipes and oyster leases. Not sure how they got away with so Many down there but we have the chance to save Waters Bay by stopping this one. No more commercial water column leases should be allowed in Pender or Onslow counties. Just a concerned Local citizen giving my opinion.
1/31/2024 15:47	Greg	Warpole	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 15:50	Leigh	Warpole	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 16:00	Brandon	Ashton	North Carolina	I am writing in opposition to proposed lease locations 23-001BL/23-002WC and 23-040WC. Both proposed locations are in areas frequently used by fisherman and recreational boaters (23-001BL/23-002WC being a prime sandbar location my kids love to play at during lower tides). Leasing these areas would restrict access to fishing and recreational grounds that should be accessible to all, and not one corporation. I have been in favor of previously approved leases, but it is becoming troublesome how many areas are being cut off from public access in the Topsail area. Brandon Ashton Resident of Surf City, NC
1/31/2024 16:05	Matt	Staskelunas	North Carolina	I OPPOSE LEASE 23-040WC
1/31/2024 16:08	Robert	Hilker	North Carolina	This is so advantageous to cleaning our waterways

1/31/2024 16:09	David	Lee	North Carolina	Prop. Lease ID/No. 23-001BL/23-002WC (Pirate Oysters) - I oppose this oyster lease because this is a spot that my family uses frequently for wading and swimming (little kids) that is out of the way of boat traffic. If an oyster lease is approved here, my kids will no longer be able to play here safely.
1/31/2024 16:15	Alan	Lesesky	North Carolina	I strongly disagree for leasing any more oyster farms in the Topsail area . We own a condo in Surf City , NC as rental property for families. Adding more oyster farms in the area reduces the fishing opportunities and will harm our rental business for families to enjoy . Alan Lesesky [REDACTED] Anchors Away Property owner
1/31/2024 16:17	Connie	Williams	North Carolina	I writing to oppose 23-040WC and 23-001BL/23-002WC. I do not fish a lot but these waters are some of my favorite places to fish with my family. Fishing is important to me and keeping our waters clean and devoid of manmade eye sores and obstacles is important to preserving our local resources. These oyster farms will also make these water a navigational hazard and dangerous for people who are unfamiliar with the waters. Furthermore, our area thrives on our fishery and keeping a good population of fish around. These farms will make fishing that much tougher and ruin a pastime that I love and live here for.
1/31/2024 16:18	Mary	Hilker	North Carolina	I support Connor Macnair's NSea Oyster farming!
1/31/2024 16:18	Thomas	Hilker	North Carolina	I support Conor McNair and Nsea oyster co farming
1/31/2024 16:29	John	Calvert	North Carolina	I support lease M Conor MACNAIR 23-040WC and all other local shellfish farmers who want to be a value add to North Carolina's coastal culture and economy. We should all look to support sustainable farming regardless of being land or water bound. Shellfish farmers are a net positive to our local environment and culture.
1/31/2024 16:36	Brian	Hampton	North Carolina	I oppose these shellfish lease #s: 23-404WC 23-001BL 23-002WC
1/31/2024 16:45	David	Sneed	North Carolina	This would take away fishing grounds that everyone should be able to use and not just a corporation. The Coastal Conservation Association North Carolina wholeheartedly supports oyster mariculture but not at the expense of public access. The state has embraced oyster farming as a growth industry on the premise that there are millions of acres of open estuarine waters available for siting leases. The problem is no one wants to put an oyster lease in the middle of the Pamlico Sound - instead it seems they all want to be located in Stump Sound for obvious marketing reasons. This explosion of leases in the Topsail area has begun to choke off access to the fishing public. CCA NC urges the DMF to give serious consideration to the loss of public access guaranteed by the public trust resource doctrine and the state constitution, and work with growers to expand new leases in areas not already over saturated by existing oyster farms.
1/31/2024 16:50	Robert	Mittermeier	North Carolina	Thank you for your consideration.
1/31/2024 16:51	Judy	Parlatore	North Carolina	. "I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters." I am totally against permitting being issued for shellfish farming in front of my property at [REDACTED] My concern in that the value of my property will be affected and recreational fishing by people presently will also be impacted. Thanks Judy B Parlatore, Owner of said property
1/31/2024 17:02	Lee	Temple	North Carolina	These areas are vital to our Fishery and recreational Fisherman. If we continue to allow everyone that applies for a lease, permission, the available fishing waters in this area will be nonexistent. I am requesting protection of these areas, and further denial of these leases in the Pender County. I oppose leases 23-040wc in waters bay and lease number 23-001b/23-002w in topsail marshes. I use these regularly to fish and enjoy being in the natural beauty of these areas
1/31/2024 17:19	grover	plott	North Carolina	This needs to be fixed we pay a lot of money to come to fish and we are told we can keep a 1 or 2 of the fish we pay a lot of money to come down to the coast to catch when the net boat drain the ocean that's not right it needs to be fixed
1/31/2024 17:20	Sharon	McFarland	North Carolina	I would like to convey my hopes that the shellfish lease 23-040WC will be denied. Places for locals to have access to local fishing spots are being taken away little by little.
1/31/2024 17:23	Kenneth	McFarland	North Carolina	I am hoping that shellfish lease 23-040WC be denied. I am a local fisherman finding it harder and harder, whether it's due to development or leases, to find places to fish and kayak. There are enough businesses in the area, have them go somewhere else
1/31/2024 17:24	grover	plott	North Carolina	The shell fish don't need a more than what they have now y'all are giving our coast a bad name because y'all are so greedy you should be ashamed of how greedy y'all are
1/31/2024 17:27	David	Hauser	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 17:42	Jason	Fowler	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.

1/31/2024 17:46	Juliana Foreman	Illinois	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pender County Shellfish leasing. I have several concerns with the proposed shellfish leasing, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our local fisherman are important to the local economy and Topsail tourism. Prior to moving here, I bought seafood from local vendors on trips and it was such an integral part of my experience, and I know many others feel the same. Small business is important to any economy, especially one that started as a small town with few larger corporations present. We need to support our local fisherman, as they have potential to employ our residents and are typically active in our community. - While I understand oysters keep the water clean, we have programs and organizations, like the North Carolina Coastal Federation, who help with oyster cleanup. Given their other work helping our area, it would be a shame to take that area away from those dedicated to our coastline and hand it to those who may not have our coastline's best interest at heart. - Dedicating this area to privatized shelling will take space away from those who enjoy recreational water sports. This is a huge blow to tourists, who help support our economy much of the year. We need people to come here and have a good time on the water with minimal restrictions, so they come back year after year. I also personally enjoy paddle boarding and kayaking along the intracoastal. It is absolutely central to my life in North Carolina. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration</p>
1/31/2024 17:48	Jeannette Ratzlaff	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases: Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish these waters and it will effect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 17:51	Brandon King	North Carolina	<p>I am strongly opposing the following lease numbers due to the problem with these areas becoming unnavigable for boats and having a negative impact on our inshore fishing areas around topsail. The least of my argument is also the fact that these oyster farms are unsightly and we do not need to further commercialize our waters in a negative impact. These leases if granted will impact these areas for years to come and I can't imagine that the commercial oyster gain should outway our use as a community of the waters we live by and use.</p> <p>The leases I'm opposing are as follows-</p> <p>23-404WC 23-001BL 23-002WC</p>
1/31/2024 18:06	Ethan Credle	North Carolina	Every oyster filters many gallons of water a day and is one of the few things that naturally improve water quality . With the amount of development in the region of proposed lease we need all the help we can get to improve the water . Not to mention how many people love oysters and how good they are for you . Please don't let some people who have moved here from out of state prevent a local person from trying to make a living .
1/31/2024 18:08	Jake Orr	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I have grown up fishing these waters, and the precipitous increase in leases over the past several years in the topsoil area is of concerned to me. I feel as though the relatively limited resource we have is been constricted evermore by the growing number of oyster leases in these public waters. Please feel free to call me to discuss the matter at [REDACTED]
1/31/2024 18:16	Mike Hash	North Carolina	I vote no on the proposed shellfish leases in the area of Topsail Island
1/31/2024 18:24	John Redmond	North Carolina	More leasing will shut out the rec and the commercial guys, we will lose it all because over time it will all be leased. All residents have the right to be able to have access to these areas not just one person.
1/31/2024 18:36	LARRY MCCOLLUM	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters."
1/31/2024 18:50	Harold Burton	North Carolina	I oppose these leases. I fish these waters frequently and the high traffic in many area waters makes them essential to my fishing.
