

**Dare County Shellfish Lease Hearing (4/12/23) Online Public Comments**

Created	First Name	Last Name	State/Province	Please type your comments in the box below:
3/13/2023 11:08	Victor	D'Amato	North Carolina	My comment is most specifically directed towards lease number 22-069BL/22-070WC proposed in Blossie Creek. Please be mindful of potential conflicts among user groups. Proposed lease is essentially between the Bodie Island Lighthouse access area and the Oregon Inlet Coast Guard/Fishing Center access area, and is a well traveled area - mostly for boaters but also wade/foot fisherpeople. Given the relatively nearshore location of other potential leases, conflicts with boaters and waders are also possible, although they should be manageable.
4/4/2023 12:14	Josh	Martier	North Carolina	<p>Hello,</p> <p>for the past few years my cousin Johnny and I have been running the Outer Banks premier pop up oyster bar, Cousins'Oysters.</p> <p>We at Cousins Oysters are pleased to support all of these oysters farms up for approval in Dare county. Knowing many of these watermen, Hans, Crew, William, etc we have seen first hand their ability to provide a great product to our community. The most important part of our business is the relationships we've made with local farmers. At its core, oyster farming is one of the most sustainable means of food production that there is. In fact, when farms are run responsibly, studies show, oysters not only cause no harm to the environment but also provide valuable ecosystem services. That's why knowing the waters and the people who work them is so important. The farmers you examine today have always kept this philosophy at the forefront of operations. They have all made sure that the oysters we serve are fresh and harvested with the health of the Pamlico in mind. We're proud to work with these guys and lucky to have them ensuring our waters stay clean and unpolluted.</p> <p>We at Cousins oysters would like to continue to see aquaculture progress in Dare county, to provide regenerative food resources to the people in our county and to strengthen the culture of sustainable shellfish on the Outer Banks.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
4/5/2023 8:12	Danie	Hutch	North Carolina	Cousins oysters is an important thread to our pop up community culture. We love supporting local farming! And they're more tasty!
4/5/2023 16:53	Victoria	Dunmire	North Carolina	<p>I m writing in support of lease renewal and expansion for our friends at Kinnakeet Oyster Co. and the others up for renewal here along with a new lease for a plot with Willam Colwer around Pea Island.</p> <p>Oyster farms are ultimately a good thing for our waterways. The three groups up for examination keep environmental concerns and sustainability at the forefront of operations. These new leases and renewals are good for Outer Banks culture and community as well as the Pamlico and surrounding waterways.</p> <p>Thank you, Victoria Dunmire</p>
4/5/2023 17:01	Sean	Ellis	North Carolina	<p>I m writing in support of lease renewal and expansion for our friends at Kinnakeet Oyster Co. and the others up for renewal here along with a new lease for a plot with Willam Colwer around Pea Island.</p> <p>Oyster farms are ultimately a good thing for our waterways. The three groups up for examination keep environmental concerns and sustainability at the forefront of operations. These new leases and renewals are good for Outer Banks culture, local small business and community as well as the Pamlico and surrounding waterways.</p>
4/7/2023 20:18	Mark and Kathy	Vlanich	North Carolina	<p>We are the owners of a rental property in Island Creek, Avon, NC. Our home caters to renters who participate in a variety of watersports that include windsurfing, kiting, foiling, and fishing. Our location is ideal for such activities and provides a vital piece of the local economy.</p> <p>We are extremely concerned that the leases for a proposed oyster farm (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) do not consider the amount of recreational use the area receives and the resulting hazards if such leases were to be approved.</p> <p>The proposed leases (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) encompass an area that is the perfect location for watersports and provides us with steady income from our rental home. Additionally, the draw of this location for watersports provides the local businesses with an influx of customers; many of the local businesses survive on the local tourism industry. By allowing the formation of an oyster farm in the very close proximity to the Avon community, local businesses are also at risk of losing customers and income.</p> <p>The area in question is used by locals and tourists as it is located directly in front of several Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area public access point. These include ORV Beach Access numbers 54 and 53, and the areas near Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station. This is area is so popular with windsurfers and kite boarders that we have renters who travel from around the globe to take advantage of the safe, shallow water we enjoy directly behind our property.</p> <p>An oyster farm and its contents would create dangerous obstacles for both beginners and seasoned water sports enthusiasts and we are against the proposed leases. The location of this proposed oyster farm will negatively impact the local community on many levels and we urge you to deny this permit request.</p> <p>The Pamlico Sound is a large body of water, and we believe a different location can be chosen that does not have such a direct impact on the area currently proposed.</p>
4/7/2023 21:15	Jerrold	Hooper	North Carolina	As a homeowner in Avon, NC, I would like to state my objections to the expansion of the oyster farm (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) in the direction that has a direct impact on the Town of Avon, its residents, and vacationers. The area is known worldwide for its watersports. This vacationing paradise provides tax revenue to maintain and promote the success of the town, area residents, and businesses. The dangers associated with the expansion of the oyster farm toward Avon and the areas used for the water sports far out way the benefits.