1/31/2024 19:01	L ori Stage	North Carolina	As a kayaker and a licensed fisherman, I am vehemently opposed to the granting of 23-002WC and 23-040WC. It infringes on our rights as fisherman and negatively affects the ecosystem.
1/31/2024 19:02	Harold Burton	North Carolina	<p>Re: Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and Conon MacNair 23-004WC</p> <p>I fish these waters frequently and oppose leasing these public trust waters for limited commercial use. Our public waters are already overwhelmed by power boaters and we have very few high quality fishing areas.</p> <p>Harold Burton</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
1/31/2024 19:24	Todd Lemaster	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
1/31/2024 19:28	Lauren P	North Carolina	I oppose lease number 22-040WC because it has live eelgrass and turtle grass.
1/31/2024 19:57	Brittany Karels	North Carolina	I do not support anyone being allowed to have a lease that limits anyone else from using that area. Nor should one entity be able to control those areas for 10 years at a time. There should be a limit to how much area is dedicated to these leases. I will not support any elected official that goes through with the current proposal.
1/31/2024 20:05	Buddy Christy	North Carolina	There seems to be a of these in this area. This is a good place to recreational fish and a nice place to just relax. People paddle board and kayak in that area. You are making less and less places for the people of NC to use the coast. This is not just one person beach. This is everyone in the State of NCs waters. This needs to be looked at very close.
1/31/2024 21:07	Brad Thompson	North Carolina	I've been fishing in those waters for years and don't want to see it completely over run for fishing, kayaking or any other recreational use due to greed and over use of our resources!
1/31/2024 22:25	Cody Faison	North Carolina	I Cody Faison founder and co-owner of Ghost Fleet Oyster Co. support the proposed shellfish leases. The proposed lease 23-040WC will be run by world class oyster farmers who have proven to be an example of exceptional environmental stewardship. The current leases being farmed by MacNair and his crew have more than adequate spacing for all public trust uses. It is a true pleasure to be a neighbor farmer and boater knowing they are working hard to keep public trust waters so clean and healthy. I utilize the waters around the proposed leases both recreationally and commercially, and I find no conflict with the proposals.

1/31/2024 22:52	Ashley Horrell	North Carolina	My name is Ashley E. Horrell and I reside on ██████████ Hampstead NC. Ive lived here my entire life. My family is solely made up of generations of commercial fisherman- We have adapted during the many changes in the commercial fishing industry. The good, the bad and ugly most would say, and many out of our control. I am completely against the addition of " Water Column Amendment 23-040WC in Waters Bay for 10 Acres". There isn't enough data to show how a large farm of that size is going to impact the aquatic ecosystem. Farm raised oysters do not hibernate, they continually feed, they do not produce any spat- granted they do filter the water but then again, so do wild caught oysters. The advantages seem to be slim to none- regulated size, selfish financial gain because they can crop year round... Wild caught oysters are a key component to our natural environment because they create new habitat for other species as well. Oyster reefs serve as barriers to storms and tides, and in some cases help prevent erosion and productive estuary waters. In our local area, what's most alarming is the negative impact we as commercial fishermen are seeing in our wild caught oyster "die off". Upon further research and talking with experts, "oyster farmers" can not guarantee that oyster farms are not depleting wild caught oysters of their nutrients and distorting the aquatic ecosystem. We, as commercial fishermen, are seeing this specifically in Stump Sound where large oyster farms are already present. A 10 acre farm would be devastating to our already dying wild caught harvest, our incomes, and the future of wild caught oysters. I ask that you please deny Water Column Amendment 23-040WC Water Bay for 10 Acres.
1/31/2024 23:28	Taylor Horrell	North Carolina	My name is Taylor Horrell and I'm a full time waterman that works out of the Surf City-Topsail Beach area. I participate in the ██████████ in the proposed area for the water column leases as well have a charter business. I do not approve of these shellfish leases becoming water column leases. Over the past few years we have seen a increase in water column leases in Stump and Topsail sounds. Stump sound is very shallow and a large portion of the deep water has already been taken by water column leases hindering navigation causing safety hazards for recreational and commercial fishermen. These floating cages are not lit and make it extremely dangerous for navigation at night. The new water column leases have all ready taken up much of the sound giving less and less water to gill net, rod and reel fish, and crab that have been going on here for the past century. In the past three years we have seen a major die off in the native wild oysters. To my knowledge there has not been a study on the effects that these foreign farmed raised oysters have on our native wild oysters. I personally believe the farmed raised oysters have something to do with the native oysters dying because of the timeline of when the die off started and the farmed raised oyster fad started in our area. I do not believe it's fair to take the access of these areas from the public for one individuals monetary gain. Please consider denying the proposed leases. Thank you
1/31/2024 23:34	Bryan Edens	North Carolina	I find that the new so called oyster farms out here are not only hideous to look at, but couldn't be safe to eat with all the birds roosting on the oyster baskets at night. Where does the poop go? Also we are starting to run across lost baskets floating around the marshes. It's a shame!!! The finest asset we all have here is the WILD STUMP SOUND OYSTER and you people are willing to give it away for your dollar!! For more than eighty years my family have made our living out there oystering and I have watched all these people destroy it within the last two!! Rethink it!!!!
2/1/2024 7:00	Hayden Mingus	North Carolina	I fully approve of shellfish lease 23-040 MacNair it would be a great addition to the community and provide great resources
2/1/2024 7:15	Madeline Pitsenbarger	Virginia	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 7:16	Sage MacNair	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 7:16	Finn MacNair	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 7:17	Jeremiah Batts	North Carolina	We are opposed to the proposal for a water column lease for several reasons: This will have a negative impact on our natural resources, specifically the native oysters that grow here. They are proposing to introduce genetically-altered seed oysters that are being grown somewhere else. This is detrimental to the existing ecosystem and natural marine life of this area. This is a hazard because the company will be leaving out large equipment in public waters they do not own. These companies are driving out local, original oyster farmers that have been doing this for over 150 years, jeopardizing their livelihood. They are blocking access to public waters that are used for fishing, boating, and other recreational uses. These huge platforms in the water are unnatural and an eyesore to the local homeowners, not to mention the negative impact it will have on their property values. This is just too invasive all the way around. Public waters are not up for private control. Traditional deeded bottom oystering is non-invasive. I oppose leases 23-040w in waters bay and lease number 23-001bl/ 23-002wc in topsail marshes. I use these regularly to fish and enjoy being in these areas. A public resource should not be fenced off for commercial interests.
2/1/2024 7:19	Ken Soles	North Carolina	I do not support approval of leases 23-040 water bay and 23-001bl/23-002wc topsail marshes. I use these water to fish and for boating pleasure. We do not need any more damage to our Pender County marine ecosystem.
2/1/2024 7:24	Romulus McCoy	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 7:27	meagan forbees	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 7:30	Ashley Ayres	Virginia	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 7:37	Shannon Pfannenstien	Virginia	As a graduate from UNCW and having lived for decades in NC and still coming back to vacation in Surf City, there has been such a decline in that area due to tourists and fisherman. Bringing in more oyster farms benefits the waters, not harms them! How you can consider denying this expansion baffles me! I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040
2/1/2024 7:43	Michael Macnair	North Carolina	I support lease application for Macnair 23-040. The MacNairs are great stewards of old landing road which was a dumping ground before their arrival. Their oysters and growing systems are a positive for the environment and science does prove it. They have offered to work with fisherman to adjust where equipment would go and since the bottom lease was widely accepted by all and already approved, this would just enhance what's in the water compared to the past. Any seaside community would be lucky to have the Macnairs and their business in their community and it and they will enhance property values for all. If the town and the fisherman cleaned up the area as much as the MacNairs have we would all be better off. Let the Macnairs work with a few representatives to educate and work together for the win win.