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4/9/2023 8:14	Susan	Byram	North Carolina	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>We own a home in the Island Creek neighborhood that we rent out for a portion of the year. For decades, guests have been renting homes in our neighborhood to use this area for kiting, fishing, windsurfing, and sailing.</p> <p>It has come to our attention that there are proposed oyster farm leases (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC), which will significantly impact recreational use by our homeowners and/or their guests that spend their leisure time kite boarding and windsurfing.</p> <p>The proposed leases (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) encompass an area that is ideal for watersports due to the steady winds, the shallow, sandy bottom, and overall safe environment. The area gets a lot of use from locals and tourists as it is located directly in front of Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area public access points known as ORV Beach Access numbers 54 and 53, at or near Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station.</p> <p>An oyster farm and its contents represent treacherous obstacles that would soon turn away even the most seasoned enthusiasts.</p> <p>As we understand, the area selected for the proposed lease was not based on any material or scientific facts that would ensure the success of the oyster farm, but of convenience to the operator. The Pamlico Sound is a large body of water. We, respectfully, request that another location is considered and chosen that does not have such a direct impact on the property owners of Island Creek, their livelihoods, and their enjoyment of this precious resource. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
4/10/2023 0:27	Todd	Campbell	Virginia	<p>This letter serves as a formal expression of my deep concern regarding the proposed establishment of an oyster farm in our community (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC). Although I recognize the economic benefits that may result from such a project, I cannot ignore the potential threats it may pose to windsurfers.</p> <p>Windsurfing is a popular activity in our area, drawing enthusiasts from various locations. However, the presence of an oyster farm in the same waters may have catastrophic consequences. Oyster farming utilizes cages and ropes that can be perilous to windsurfers. These obstacles may become entangled with their sails and fins, resulting in accidents and injuries.</p> <p>Additionally, windsurfers heavily depend on wind currents to propel themselves, and oyster farms can interrupt the natural flow of air currents. This interference may create hazardous eddies and currents, jeopardizing the safety of windsurfers.</p> <p>I strongly believe that establishing an oyster farm in our community is not worth jeopardizing the safety of our windsurfing community. As responsible members of society, we have a duty to ensure that our recreational activities are safe and accessible to all. Thus, I implore you to reconsider the proposal and explore alternative locations for the oyster farm.</p>
4/10/2023 8:44	Nicole	Vlanich	North Carolina	<p>My parents and I are the owners of a rental property in Island Creek, Avon, NC. Our home caters to renters who participate in a variety of watersports that include windsurfing, kiting, foiling, and fishing. Our location is ideal for such activities and provides a vital piece of the local economy.</p> <p>We are extremely concerned that the leases for a proposed oyster farm (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) do not consider the amount of recreational use the area receives and the resulting safety hazards if such leases were to be approved.</p> <p>The proposed leases (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) encompass an area that is the perfect location for watersports and provides us with steady income from our rental home. The extremely close proximity to our properties, about half mile, does not make sense when there are large stretches of the outer banks that contain no residential properties. We understand the need and benefits of oyster farming but find the proposed location to be negligent to the safety and economic value that water sports bring to our community.</p> <p>Additionally, the draw of this location for watersports provides the local businesses with an influx of customers; many of the local businesses survive on the local tourism industry. By allowing the formation of an oyster farm in the very close proximity to the Avon community, local businesses are also at risk of losing customers and income. The location of this proposed oyster farm will negatively impact the local community on many levels and we urge you to deny this permit request.</p> <p>The area in question is used by locals and tourists as it is located directly in front of several Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area public access point. These include ORV Beach Access numbers 54 and 53, and the areas near Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station. This is area is so popular with windsurfers and kite boarders that we have renters who travel from around the globe to take advantage of the safe, shallow water we enjoy directly behind our property.</p> <p>Again, an oyster farm and its contents would create dangerous obstacles for both beginners and seasoned water sports enthusiasts and we are against the proposed leases.</p> <p>The Pamlico Sound is a large body of water, and we believe a different location can be chosen that does not have such a direct impact on the area currently proposed.</p>

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4/10/2023 9:27	Ben	Browndorf	North Carolina	<p>We are owners of a rental property in Island Creek, Avon, NC. Our home caters to renters who participate in a variety of watersports that include windsurfing, kiting, foiling, and fishing. Our location is ideal for such activities and provides a vital piece of the local economy.</p> <p>We are extremely concerned that the leases for a proposed oyster farm (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) do not consider the amount of recreational use the area receives and the resulting safety hazards if such leases were to be approved.</p> <p>The proposed leases (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) encompass an area that is the perfect location for watersports and provides us with steady income from our rental home. The extremely close proximity to our properties, about half mile, does not make sense when there are large stretches of the outer banks that contain no residential properties. We understand the need and benefits of oyster farming but find the proposed location to be negligent to the safety and economic value that water sports bring to our community.</p> <p>Additionally, the draw of this location for watersports provides the local businesses with an influx of customers; many of the local businesses survive on the local tourism industry. By allowing the formation of an oyster farm in the very close proximity to the Avon community, local businesses are also at risk of losing customers and income. The location of this proposed oyster farm will negatively impact the local community on many levels and we urge you to deny this permit request.</p> <p>The area in question is used by locals and tourists as it is located directly in front of several Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area public access point. These include ORV Beach Access numbers 54 and 53, and the areas near Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station. This is area is so popular with windsurfers and kite boarders that we have renters who travel from around the globe to take advantage of the safe, shallow water we enjoy directly behind our property.</p> <p>Again, an oyster farm and its contents would create dangerous obstacles for both beginners and seasoned water sports enthusiasts and we are against the proposed leases.</p> <p>The Pamlico Sound is a large body of water, and we believe a different location can be chosen that does not have such a direct impact on the area currently proposed.</p>
4/10/2023 21:20	Michael	Muhlbaier	North Carolina	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I own [REDACTED], Avon, which is one of the closest houses to the proposed oyster farms (leases 21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC). I personally am excited to learn to kiteboard but am very concerned by the hazard this will impose on me and the thousands of others who enjoy this part of the island which is uniquely well suited for wind sports. I wish the Oyster farmers all the best and request that you modify the leases to an area not currently under heavy use by wind sport enthusiasts, perhaps 1/2 mile north or so of the proposed location.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of those who currently enjoy this area and those who want to enjoy it for years to come.</p> <p>Thank you, Michael Muhlbaier Island Storm - Owner [REDACTED]</p>
4/11/2023 11:50	William	Tate	North Carolina	<p>I am writing to support the shellfish leases in Dare County. Shellfish harvesting has provided a vital source of income for watermen in Dare County for decades. It s a non-invasive use of marine resources that involves minimal disturbance to surrounding nearby residential and business uses. Shell fishing provides massive benefits to the local economy while at the same time promoting an industry that helps purify water quality. I wholeheartedly support approval of these shellfish leases.</p>
4/11/2023 11:53	courtney	whitehead	North Carolina	<p>I am in favor of the shellfish leases. This is a growing industry and should be fully supported.</p>
4/11/2023 11:59	Michael	Green	North Carolina	<p>I feel that this is a amazing opportunity to have more jobs created, the sustainability that it promotes, and the top notch oyster that Kinnakeet Oyster Company produce. I am a local/native to Avon, NC and fully support these guys.</p>
4/11/2023 12:05	Andrew	Throne	North Carolina	<p>wonderful idea to have fresh oysters from our local waters year round! Great for the local economy and keeping the tradition of commercial fishing going in Dare county</p>
4/11/2023 12:11	Bruce	Miller	North Carolina	<p>Kinnakeet oyster Company does a great job with their oysters. They are fresh and delicious they also take care of their retail space. They have many loyal customers.</p>