2/1/2024 7:44	Mario Ruiz	Maryland	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 7:46	Elizabeth Dupere	North Carolina	I am a property owner in Surf City and oppose the two oyster leases at this time. There are no environmental studies to indicate the effects of these farms on the natural species within the waters. Second, the waters in and around Surf City are already congested with boating and fishing. Allowing these oyster structures to be installed in these areas will create further congestion and possible negative effects on the wildlife and environment. Please postpone these two leases until more research and community input is obtained. Elizabeth Dupere Property owner President of BW Villas POA
2/1/2024 7:56	John McClung	Virginia	As a property owner in North Carolina in Hertford and currituck my brother being a commercial fisherman in North Carolina, and my uncle having a large fish processing center in Hampton Virginia , and my friends who fish on Tangier Island ,VA and frog Island NC , I am very familiar with the process and the benefits of oysters to the environment of the bays and sounds and some rivers like the James river in virginia where oysters have been under study and research for years and I am In favor of fair and affordable lease program , maybe also by lottery drawing as long as it is fair to the waterman
2/1/2024 7:57	Rachel Hoyt	North Carolina	I am in strong favor of the MacNair 23-040 lease. This family farm has added so much to our community. Everything they do is in consideration of their impact on the environment and how to improve the area they work within. It would be an absolute shame to stop this family farm from bettering our community and environment over misinformation.
2/1/2024 8:00	Jeff Pfannenstein	North Carolina	I am in support of water column release: MacNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 8:01	Ryan Beil	North Carolina	I support the MacNair lease (23-040) as well as all ethical and responsible oyster farms as a means to produce local food, spread awareness about valuable and delicate marine ecosystems, and help ensure the quality of our waterways.
2/1/2024 8:02	Robert Peyton	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters. Please consider this area is beautiful, natural habitat for many fish and should remain undisturbed. Thank you R.P [REDACTED]
2/1/2024 8:11	Laurel Signorello	South Carolina	I am in support of water column lease MacNair 23-040.
2/1/2024 8:15	Erin Owens	Virginia	Oyster farming is good for the economy and good for the environment!!! I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 8:16	Rufus Temple	North Carolina	I am opposed to the granting of water column leases in Water Bay and Topsail marshes. I fish and boat in these areas and these leases with surface cages would impede preclude public access.
2/1/2024 8:20	Allan Turner	North Carolina	I am opposed to the granting of the proposed 10 acre water column lease in Waters Bay in Pender County. I use this area recreationally and it would block my access.
2/1/2024 8:21	Ashley Manley	North Carolina	I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. I fish and use these waters and it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.
2/1/2024 8:23	Erin Miller	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 8:27	Carter Lambeth	North Carolina	I live at Figure 8 Island. The proposed 10 acre water column lease at Waters Bay is much too large and infringes on public recreation. I use this proposed area to fish. Therefore, I would like to register my objection to granting this lease of public property.
2/1/2024 8:28	Meredith Moneymaker	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 32-040. Oysters are great for the environment and for our community.
2/1/2024 8:28	Kim Fisher Fisher	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease : Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment AND the economy
2/1/2024 8:29	Joseph Moneymaker	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 32-040. Oysters are good for the environment and for our community.
2/1/2024 8:29	Katherine Mingus	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 8:29	Taylor Moneymaker	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 32-040. Oysters are good for the environment and for our community.
2/1/2024 8:46	Jacob Batts	North Carolina	I believe that this entire for movement is motivated by money and greed. I also believe that the 2 persons/company are putting a label on it as "providing clean water for the environment" just to get an approval. These people for N.Sea oyster co are from Maryland and I truly believe have no respect for the locals other than to rake in as much money as they can. If you haven't already figured it out yet I'm a local and do not in anyway support anyone trying to exploit the ocean for money. Thank you.
2/1/2024 8:48	Susanne Nelson	North Carolina	I am definitely opposed to this, as should everyone in our state! Leave our pure waters alone. The Topsail area is a beautiful, natural area and it doesn't need to be spoiled by a profit seeking business that doesn't care anything about our environment. Stay away!

2/1/2024 8:50 K	Taylor	North Carolina	<p>I need you to submit public comment to block these shellfish water column leases. This is stuff that we fish all the time and would be detrimental to all of fishing Topsail/Surf City. Please call me if you have any questions</p> <p>.</p> <p>I oppose the following leases; Pirate Oysters 23-001BL/23-002WC and M Conor MacNair 23-040WC. it will affect my ability to use these public trust waters.</p>
2/1/2024 8:51 Hunter 2/1/2024 8:53 Alex 2/1/2024 8:54 Bethany	Fairchild Goertz Walton	Virginia North Carolina Georgia	<p>There's the comment outside of the text to put in</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC. Oysters are good for the environment and the economy!!</p> <p>I am in support of the shellfish leasing! It is important to our coastline and to keep it clean.</p> <p>I am the Executive Director of Oyster South, a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization whose mission is to connect communities and provide resources to support oyster farmers, cultivate thriving communities, promote healthy waters and celebrate good food in the southern United States.</p> <p>Small family-owned sustainable oyster farms help support the local environment and economy to provide jobs for current and future generations. In this way, oyster farmers like the MacNairs positively contribute to the local, regional, and national economy to preserve the culture of working waterfronts and ensuring a way of making a living on the water.</p>
2/1/2024 8:56 Joseph 2/1/2024 8:56 Garrett	Swyer Shaver	North Carolina North Carolina	<p>I approve McNair 23-040 shellfish lease. Shellfish farms is absolutely what we need in this area to clean and help keep clean our water ways in southern NC.</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy</p>
2/1/2024 8:59 Colin 2/1/2024 9:01 Briana 2/1/2024 9:01 Michael	Tracy Salter Hausknecht	North Carolina North Carolina North Carolina	<p>I support water column lease: Macnair 23-040. WC oysters are good for the environment and the economy!</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy!!!</p> <p>I write in opposition to proposed water column lease 23-040WC. My wife and I own property and live in a waterfront home on [REDACTED] almost directly opposite the proposed lease site in Waters Bay. The back of our house faces the water, so we have an unobstructed view east to all of Waters Bay, and behind it, of Topsail Island. It is an absolutely idyllic view and the single most important reason we chose to make our home here. My wife and I often remark how fortunate we are to live here, and how when she first stood on our back deck taking in the view, she decided we needed to make this our home. Now over 10 years later, almost every morning, like this morning, one or both of us are up to watch the sun rise over Topsail Island. The proposed lease site would sit virtually in the middle of our view from the windows and decks at the back of our house. There will be no way to avoid the ugliness and noise of the equipment and facilities that could cover the ten acre area.</p> <p>Waters Bay has a vibrant ecology. There are herons, hawks, Osprey, Bald Eagles and, of course, a variety of gulls and smaller water birds. Almost daily, we see the Osprey and Eagles feeding on the fish that also make Waters Bay their home. The sight of an Osprey or Eagle circling at a height of over 100 feet over the water, spotting its prey and diving into the water to scoop it up, is one you don't soon forget. Adding a large area of equipment, cages, and related facilities to this pristine area will necessarily upset the peace, tranquility, beauty, and ecological balance of this very special place.</p> <p>By virtue of our location, we are aware of the large number of other people who enjoy the natural beauty and bounty of Waters Bay. Whenever it isn't blowing too hard or raining, there are people fishing from shallow draft boats, kayaking, and occasionally paddle boarding in the area that would be covered by the proposed lease. [REDACTED] Road, directly to the south of us, runs into the water on the west side of Waters Bay opposite the proposed lease site. It is an ideal place to park your vehicle and then launch a kayak. Most kayakers head north from [REDACTED] Road (it is much nicer than heading south towards Surf City) and then they circumnavigate Waters Bay. The proposed lease site would make the preferred route impossible, and it would deprive the literally dozens of people we see nearly ever day who kayak in the area of the joy and beauty of doing so.</p> <p>The Mission of NC DEQ is: "Providing science-based environmental stewardship for the health and prosperity of ALL North Carolinians." Consistent with the Agency's obligation to account for the interests of ALL North Carolinians, I respectfully submit that the application for lease 23-040WC must be denied.</p>
2/1/2024 9:03 Melissa 2/1/2024 9:04 Catherine	Baker Beil	North Carolina North Carolina	<p>I am in support of the water column lease.</p> <p>I support the MacNair lease (23-040) as well as all ethical and responsible oyster farms as a means to produce local food, spread awareness about valuable and delicate marine ecosystems, and helping to ensure the quality of our waterways.</p>
2/1/2024 9:10 Renee Maxey	Renee Maxey	North Carolina	<p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.</p>
2/1/2024 9:12 Michael 2/1/2024 9:12 Isabelle 2/1/2024 9:14 Glennie	Barr Picciotti Murvin	Texas North Carolina North Carolina	<p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC. Oysters are good for the environment and the greater North Carolina economy.</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: MacNair 23-040 NC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy</p> <p>I have lease 8403 adjacent to the proposed lease in waters bay pender county. I was told that any new lease must be no less than 250 ft from an existing lease. This will be a new lease and should not be allowed. I also do not want 10 acres of triploid oysters to destroy my spat and all the other natural spat. I have watched his other lease completely wipe out a bay(BC bay) near marker 92. I used to be able to catch 1000 clams per day for a couple of weeks a year in this bat. Now I cannot even catch 50 in 6 hours. There needs to be more research on these oysters before ANY LEASES with them is approved. I strongly disagree with this lease becoming a water column lease due to these factors. The NCDMF rule states the 250 ft rule on new leases to existing. The line is shared on these leases</p>
2/1/2024 9:19 Nathan 2/1/2024 9:20 Kevin 2/1/2024 9:23 Karen 2/1/2024 9:24 Brian Pinsky	Zajac Connor Cole Brian Pinsky	Tennessee North Carolina North Carolina Rhode Island	<p>I support water column lease: Macnair 23-040</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: MacNair 23-040 WC. Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease Macnair 2023-040 WC. Oysters are good for the environment and economy.</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.</p>
2/1/2024 9:27 Christopher	Corbett	North Carolina	<p>I am in support of the water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC. Oysters are great for the environment and the local economy.</p>

2/1/2024 9:30	Natalie Turner	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Mcnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 9:31	Bryan Strothmann	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:32	Sarah Strothmann	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:32	Steven Strothmann	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:32	Mary Anne Strothmann	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:33	Stephen Hilla	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:34	Khang Pham	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:34	Bethany Pham	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:34	Henry Strothmann	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:35	Eloise Strothmann	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:35	Sloane Strothmann	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:35	Jack Strothmann	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:46	Dorothy Mason	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease and support local McNair family for their oyster farms. Have enjoyed watching them grow their business during these past years
2/1/2024 9:47	Casey Glover	North Carolina	I am in support of water lease McNair 23-040.
2/1/2024 9:54	Caroline Gill	Virginia	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 9:55	Jessica Watts	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: MacNair 23-040 WC. As someone who is well versed in the benefits both economically and environmentally of shellfish and oysters specifically, I support this lease.
2/1/2024 9:56	Steve Geracoulis	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and economy.
2/1/2024 9:56	Lem North Carolina	North Carolina	I am in support of the Macnair water lease.
2/1/2024 9:56	Jane Horst	North Carolina	I have lived on the ICW in Scotts Hill for 33 years. "I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 WC"
2/1/2024 9:57	Steve Geracoulis	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and economy
2/1/2024 9:57	Natalie Losko	Florida	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 9:59	Gerald Rhodes	North Carolina	Surf city property owner. Sounds like we need to take pause and identify how many of these leases we have and there locations. Then we can plan them out to better serve both recreational and commercial folks before we get overrun!!!! We have a very narrow waterway here at Surf City..
2/1/2024 10:00	Wesley Wilson	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040
2/1/2024 10:01	Natalie Dwyer	North Carolina	I am in support and acceptance of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and economy. I originally am from Brooklyn, NY and we have undergone the "Billion Oyster Project" and the result has been immense restoration of the polluted NYC waterways contributing to the public health of the such a large population and growth within the economy. USING NATURAL RESOURCES TO RECYCLE & RESTORE NATURAL RESOURCES IS A WIN!
2/1/2024 10:01	H A	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC. Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 10:05	Jeffrey Pfannenstien	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040. Regardless of the fact she's my sister, the product the Macnairs have created through NC oyster company are superior to any other oyster I've tried. Coupled with the development and care they've put into their current leases, the city would be wasting a massive opportunity
2/1/2024 10:08	Arisa Arisa Yoon	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy!
2/1/2024 10:08	Jonathan Kaplan	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040.
2/1/2024 10:09	Sarah Gilbert	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: MacNair 23-040. WC oysters are good for the environment and the economy!
2/1/2024 10:13	Chris Sherman	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC! Oysters are good for the environment, economy, and community!
2/1/2024 10:14	Justin Wolfe	North Carolina	"I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy"
2/1/2024 10:23	Curtis Citarelli	North Carolina	I believe that the shellfish leases should be approved as long as the farmer has a reasonable amount of farm leases already. There should be a maximum number of acreage that they should not be able to exceed and they should be a resident of the county so the county can get the tax dollars on the vehicle and boats being used.
2/1/2024 10:24	Carl Smith	North Carolina	As much as I admire the McNair family and the wonderful oysters they produce, I oppose 23-040 WC. I believe moratoriums should be lifted elsewhere and they go there to farm and not take up recreational waters in Topsail. They say they want to share and find a solution for everyone but the fact is once an oyster farm goes up they are the only ones that can use and profit from that water. Best of luck to them in different waters
2/1/2024 10:29	Joshua Spears	North Carolina	I support this lease and this farm. These shellfish leases are a huge source of our water quality and our local economic growth.
2/1/2024 10:30	Cameron Strapp	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 10:32	Brice Norris	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and economy.
2/1/2024 10:33	Kimberly Harrelson-Pattis	North Carolina	As a homeowner on the ICW in Surf City/Pender, we paid more for this view and recreational area. We pay state/county / city taxes. We paid impact fees when we built and much higher costs for land with water views and access. Why are we being FORCED to share it with businesses to profit off of it?? It's an eye sore. It limits our access, it can be hazardous and easily become environmental waste/storm debris. I am highly opposed to this for several other reasons likely already brought to your attention: 1. This will have a negative impact on our natural resources, specifically the native oysters that grow here. They are proposing to introduce genetically-altered seed oysters that are being grown somewhere else. This is detrimental to the existing ecosystem and natural marine life of this area. 2. This is a hazard because the company will be leaving out large equipment in public waters they do not own. 3. These companies are driving out local, original oyster farmers that have been doing this for over 150 years, jeopardizing their livelihood. 4. They are blocking access to public waters that are used for fishing, boating, and other recreational uses. 5. Too invasive all the way around. Public waters are not up for private control. Traditional deeded bottom oystering is non-invasive. 6. We are already at capacity. Find another area to farm oysters.

2/1/2024 10:33	John	Workman	North Carolina	I am opposed to any more water column leases in Pender and Onslow counties. A natural bed (no cages) bottom lease is the only acceptable lease type moving forward. That will not only help the ecosystem in the area but will not act as a hazard to navigation for the largest section of users (recreational boaters). No more cages, no more floats, no more large areas of unnavigable waters! I oppose proposed lease 23-040WC.
2/1/2024 10:34	Cameron	Kuegel	North Carolina	I attended the public hearing for a proposed water column lease in Surf City last night. The number of places the State of NC is leasing out in our area has really expanded in the last few years. The first one I saw was installed near Fulcher's Landing and is very visible. As a result I did not operate my boat anywhere near the area out of respect for the farmer and concern for my craft. Like any new venture I gave them an open mind and a chance to see how this will shake out. While preparing for public comments I was shocked to see just how many were already allowed, with more proposed in Onslow and Pender County. These water column leases involve gear that runs from the top to the bottom, making the whole area unusable to everyone except the farmer. Historically, for over 100 years, the State has leased out the bottom and that has worked well for all those that use the water. Speakers at last nights event pointed out the State's lack of research into the effects of these water column leases and the practices involved with how these oysters are manipulated while they grow and the effect of the actual gear and how wildlife interacts with it. One speaker pointed out how he sees birds atop some existing gear in use for these farms and the evidence of it's defecations on the same spots, right over these oysters, all the time. I would not want to eat those oysters. The old ways of harvesting them in the winter off the bottom have proven to be a winner for our eco-system. It has worked for over 100 years. Like the States "No Shrimp Trawling on the Weekend Rule", Gathering Oysters in the winter only seemingly keeps only those who live here to be able to harvest. This negates any argument that tourists are collecting oysters. These new water column leases are popping up in abundance near areas that are also seeing rapid growth of dense home developments. They are near water access points that the folks who want to utilize the State's waters for Kayaking, Stand Up paddle boarding, small skiffs, vessels built for those smaller depths. Citizens and Visitors alike both use these safer waters for their recreation away from the marked channel and the traffic those channels incur. Last nights hearing was attended by many Charter Fishermen who use those waters to make a living and no find themselves having to venture further to find fishable waters. These oyster operations have to be continually worked in order for the farms to maximize their profits. The cages are picked up and either tumbled where they sit in the column, or emptied into a tumbler. The tumbling knocks the tips off and grows a fatter oyster instead of a longer one. That constant working, like any disturbance, drives away the fish, birds, crabs, and any other organism accustomed to the still waters these areas have always been. Our area is seeing an explosion of these leases and the gear that accompanies them because of moratoriums put in place but other municipalities. There are none of these on the map behind Emerald Isle for instance. Areas like the Pamlico Sound, a large body of water that could surely accomidate these farms, have very little. These farms make the practice of Oystering seemingly easier than just getting out there when it is the season to collect them. Their allowance by the State in areas near the ramps also gives them an
2/1/2024 10:34	Phoebe	Davidson	North Carolina	We are opposed to the proposal for a water column lease for several reasons: 1. This will have a negative impact on our natural resources, specifically the native oysters that grow here. They are proposing to introduce genetically-altered seed oysters that are being grown somewhere else. This is detrimental to the existing ecosystem and natural marine life of this area. 2. This is a hazard because the company will be leaving out large equipment in public waters they do not own. 3. These companies are driving out local, original oyster farmers that have been doing this for over 150 years, jeopardizing their livelihood. 4. They are blocking access to public waters that are used for fishing, boating, and other recreational uses. 5. These huge platforms in the water are unnatural and an eyesore to the local homeowners, not to mention the negative impact it will have on their property values. 6. This is just too invasive all the way around. Public waters are not up for private control. Traditional deeded bottom oystering is non-invasive. 7. We are already at capacity. Find another area to farm oysters.