4/11/2023 12:15	Stuart	Taylor	North Carolina	<p>I am in favor of the proposed oyster lease and see no issue where the lease is proposed to be , I use the water ways daily to run inshore charters and the area is a sand flat that holds no fish and is far enough north of town as to not impede in other recreational activities . I grew up on the lynhaven river in Virginia and have seen how oyster and clams were used to fix water quality issues , now you can harvest shellfish there . We have a perfect area for a marketable oyster farm to all the restautants and tourism industry here locally. Thank you</p>
4/11/2023 12:24	Carli	Halleran	North Carolina	<p>I support this!</p>
4/11/2023 12:30	Jason	Gerland	North Carolina	<p>This is a great thing help keep the Pamlico Sound clean and help the ecosystem I am all for this. I use this waterway daily and I am ok with this lease.</p>
4/11/2023 12:33	Michael	Enfinger	North Carolina	<p>This will provide income other than gill netting. Better water quality. Better fishing for the recreational fishermen.</p>
4/11/2023 12:40	Harris	Mcmurry	North Carolina	<p>I am in favor of the oyster project north Avon. I am a ver y active rec comm fish and crabbing in the area and it will not bother me. Harris</p>
4/11/2023 12:50	James	Wooten	North Carolina	<p>I would like to express my full support to the proposed Kinnakeet Oyster Co leases. Knowing the owner operators to be excellent people with a strong sense of community and environmental stewardship. The proposed leases will help the local economy, cuisine-based tourism, water quality, and is supportive of sustainable fisheries and mariculture. Please consider this a comment of support for Kinnakeet s proposed lease. Thank you, James Wooten Nags Head NC</p>
4/11/2023 12:54	Laura	Miller	North Carolina	<p>I wish to leave comment in support of the lease for Crew Hayes and Tyler Hofe. These two men have proven to be exceptional in their business and bring significance to the shellfish community. Oyster fields support clean water ecosystems in the sound and will also benefit the local economy in the process. I give full support to this lease.</p>
4/11/2023 12:54	Wesley	Wage	North Carolina	<p>Please allow the Farming of oysters and other shellfish on the Outer Banks. It is a perfect environment and a great additional income for struggling fisherman</p>
4/11/2023 13:00	Taylor	Schultz	North Carolina	<p>I support kinnakeet oyster company in their application for a new lease! Tyler and Crew deserve this! Two of the hardest working guys I know and we all loveeee their oysters!!!</p>

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4/11/2023 13:01	Chad	Cowles	West Virginia	As a homeowner in Avon, NC and personally knowing the owners/operators of Kinnakeet Oyster company, I believe that they will treat the water, land and community with the respect they all deserve. Truly a local business built from the ground up that will thrive because of their willingness to give back to the community that has given them so much.
4/11/2023 13:11	Mel	Shaffer	Florida	I fully support the Dare County Shellfish lease. It is good to see the shallow sound utilized to support local commercial activity and also provide excellent quality shellfish products to the consumer community. This endeavor is beneficial to Hatteras Island and should be approved. Thank you
4/11/2023 13:17	Susana	Sanchez Leyva	North Carolina	"I would like to leave comment in support of the oyster lease for Crew Hayes and Tyler Hofe. These men have brought significance to the shellfish community and business since they have opened. Oyster fields are a major part of the ecosystem for the sound, as oysters benefit clean water ecosystems as well as the business supports the local economy. I am in full support of the lease for Crew Hayes and Tyler Hofe."
4/11/2023 14:05	Monica	Knaggs	Maryland	in support of Kinnakeet oyster company s new proposed lease locations !
4/11/2023 15:27	Andy	Trant	North Carolina	I am in favor of and support the proposed lease for Kinnakeet Oyster Co. in Avon.
4/11/2023 15:31	Jimmy	Pitetti	North Carolina	100% in favor of Crew Hayes leasing new oyster bed they have a top notch operation
4/11/2023 15:44	David	Sullivan	North Carolina	I am writing on behalf of kinakeet oyster co. I had the pleasure of touring their facilities in November of last year. They do things the right way in order to sustain the oyster fishery. I would also mention that they grow one of the tastiest oysters I have ever put in my mouth. They should definitely be considered for additional lease as well as maintaining their current
4/11/2023 15:49	Paul	J	North Carolina	I want to express my support for the Kinnakeet Oyster Company, LLC's proposed lease. Having spent a significant amount of time in the area I know the expansion of their business will be tremendous for the local economy and will aid in the environmental sustainability of the sound. I'm aware that there's been some opposition due to the potential interference with kiteboarding but admittedly this concern is unfounded... there is TONS of open water for kiteboarding in this immediate area and this lease will take up such a tiny fraction of space that the benefits would vastly outweigh the impact on the kiteboarding community. We should be supporting our local entrepreneurial community, especially if the business also has a positive environmental impact.