2/1/2024 10:35	Skyler	Davidson	Illinois	This is my hometown and I am strongly opposed to the proposal for a water column lease for several reasons: 1. This will have a negative impact on our natural resources, specifically the native oysters that grow here. They are proposing to introduce genetically-altered seed oysters that are being grown somewhere else. This is detrimental to the existing ecosystem and natural marine life of this area. 2. This is a hazard because the company will be leaving out large equipment in public waters they do not own. 3. These companies are driving out local, original oyster farmers that have been doing this for over 150 years, jeopardizing their livelihood. 4. They are blocking access to public waters that are used for fishing, boating, and other recreational uses. 5. These huge platforms in the water are unnatural and an eyesore to the local homeowners, not to mention the negative impact it will have on their property values. 6. This is just too invasive all the way around. Public waters are not up for private control. Traditional deeded bottom oystering is non-invasive. 7. We are already at capacity. Find another area to farm oysters.
2/1/2024 10:40	Chris	Gagliano	North Carolina	I support the water column lease: Macnair 23-040 W/C. They are responsible and valuable farmers for our state. Oysters help the aquatic environment thrive and the economic benefits of this farm reach all across our state and even outside of it.
2/1/2024 10:42	Chris Miller	Chris Miller	North Carolina	I'm in support of water lease: MacNair 23-040 WC
2/1/2024 10:42	Eve	Williams	North Carolina	Oysters are good for the economy and the environment. It is a win-win for all. As a full time resident of Onslow Co. NTB. I strongly oppose the shellfish leases in Onslow and Pender Counties. There are too many already. Spread out over coastal NC. We also have the best natural stump sound oysters!
2/1/2024 10:47	Dannie Nichols	Dannie Nichols	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 10:49	Angela	Wolfe	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 10:50	Larry	Wolfe	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 10:50	Mallory	Jacobus	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC
2/1/2024 10:50	Chris	Lamela	North Carolina	Oysters are good for the environment and the economy! I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy

2/1/2024 10:52	Ashley	molesky	Virginia	I support lease approval for MACNAIR 23-040 wc
2/1/2024 10:54	Justin Tuttle	Justin Tuttle	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC. Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 10:55	Molly	Tuttle	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macbair 23-040 WX. Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 10:56	Michael Kell	Michael Kell	North Carolina	I oppose the lease, it will block local fishing and resources currently available for all to access. MK
2/1/2024 10:59	Rupert	Brown	North Carolina	I am opposed to the 10 acre water column lease in Waters Bay. I use this area at least 4 times a week as a recreational fishermen and family use. I take my kids and grandkids there often to swim, boat and fish. Why are you taking another great area away from the public for your gain. This needs to stop, before we have no where to enjoy what God gave us.
2/1/2024 11:04	Andrew	Stanley	North Carolina	Oysters are great for the environment, cleans up after all y'all's boats!
2/1/2024 11:06	Jacqui	Jarman	North Carolina	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 WC
2/1/2024 11:11	Hayley	Teague	Virginia	I am in support of water column lease: macnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and the economy thanks
2/1/2024 11:11	Joseph	Polanskh	North Carolina	The McNair shellfish lease should go through
2/1/2024 11:14	Gavin	Ezzell	North Carolina	Oysters are good for the water and environment! I support and measure to protect current standards for farms.
2/1/2024 11:18	Gavin	Ezzell	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC, oysters are good for the environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 11:22	Kelaey	Christian	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease:Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for our environment and our economy.
2/1/2024 11:23	Sasoon	Lee	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 11:24	Vincent	Murphy	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040WC. Oysters are good for the environment and economy
2/1/2024 11:27	Brendon	Appel-Hughes	North Carolina	Oysters help clean our water and support a sustainable ecosystem.
2/1/2024 11:27	Rob	Norris	North Carolina	I oppose shellfish leasing in pender and onslow counties. These areas are integral to our tourism, commercial fishing and recreation. This would not be a positive for homeowners and commercial fisherman in the area.
2/1/2024 11:37	Sean	Rice	North Carolina	Please decline further requests for license. I oppose lease 23-040wc and 23-001bl/23-002wc. I grew up fishing and oystering these areas and want my children to be able to access these areas as well. At the rate we are heading too many areas will be inaccessible and overfished.
2/1/2024 11:44	Sandy	Thorpe	North Carolina	I am in favor of the McNair lease
2/1/2024 11:45	Chris Powers	Chris Powers	North Carolina	I support water column leasing!
2/1/2024 11:47	Patricia	Finger	North Carolina	I support lease for MacNair 23-040
2/1/2024 11:51	Meghan	Shaffer	North Carolina	I support lease approval for Macnair 23-040 wc
2/1/2024 11:51	AMY	Chandler	North Carolina	"I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 wc. I believe oyster farming is a sustainable method of food production that also benefits the water quality and provides a regenerative environment for other marine species and protects our vulnerable coastlines from storm damage.
2/1/2024 11:58	Jeanne	Cardinale	South Carolina	I support lease approval for Macnair 23-040
2/1/2024 12:01	Lindsay	Chapman	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040
2/1/2024 12:02	Bryan	Rackley	Georgia	The work the Macnair family is doing economically and ecologically valuable. Their efforts add value to their coastline and the state of NC as a whole.
2/1/2024 12:06	Haleigh	Custer	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040
2/1/2024 12:07	Alan	Cardinale	South Carolina	I support lease approval for MacNair 23-040 we..
2/1/2024 12:08	Joanne	Brown	Kentucky	"I support lease approval for macnair 23-040wc
2/1/2024 12:14	Julia Schramm	Julia Schramm	New Jersey	Shellfish help clean our waterways while providing nutrient dense food and a decent working wage for aquaculture farmers
2/1/2024 12:17	Bailee	Hubert	Virginia	"I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 "
2/1/2024 12:19	Maggie	Hubert	North Carolina	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040
2/1/2024 12:23	Mary	Hilker	North Carolina	I support Conor McNair Nsea oyster projects and keeping our waterways clean
2/1/2024 12:24	Miranda	Hargrove	North Carolina	I support NC farmed shellfish. A new lease means more jobs and cleaner water. With the increase in local development oysters are going to be needed more than ever in the future to help combat all the runoff
2/1/2024 12:27	Yordan	DI PIETRO	Florida	I am in support of water columns lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oyster are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 12:28	Doug	Joyce	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040
2/1/2024 12:35	William	Crummy	North Carolina	Vital to out fishery and recreational fisherman. If we continue to allow everyone that applies for a lease, permission, the waters in this area will be nonexistent. I am requesting protection of these areas, and further denials of these lease in the Pender County area.
2/1/2024 12:42	William	Crummy	North Carolina	I oppose leases 23-23-040wc in the water bay and lease number 23-001bl/ 23-002wc in Topsail Marshes. I use these regularly to fish and enjoy being in these area.
2/1/2024 12:43	Ryan	Belter	North Carolina	In favor of shell fish lease. Home owners, hunters/fisherman, vacationers, and all other interested parties can coexist and share public trust waters.
2/1/2024 12:46	Brendan	Joyce	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040
2/1/2024 12:46	Cole	Argay	North Carolina	I am NOT AT ALL in support of the column lease macnair 23-040 WC oysters.
2/1/2024 12:49	Christopher	Batts	North Carolina	At this point I would oppose the Idea of having such a large lease in one area(#23-040WC) . It seems they are showing up in every body of water from Sneads Ferry to Wilmington. They are effecting our environment, nurseries, estuaries, navigation issues, especially at night, not to mention they are an eyesore. I am not against commercial fishing. Much of my family and many other families have harvested oysters over many generations here with less impact on so many people and neighborhoods, and our way of Life. Let's ask ourselves? How many more leases are being applied for and how many leases are being granted? Where does this end? That is why I am against it.
2/1/2024 12:51	Jim	Gossen	North Carolina	I support lease approval for macnair WC 23-040 .
2/1/2024 12:52	Bonnie	Joyce	Virginia	I support lease approval for McNair 23-040
2/1/2024 12:56	Willa	Hubert	North Carolina	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040

2/1/2024 12:56	Shannon Batts	North Carolina	<p>I would like to oppose the approval of water columns on this lease. The proposed water columns will not only be an eyesore, they will also cause navigational issues throughout that area. Another concern is introducing non-native oysters to this area. Our waters are known for their oysters and I think it would be detrimental to our ecosystem to introduce oysters from other areas, especially when this is unregulated. The non-native species pose potential for bringing in diseases and disease-causing organisms that could affect our current water and species living in them.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Shannon Batts</p>
2/1/2024 13:00 2/1/2024 13:07	Andrea Wilkinson Linzy Walls	North Carolina North Carolina	<p>We need more responsibly farmed local farmers like N Sea growing oysters in our waters.</p> <p>I am in support of the Mcnair oyster lease # 23-040</p>
2/1/2024 13:07 2/1/2024 13:07 2/1/2024 13:09	Stephanie Agosta Thomas Urena Sarah Streyle	Colorado North Carolina North Carolina	<p>Oysters clean our water ways for free (should be getting tax credits) and boost our local economy. No to more development that pollutes our water and yes to oyster farming leases the reverse the damage and help our community. The public needs to be educated on the benefits and also educated on how to stop polluting the waterways.</p> <p>Is there a chance you are making it very difficult for the oyster farmers?</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease Macnair 24-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and economy.</p> <p>I support water column lease: McNair 23-040 WC.</p> <p>Oysters help both the environment and the economy.</p>
2/1/2024 13:15 2/1/2024 13:20 2/1/2024 13:20 2/1/2024 13:21 2/1/2024 13:26	Alexandra Hearne Cody Parrish Christine Stallsworth Peter Stallsworth Brandi Craddock	North Carolina North Carolina North Carolina North Carolina North Carolina	<p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.</p> <p>In Support of Macnair 23-040</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and economy.</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and economy.</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040</p> <p>Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.</p>
2/1/2024 13:28	Melanie Gilbee	North Carolina	<p>We are opposed to the proposal for a water column lease for several reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This will have a negative impact on our natural resources, specifically the native oysters that grow here. They are proposing to introduce genetically-altered seed oysters that are being grown somewhere else. This is detrimental to the existing ecosystem and natural marine life of this area. 2. This is a hazard because the company will be leaving out large equipment in public waters they do not own. 3. These companies are driving out local, original oyster farmers that have been doing this for over 150 years, jeopardizing their livelihood. 4. They are blocking access to public waters that are used for fishing, boating, and other recreational uses. 5. These huge platforms in the water are unnatural and an eyesore to the local homeowners, not to mention the negative impact it will have on their property values. 6. This is just too invasive all the way around. Public waters are not up for private control. Traditional deeded bottom oystering is non-invasive.
2/1/2024 13:32	Carson James	North Carolina	<p>I am in favor of oyster lease Conor Macnair 23-040wc. Oyster farms and their related and tackle are beneficial to the environment and the local economy. Oyster farms are heavily regulated unlike the commercial fishing industry and are key to healthy, clean waterways</p>
2/1/2024 13:36 2/1/2024 13:40 2/1/2024 13:40 2/1/2024 13:53 2/1/2024 13:53 2/1/2024 13:53 2/1/2024 13:57 2/1/2024 14:02	Lori Speight Meghan Backus Toby Hensley Brooke Morris Julia Sullivan Jane Chapman holt Tim McIntyre Patricia Morelli	North Carolina North Carolina North Carolina Georgia Tennessee North Carolina North Carolina Arizona	<p>Please allow these leases to happen! Best oysters ever and good for our area!</p> <p>"I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 "</p> <p>I'm in full support of water column lease MacNair 23-040 WC.</p> <p>I support lease approval for macnair WC 23-040</p> <p>I support lease approval for Macnair WC23-040</p> <p>In support</p> <p>I support our local shellfish farmers, they are a tremendous resource and benefit to our coastal community!!!</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040. Their oysters are phenomenal!</p>
2/1/2024 14:02	Michael Dwyer	North Carolina	<p>I have known Mr. MacNair for several years and know of his existing oyster farming business. He is a very dedicated and responsible businessman and has bought many positive additions to the area. I believe he will bring many more positive results to the area with a grant of his lease. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
2/1/2024 14:09 2/1/2024 14:10	Michelle Pilos Jonathan Buckley	North Carolina North Carolina	<p>I definitely support this lease.</p> <p>Please don't allow companies to take our public waters for the purpose of private interests making a business off of our public lands. These areas are for the NC citizens and visitors. If you allow this it will continue to expand until all of the farmable waters are choked with these businesses gear. Please curtail this now before it gets out of hand.</p>
2/1/2024 14:16	Dylan Green	North Carolina	<p>North Carolinians already are handicapped by enough laws through poor management from the NCDMF when trying to inshore saltwater fish. These waters should be legal for anyone to use and fish. A young family who wants to spend a day on the water with his family should be able to do so without the fear of running over someone's shellfish farm in North Carolina public waters.</p>
2/1/2024 14:17	Nicholas Palczuk	North Carolina	<p>Ms. Smith of the DMF indicates the proposed lease sites would be evaluated for impeding navigation. I hope this also includes personal watercrafts such as kayaks, paddleboards, etc. as these lease areas may present a potential danger for operators, especially young people. These marsh areas can present constricted pathways during low tide.</p> <p>Love the fact that the shellfish will help clean the water column.</p> <p>Thanks for your time.</p>
2/1/2024 14:20 2/1/2024 14:21 2/1/2024 14:22 2/1/2024 14:24 2/1/2024 14:24 2/1/2024 14:25 2/1/2024 14:25 2/1/2024 14:27	Jackie Longley Brigitte Ryan Christopher Ryan Erin Swidorski Julianne Grenn Matthew LaGanke Seth Farley Louisa Lee	North Carolina North Carolina North Carolina North Carolina Virginia Virginia Virginia North Carolina	<p>Support oyster farmers</p> <p>I am in support of column water lease: Macnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and the economy.</p> <p>I am in support of column water lease: Macnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and the economy.</p> <p>I approve of MacNair Water column lease 23-040</p> <p>I support lease approval for macnair WC 23-040</p> <p>I support lease approval for macnair WC 23-040</p> <p>I support lease approval for macnair WC 23-040</p> <p>I support lease approval for macnair WC 23-040</p> <p>I am in support of the shellfish lease</p>

2/1/2024 14:27	Sally Edens	North Carolina	My husband was born off of Old Landing Road in 1947. His family was there way before that. He and his family supported themselves with bottom oystering in leases they got from and paid to the State and fishing. Then after paying leases all of those years their leases were condemned as polluted. If they were polluted then, there is no way with all the new growth in the area it's not polluted now. Makes you wonder. Bottom leases do not prohibit others from using the water above the oyster for travel this system does. Not right to stop the majority for the minority!
2/1/2024 14:29	Robin Brownlow	North Carolina	Help retain local oyster farms!!