4/11/2023 16:06	Patty	Hayes	Utah	We enjoyed the most fantastic oysters during our visit to the Outer Banks. They were farmed from a lease by Kinnakeet Oyster Company. The oysters were far superior to any we ve had in our extensive travels around the US. I think it s fantastic that you are creating an industry other than tourism stores and one that your area can be very proud of. Thank you! Patty Hayes
4/11/2023 16:18	Tracey	Hanburger	North Carolina	We have loved having oysters for sale right in Our own harbor. Tyler runs a safe and clean oyster farm . We have gotten oysters from him numerous times and they have always been delicious.
4/11/2023 16:26	Richard	Anzolut Jr	North Carolina	As an individual and duly appointed representative of the Avon Property Owners Association (APOA), I write to support the proposed shellfish lease application. Kinnakeet Oyster Co. has proven itself to be a responsible aquaculture business through its existing lease and is a fine example of a local start-up advancing the seafood industry in our community. Their reuse of existing seafood facilities has contributed to the village adding an attraction to our harbor area. In addition, their proposed lease includes an area that is ideal for aquaculture operation. It will not influence recreational fishing and should not hinder commercial fishing since the area is not ideal for angling or netting operations. As a daily Sound fisherman that area is of no interest to me due to the absence of grass beds and structure to hold fish. It is easy to navigate away from the lease area and should not influence any other navigation. Paddle sport and kiting operations and participation can work around the proposed lease site with plenty of prime locations available to them. Other easily accessible sound side ramps exist if kiteboarding participants want sound side set up areas. The advancement of aquaculture should be a priority for the County and the APOA supports that priority. Supporting all sustainable seafood operations should be everyone's priority. Thank you.
4/11/2023 16:30	Jeffrey	Aiken	North Carolina	I would like to endorse Mr. Crew Hayes of Avon North Carolina as a reputable and considerate citizen of the outer banks. My family and myself fully support your approval for the usher lease he has applied for. Thank you very much if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED]
4/11/2023 17:05	Kat	Carolan	North Carolina	We are in favor of the expansion of Kinnakeet Oyster company. They have established a sustainable farm that not only provides a local product but also providing our community with employment opportunities.
4/11/2023 17:33	KD	Jackson	North Carolina	As a local of Hatteras island I am all for using the resources we have here to help make a living and get our local shellfish out to the public as much as possible and have no objection to adding more shellfish/oysters farms. This would only benefit the good of the local seafood industry and furthermore promotes the good quality that Hatteras seafood/shellfish already has. So again I am for this idea and the location of the shellfish farm is far enough away from anyone who wishes to complain as there is plenty of sound real estate out in the sound for this and kitesurfing, windsurfing, kayaking, fishing etc.Thanks
4/11/2023 18:30	Jeff	Walters	North Carolina	I am in full support for oyster lease for Tyler Hofe and Crew Hayes and Jeff Hayes they are 3 outstanding men and have a vital business in Avon North Carolina .We need NC watermen and the oyster industry helps clean our Pamlico Sound waters Thank You
4/11/2023 18:59	Marta	Martinez	North Carolina	I am all in for local, responsible growth in the commercial fishing/shellfish industry. It is a win win situation for tourism, restaurants, and the ability for locals to earn a fair wage harvesting oysters and fish.
4/11/2023 19:20	Richard	Augustson	North Carolina	I support the Kinnakeet Oyster Company in any endeavor they try. North Carolina needs every square inch of oyster ground it has to be managed by people like Crew, Tyler, Chandler, and Morgan. They are constantly working on improving their current lease, which ends up improving water quality, generating/contributing to the local economy, and providing a great food source. This island needs a better balance between the resort image it has and the cultural heritage it once represented . Another lease would be beneficial to the whole community.

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4/11/2023 19:36	Andrew	Tawes	North Carolina	<p>I realize that water sports are a big attraction and bring big tax dollars. All of these rentals have drain fields which leach bacteria in the water. Our native oyster population has been reduced by 90 percent over the last century. We had so many wild oysters in the early 1900 s that they filtered the entire volume of the Pamlico Sound, daily! This oyster farm does multiple beneficial things for Dare County. Kinnakeete Oyster company provides jobs to locals and keeps our maritime heritage alive for 1 more generation. The farm raised oysters do not compete with our native oysters. These same farm raised oysters are prized around the world as a delicacy. The same water sports enthusiasts that would have no oyster farms or fishing nets in Pamlico Sound, spend top dollar to eat said oysters. Kinnakeete oyster company provides sustainable grown NC Seafood to our visitors and locals alike. The uniform size, consistent quality, and saltiness make these oysters ideal for restaurant and home cooking. The protein provided by theses farm raised oysters takes a lot of pressure of our wild oyster population. As a sailor, I understand that wind and currents put you in areas that you would rather not be in. That said, I have a lot more control over a much larger area of the Sound for sailing and boating when compared to commercial watermen. The watermen are trying to provide for their families with no guarantee of a paycheck. They have to deal with tides, currents, storms, poor water quality issues, parasites and more. Their is plenty of room on the water for everyone. Kinnakeete oyster company has been a constant improver of the ecology, economy, quality of life, for Hatteras Island, Dare County, and NC since it s inception The Kinnakeete Oyster Company has found a way to preserve of a way of life that is endangered on the Outer Banks and is very precious to many. The positive impact created by this Company out weigh s any negative impact that may be perceived by tenfold. Our community is so proud of the resurgence of a waterman s way of life and all that way of entails. Losing this company would hasten the degradation of our water quality, erosion, ecosystem, economy and a cultural heritage, which we can not afford to lose. Kinnakeete Oyster company gives back to the community in multiple ways outside of its scope of business. I could go on and on. Bottom line is that we are a better place since Kinnakeete Oyster company was founded. I don t want to see our community go backwards. Kinnakeete oyster company helps preserve pristine coast line and helps to repair areas of the ecosystem that have been impacted negatively by the high volume of visitors. We need more companies like this one, in order to keep our island, county, and state a world renowned destination for its natural resources, beauty, bounty, and heritage. Please keep Kinnakeete Oyster company. It would be a tragedy to lose such a high value contributor to our outstanding quality of life.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Andrew Tawes  <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> Buxton, NC  Cape Hatteras alumni</p>
4/11/2023 19:36	Adriel	Gray	North Carolina	<p>In favor/supporting/approve of Kinnakeet Oyster Company LLCs requested lease. Beneficial in many ways and to name just a few, local business, boosting economy, job opportunities, sustainable, water quality improvement/environmental improvement.</p> <p><b>Helping keep a local heritage of harvesting seafood and commercial fishing alive!</b></p>
4/11/2023 20:13	Anthony	Fletcher	North Carolina	<p>I fully support the additional lease of sound floor to the kinnakeet oyster company. They are providing a great resource to the local restaurants and local population. Additionally the restoration of oysters to the pamlico sound is excellent for the overall health of the sound as well as a possible source of spat for "wild" oysters. I see nothing but benefits for the area</p>
4/11/2023 20:46	Robin and Mark	Ames and O'Neal	North Carolina	<p>As residents of Kinnakeet we are delighted that Kinnakeet Oyster Co. has brought the Avon Harbor back to life. Tyler and Crew are hard working young men and real assets to our community. We wholeheartedly support their application. And their oysters are delicious!</p> <p>Robin Ames and Mark O'Neal  <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> Avon NC</p>