2/1/2024 14:29	Carter Lee	North Carolina	I'm in support of Connor McNairs application
2/1/2024 14:34	Chandler Hatch	North Carolina	I approve of the MacNair Water column lease 23-040 for a variety of reasons listed below; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It provides a boost in tourism for the Surf City area and allows for both citizens and tourists to go and learn about the local waters + eat/taste some amazing local dishes. Guests that visit their farm support all sorts of local fishermen and farmers while also educating themselves on the benefits of buying local. 2. It cleans up the water along our coast helping provide clean waters for people to swim in and enjoy. 3. Through the cleaning of the water it helps provide additional habitats for animals in the area. ex: Helps grasses grow that create safe habitats for baby fish, sea turtles, crabs, etc. 4. By creating a safe habitat for animals and clean water for us all it is helping make our area sustainable for fishing and tourism of the future. <p>Any fisherman who isn't pro oyster lease is shortsighted any old thinking of the now instead of the future and longevity of the sport. The argument they are making could also be made against them. If they are arguing that there aren't enough fishing areas for them to fish that is because of the destructive fishing practices that they are using. Why should it be okay for them to go to a trout of drum hole taking 3-4 groups a day loading up on fish and maxing out? How is that what is best for the sport and the species? Honestly the oyster farms may be our only chance and sustainable growth for some of these fish species and give them a fighting chance to grow up and survive.</p>
2/1/2024 14:41	Jeremiah Batts	North Carolina	I am opposing lease #23-040WC because it effects the traditional uses that the waters have been used by our family for generations. I am from a local family that has used these waters for recreational use and our lively hood for many generations. We also have been using this area for Fishing, swimming and enjoying ourselves. This is proposed in waters that will prevent and impare navigation of small boats during the day and night. I have concerns of safety and what may happen with apparatus allowed by our state to be placed in public waters. I am also concerned about the native species that's will be greatly impacted by these boxes and gear placed in marine nurseries of our marine life. For the record I am not opposed to bottom lease's as they are not impactfull and have been working for years. The gear used on bottom lease's are a 5 gal bucket, gloves and nubbing Iron, a stark contrast to boxes and floating objects that are left in the waters for everyone to navigate around. Bottom lease is the current lease and that is the way McNair purchased it. It is the traditional use for that water and should remain that way. Thank you for your considerations.
2/1/2024 14:50	Boris Guerrero	Louisiana	I support lease approval for MacNair WC 23-040
2/1/2024 14:51	Maria Price	North Carolina	Oysters are good for the environment, cleaning up pollution and bacteria from the water in addition to promoting clean industry in NC. PLEASE GRANT LEASES.
2/1/2024 14:55	Ellen MacNair	North Carolina	"I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 wc I attended the public hearing last evening and was disappointed to hear many commercial fishermen opposing. I heard a great deal of bad information that seam to driven by fear rather than factual information. I hope these same people are making the same amount of effort to object to the sprawl of new developments. Where is all the run off going? Oyster farms are what will keep the water clean so the fish will continue to thrive. I believe DMF has access to the correct information regarding the environmental impacts oyster farms bring. https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/aquaculture-supports-sustainable-earth#:~:text=if%20done%20correctly%2C%20aquaculture%20increases,can%20help%20keep%20waterways%20clean.
2/1/2024 14:57	Steve McIntosh Steve McIntosh	North Carolina	I oppose these oyster leased areas. The free flowing water of our state is for everyone to use. Not oyster farmers. Stop the use of netting on the inside waters and no shrimping inside. Take a look at Florida and Louisiana, no netting on the inside. So I am against these oyster leases.
2/1/2024 15:01	Ed Grimes	North Carolina	I have witnessed these oyster farms popping up of the last few years. They are very unsightly (ugly). They also stink at certain times. I mean nauseating. If continued we are going to lose our beautiful inland water. I'm against it. Has to be another way to do it.
2/1/2024 15:02	Molly Mcash	Maine	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC. Oysters are good for the environment and the economy!
2/1/2024 15:06	Tripp Pignetti	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 15:12	Bill Walton	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair WC 23-040. I virtually attended the public hearing and appreciated the opportunity to hear different viewpoints. I am a scientist who has worked with shellfish aquaculture for nearly 30 years, having worked New England, the Gulf Coast and Chesapeake Bay as well as with several shellfish growers in North Carolina. I am not an industry member; rather, I am a marine ecologist who is extremely familiar with shellfish aquaculture and my thoughts below are based on scientific studies and extensive personal experience and observations. Many of the concerns expressed at the hearing are not supported by extensive scientific studies. There are numerous peer-reviewed scientific publications that have documented the environmental benefits of shellfish aquaculture, including the water column leases proposed by the MacNairs. These include benefits to water quality and provision of habitat for numerous species (including fish and juvenile crabs). I have seen no evidence that fish vacate these areas. In fact, in my own experience, using gear similar to what is proposed, I regularly observed fish around this gear and many local charter boat captains came around those farms with the express purpose of fishing. I sincerely expect that, if approved, the fishermen and crabbers in the area would see their catches improve. Beyond the purely environmental net benefit provided by shellfish aquaculture to these waters, I want to emphasize that I have lived in a number of coastal communities now - and they have either become increasingly reliant on tourists and/or retirees or lost the next generation who moves away for better opportunities. Shellfish aquaculture provides a way for coastal communities to provide a way for young families to make a decent living working on the water. It's not the same way as their grandparents but it is still hard work and still requires them to be stewards of the waters. Tourism and retirees are welcome in most communities but the backbone of coastal communities are the hard working people, like the MacNairs, that make a living on the water. I urge you to approve this permit as a step towards saving the environment and culture of the community.
2/1/2024 15:12	Jennifer Hensley	North Carolina	I am commenting as an individual and not as a representative for any institution or organization. I am in support of water column lease MacNair 23-040 WC. Oysters are good for the environment and the economy!

2/1/2024 15:20	Macks	Pickett	North Carolina	
2/1/2024 15:33	Beth	Love	North Carolina	It seems there are starting to be too many leasings that encroach on the fishing waters which I have use over the years being in the Surf City, Topsail, Snead Ferry and Jacksonville area. Even the place in which I fish regularly there are leasings which are scattered everywhere and that has happened in just the last 5 years. I do not agree with all the leasings and the ruining of our fishing areas
2/1/2024 15:35	Allen	F.	North Carolina	I am concerned about introducing genetically modified wildlife because it is a threat to the current ecosystem.
2/1/2024 15:38	Ron	Costella	North Carolina	I oppose this water column lease. If this lease is approved it would directly interfere with commercial fishing operations I've participated in for years around and in this lease. The existing bottom lease has never been an issue and I have no problem with it remaining a bottom lease.
2/1/2024 15:46	David	Batty	North Carolina	I support lease approval for MacNair 23-040 wc Lease# 23-40wc My family and I have enjoyed the old landing and Bob's island for many generations. My father had a deep passion for oystering and shrimp harvesting and he as many others launch their boats from the old landing. He had a bottom oyster lease at the end of old landing road for many years. It had no bearing on the navigation of boaters which can be very tricky due to the depth of water which the this application does. Also I am concerned about the environmental impact of the imported seed oysters being used. I strongly oppose this application in closing if this application is approved where does it end with future leases. David W Batts
2/1/2024 15:52	Kelly Hildebrand	Kelly Hildebrand	North Carolina	Oyster and oyster farmers are important to our community and local economy. We support them!
2/1/2024 15:55	Jennifer	Miranda	North Carolina	I approve of MacNair Water column lease 23-040.
2/1/2024 15:57	Wes	Rider	North Carolina	I feel y'all are moving way to fast on this. Have environmental impact studies been performed? If so have the results been published? Has the data been considered in the process of making a decision? Has anyone looked into how these large commercial leases will affect navigation for recreational and commercial boaters in the area? I am also concerned that people who traditionally were able to harvest wild caught shell fish in the proposed leased area may no longer have access to these areas. Thank you in advance for considering my concerns.
2/1/2024 16:02	Harold	Batts	North Carolina	I am opposed to lease 23-040wc due to increased erosion and loss of use to the Old Landing. It's already been washed away and eroded due to over use. Some users have even blown out holes so they can put in a bigger boat or get theirs closer to shore. My family generations ago built the road and landing to make a living out of the sound. At 76 years old I still use it when I can navigate the sightseers and others that have no clue about the place.
2/1/2024 16:03	James	Hargrove	North Carolina	Supporting these leases is like supporting clean water! It's a no brainer. If you don't support them you should probably move back to where you came from. NC has a rich cultural history of shellfishing and farming and if these leases are denied, a little of that culture dies with it. Shellfish mariculture is the only truly green protein production on the planet. Shellfishing operations filter water and provide habitat for other commercially valuable fish, shrimp, and crabs. They are essentially privately funded artificial reefs that benefit the public and bring revenue to the coast. They sequester nutrients, reduce erosion, and filter algae to allow the sunlight to penetrate deeper, thus helping benthic productivity including seagrass. If you don't support these leases you don't support clean water.