4/11/2023 21:04	John Patrick	Riley	North Carolina	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>I am an Avon resident, live sound side in sight of the Kinnakeet Oyster Company lease area. I also work as a Charter Captain operating out of Avon Harbor. I've been aware of the shell fish lease granted to the Kinnakeet Oyster Company since it's inception in 2021. I think it is a fantastic, professional operation and support it whole heartedly. From personal conversations with the operator I know that they are well versed in the biology and ecology of operating a shellfish lease, and care greatly about the local environment. They are heavily invested in the community, enjoy educating their customers on the operation, and go out of their way to provide an exceptional product. The ability to expand their operation to include a new lease would only increase the level of awareness of what Hatteras Island in general and Avon in particular can provide to the dinner tables of locals and visitors alike.</p> <p>As small time commercial fishery operators fall by the way side we need to make sure that we support our local commercial operations. I'm excited to see the rejuvenation that the Kinnakeet Oyster Company has brought to the village of Avon and Avon Harbor. This is what coastal North Carolina was built on and we should be doing all we can to keep the tradition alive.</p> <p>Let us all support local, sustainable fisheries, and make the great seafood that comes from Pamlico Sound more readily available to the public. I support the new lease area for the Kinnakeet Oyster Company and so should you.</p> <p>Kind Regards,  John Patrick Riley  B.Sc. Geology/Oceanography  USCG Captain, OUPV</p>
4/11/2023 21:05	Chuck	Nichols	Virginia	<p>This message is to voice my support for Tyler Hofe &amp; Crew Hayes with Kinnakeet Oyster Company s oyster lease.</p>
4/11/2023 21:09	Kenrick	Albaugh	North Carolina	<p>Kinnakeet Oyster company is being operated by a great group of professionals. I have seen them operate thier existing oyster beds with great care for the environment and with hard work to produce the best oysters for hundreds of miles around.</p>
4/11/2023 21:13	Meekins Sr	Anthony	North Carolina	<p>I support this project.</p>
4/11/2023 21:26	Charles	Benson	North Carolina	<p>I have a home at <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span> in Avon. Kinnakeet Oyster Company is located less than a mile from my house. The oyster farm is visible from my house as well. These guys are always respectful to our water ways as well as to those of us on the water for other recreational purposes. These oysters also play a role in naturally keeping our waterways clean. Kinnakeet oysters are always a highlight to my family and friends when we are in town. I love taking my family and friends to the top deck to point out the oyster farm. And then drive down to get oysters from that very farm for dinner that night. I hope to see Kinnakeet Oyster Co. continue to be a thriving local business in the future.</p>
4/11/2023 21:49	Charis	Armstrong	Tennessee	<p>Writing in for shellfish lease of Kinnakeet Oyster Company LLC. These folks are local islanders who truly care about their community, the water, &amp; their product. They are environmentally minded, caring for &amp; preserving clean water. They sell great oysters.</p>

**Dare County Shellfish Lease Hearing (4/12/23) Online Public Comments**

Created	First Name	Last Name	State/Province	Please type your comments in the box below:
4/11/2023 22:22	Thomas	Hooper	North Carolina	I am in favor of and support the new oyster lease.
4/11/2023 22:28	Dickie	Ashe	North Carolina	I think the more local seafood we can provide for our local economy the better. I just saw where Hatteras Island is the number 2 beach for vacations in the continental US. So I say we need to push local as much as possible. It s a great opportunity for young people on the island. I am all for it and see no down side whatsoever. <u>Dickie Ashe</u>
4/11/2023 22:43	David	Butrym	North Carolina	I am wholeheartedly in favor of additional shellfish leases in the Pamlico sound. Particularly in the regions from the Tri Villages south. As a resident of Avon , I have witnessed the development and growth of the Kinnakeet Oyster Company first hand. I consider it a boon to the local economy. Through their efforts they are producing some of the best quality oysters available. As far as I am concerned, additional leases would be a win win for the community as a whole.
4/12/2023 0:33	Jim	Stokes	North Carolina	I am totally in favor of the new / additional oyster farm for many reasons; - i like fresh oysters - I support local enterprises - oysters are beneficial to the environment - I love the waterman way of life  And we personally know both partners who make up The Kinnakeet Oyster Co and they are both married hard working people and a huge plus to the community. I truly wish we could attract more people like them. And my wife and myself are full time residents here in Avon and we live on the sound within a quarter mile of Avon Harbor.