2/1/2024 16:10	Mark	LaCorte	North Carolina	I oppose the lease strongly. I will take away I very viable fishing and recreation area. It is a beautiful stretch of shallow bay with small islands. The natural habit would suffer. It would greatly disrupt the tidal flow and the fish run through that area. It would also impede access to Bats Mill creek and could potentially affect the entrance way with sand flow. Thank you.
2/1/2024 16:10	Sam	Sapienza	Texas	I am in support of water column lease McNair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and economy.
2/1/2024 16:13	Emma	Casey	California	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the economy and the environment.
2/1/2024 16:14	Devin	Patane	North Carolina	I am in favor of the water column lease for Macnair, their farm not only helps the economy but the ecosystem as well
2/1/2024 16:14	Mary	Armstrong	North Carolina	Owning a home and part time residence in NC we look forward to supporting all of the local businesses that we can. I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 16:15	Michael	McGarry	North Carolina	I support the oyster fisherman and their lease.
2/1/2024 16:15	Tom	Armstrong	North Carolina	â€œI am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 16:15	Krystle	Miller	North Carolina	"I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 "
2/1/2024 16:15	Bill	Dupere	North Carolina	
<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>The answer(s) is pretty straight-forward (and not). At what point does the individual right to monetize public lands exceed the rights of all others' rights to access and enjoy those same lands?</p> <p>I acknowledge that the right to access and enjoy public lands is subjective and extends to include physical access for recreational purposes (e.g., kayaking)</p> <p>Furthermore, recreational purposes includes preserving the beauty of our waterways.</p> <p>Yes, we can grow good oysters along the ICW in both Pender and Oslow counties. The Napa Valley of oysters so some say.</p> <p>But at some point enough is enough.</p> <p>And we may well be at the tipping point where rights to oyster farm for a few has exceeded the rights to access and enjoy for the many.</p> <p>For full transparency and acknowledgement, yes I would prefer my unobstructed view of the waterway NOT be interrupted by hard stacks of cages sitting out of the water at ebbing tides. And yes, I would prefer my current rights to kayak off the main ICW channel not be obstructed by cages and the associated trespassing and encroachments of those who hold the oyster farming permits.</p> <p>For the farming rights requested here are well within my sight line and current recreational use.</p> <p>Bill Dupere Surf City, NC</p>				
2/1/2024 16:15	Alexander	Miller	North Carolina	"I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 "
2/1/2024 16:16	Ann	Samuel	North Carolina	Local OBX resident supports small local farmers I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 16:16	Sterling	Miller	North Carolina	"I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 "
2/1/2024 16:16	Stephen	Samuel	North Carolina	Local OBX resident supports small local farmers I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 16:17	Chris	Keyser	North Carolina	Local OBX resident who supports small local farmers I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economy

2/1/2024 16:17	Andrea	Wilkinson	North Carolina	I forgot to include the lease number I support before. Oysters are good for the economy and our environment. I support lease #23-040 WC. N. Sea oysters are the best!
2/1/2024 16:19	Christina	Dodson	Virginia	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 Oysters are good for the environment and the economyâ€œ
2/1/2024 16:19	Allison	Huber	North Carolina	I am in support of column lease â€œMcNair 23-040' WC oysters are great for the environment AND the economy.
2/1/2024 16:22	Casey	Reilly	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease Macnair, 23-040. Water column oysters are good for the environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 16:22	Brad	Barley	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease Macnair 23-040 WC
2/1/2024 16:23	Cheyenne	Church	North Carolina	I am in support of column water lease: Macnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 16:24	Sean	Holt	North Carolina	I support macnair 23-040 oyster farm
2/1/2024 16:24	Joni	Gill	Virginia	This family-owned business is a much needed positive for the area. They are very cognizant of the local environment! I am in support of water column lease: MacNair 23-040. Oysters are ANAZING for the environment!!!
2/1/2024 16:25	Maria	Rimer	North Carolina	100% support the lease!!! We need more oyster farms!
2/1/2024 16:25	Mark	Winneberger	North Carolina	I am in support of the Macnair lease #23-040WC
2/1/2024 16:26	Brandy	Shaver	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy
2/1/2024 16:26	Will	Bridges	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC. Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 16:27	Barbara	Costella	North Carolina	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040 wc...
2/1/2024 16:29	Thomas	Bartolotta	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: MacNair 23â€œ040. WC oysters are good for the environment and community.
2/1/2024 16:35	Rodney	Brown	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: MacNair 23-040 WC.
2/1/2024 16:35	Anthony	Smith	North Carolina	Thank you Please do not grant oyster lease 23-040WC as requested, because this will detrimentally impact the recreational activities in the area and cause water safety issues. Additional studies should be conducted to assess the impact. The state needs to do a better job of communicating to the public.
2/1/2024 16:36	Steve	Wood	North Carolina	Thank you! Vertical lease 23-040wc in this area should be prohibited. The PVC and floating structures take up too much of the area you can navigate in waters bay. I think they are a serious hazard to the public in such a crowded area . Hundreds of people use this area and one person shouldn't deprive the many of this areas use
2/1/2024 16:37	Andrew	Kammerer	North Carolina	Support shellfish lease 23-040 WC.
2/1/2024 16:37	Kelly	Hildebrandt	North Carolina	I am support of Macnair #23-040 WC.
2/1/2024 16:39	Natalie	Rittlinger	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC oysters are good for the environment and economy
2/1/2024 16:41	Kelly	George	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy.
2/1/2024 16:43	Natashia	Williams	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and economy!
2/1/2024 16:45	paige	hoyt	North Carolina	I support the Macnair's and their lease #23-040! They are a great small local company that continues to preserve the ocean life of our community!
2/1/2024 16:46	Colin	Frew	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC
2/1/2024 16:47	Jordan	Lynch	Virginia	OYSTERS SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY! I support lease approval for Macnair WC 23-040
2/1/2024 16:47	Barbara	Wians	North Carolina	"I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy"
2/1/2024 16:47	Gary	Shaver	North Carolina	"I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy"
2/1/2024 16:48	Jull	Shaver	North Carolina	"I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy"
2/1/2024 16:48	Connor	Hunter	North Carolina	"I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy"
2/1/2024 16:48	Phillip	Giles	North Carolina	"I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy"

2/1/2024 16:49	Cadie	Lowe	North Carolina	"I am in support of water column lease: Macnair 23-040 WC Oysters are good for the environment and the economy"
2/1/2024 16:50	Lauren	Ray	North Carolina	I support the water column lease Macnair 23-040WC . Oysters are essential to environment and good for economy
2/1/2024 16:50	Justin	Parr	North Carolina	Please allow #23-040WC lease for N. Sea Oyster company. It will be great for our environment and economy.
2/1/2024 16:51	Dustin	Sanborn	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease Macnair 23-040WC. Oysters are good for the environment and economy.
2/1/2024 16:51	Sheryl	Ray	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease Macnair 23-040WC. Oysters are good for the environment and economy.
2/1/2024 16:52	Lewis	Ray	North Carolina	I am in support of water column lease Macnair 23-040WC. Oysters are good for the environment and economy.
2/1/2024 16:53	Cameron	Garvey	North Carolina	As a chef who uses a lot of farmed oysters almost solely year round from our NC coast. Supporting these leases is not only adding potential for more revenue to our area, but adds the ability to have cleaner waterways to our area as wells. North Carolina has a big history of shell fishing. By supporting these leases we're supporting our history as North Carolinians. At almost every big gathering most North Carolinians have some kind of oyster. Whether it be raw, broiled, steamed, and so on. By supporting these leases it allows us to have more options and abilities to carry on our traditions. To me it's a no-brainer to support these leases; help bring revenue to our area, provide cleaner water ways, and help carry on time honored traditions.
2/1/2024 16:57	Olivia	Hubert	Virginia	I support lease approval for macnair 23-040.
2/1/2024 16:58	Jon	Mclemore	North Carolina	N.sea oyster co
2/1/2024 16:59	Laurie	Junot	North Carolina	I was informed about the commercial column leasing for Lease # 23-040WC and I oppose it. This are is beautiful, the coastal areas are without compare. I enjoy the scenery without disruption to the water. This lease is going to make the 10 acre area unsightly. The boxes that will be on the water not only disrupt the exquisiteness of the area but make boating more difficult. The column oyster farms would impede on recreational use of the area. The boxes will make it difficult if not impossible to use. Please do not approve this lease.