4/12/2023 7 04	John	Fay	North Carolina	Kinnakeet Oyster Co. Has done a great job environmentally on providing a quality North Carolina Seafood product. Keeping alive a tradition that has existed in Avon for generations. <u>They have my full support.</u>
4/12/2023 7 06	Chris	Hanburger	North Carolina	As a resident of Avon and avid kiteboarder that spends a good amount of time in the sound, I'm writing to express support for these leases. Based on research from NOAA having additional areas dedicated to these farms will provide a great deal of benefits to the water quality and surrounding ecosystem. Ensuring that these "farms" are managed properly and placed in designated plots feels like the proper approach. While these will obviously create new structures that will need to be avoided by waterman, we have an abundance of areas to participate in our activities and the benefits outweigh any inconvenience. Also, these leases will support families (not major corporations) that are tied to the operations, create opportunities for local residents, provide additional awareness of our islands rich seafood history and generate tax revenue. These all seem like very good things for the local economy. <u>Thank you for considering these leases and for allowing these public comments.</u>
4/12/2023 7:26	Barry	Crum	North Carolina	I believe this type of activity is vital to the survival of our community on Hatteras Island and as a whole in our county in general. I applaud these young entrepreneurs for their efforts and I pray that every regulatory body support their efforts.
4/12/2023 7:38	Cathy	Armstrong	Ohio	Martin C. Hayes cares about the island, clean water, the environment and the island inhabitants. He wants to provide a quality product and to create jobs. He is an honest, ethical man, and I hope you will approve his application.
4/12/2023 7:43	Charles	Armstrong	Ohio	Martin C. Hayes is an ethical man who cares about clean water, the island and its environment. He wants to provide a quality product and to create jobs.
4/12/2023 8:26	KJ	Ellington	North Carolina	I am in support of approving the leases. My support is based on 2 main reasons. First is the need for a variety of entrepreneurial endeavors on Hatteras Island. Our local economy needs diversity. Secondly, the historical relevance of commercial fishing and seafood. <u>Local oysters could promote and preserve the history of Hatteras Island. Thank you considering my opinion.</u>
4/12/2023 9 04	sam	hagedon	North Carolina	To whom it May Concern; For the future health of the Pamlico and Albemarle sounds please approve all aqua culture leases. What could be better than millions of oysters filtering millions of gallons of NC waters plus the bonus of new jobs created by this wonderful business opportunity. <u>Enjoy Life Sam</u>
4/12/2023 9:48	Stephen	King	North Carolina	In favor of approving this lease I think Kinnakeet Oyster Co. is a great opportunity for not just Avon but Hatteras Island as a whole. This new lease increases the ability to produce sustainable local seafood, employment opportunities, and business traffic back into the Avon harbor area. The positive impacts of shellfish aquaculture should also be noted providing new habitat structure and the many benefits to the surrounding ecosystem. <u>Working on the water is a Hatteras Island way of life that is thankfully being preserved and passed down with the help of business like Kinnaket Oyster Co.</u>
4/12/2023 10:24	William	Crews	North Carolina	Crew Hayes is a great guy and works hard for our community. He always gives back to the community and is the type of person that we need. I believe that Crew is the man for the job and hope he get to continue his business in the sound!
4/12/2023 10:28	Jeff	Hayes	North Carolina	This is in regards to the shellfish lease applications put forward by Kinnakeet Oyster Company in Dare County. I am very much for the approval of these lease applications. If approved these leases will contribute to our community in many ways. They will aid in the improvement of water quality, add jobs and a high quality seafood product to our local economy. While helping to keep the Avon Harbor as a working Harbor.
4/12/2023 10:43	Mary V.	Hayes	North Carolina	Regarding the shellfish lease applications put forward by Kinnakeet Oyster Company, LLC (Martin Crew Hayes/Hans Tyler Hofe) in Dare County, NC. I strongly support the approval of these lease applications. If approved, these shellfish growing operations will contribute to our community in a number of ways. They will improve water quality, add jobs, and provide high quality seafood product to our local economy. Additionally, it will help maintain the historic Kinnakeet/Avon Harbor as a working Harbor.
4/12/2023 10:43	Sue	Fay	North Carolina	I fully support the hardworking young men at Kinnakeet Oyster Company and the work they re doing to support the environment and the local economy. Oystering has a long, proud tradition in Avon and I m proud to see it continue in such a responsible way.
4/12/2023 11:25	Chris	Garber	North Carolina	As someone who has extensive knowledge and coastal ecology, and specifically farming and aquaponics, I see no downside to oyster farming in the Pamlico sound. It s good for the community, good for the economy, good for the water quality and good for the local population of wild shellfish. All for it!
4/12/2023 11:53	local	property owner	North Carolina	I wanted to go ahead and submit a comment for the Project location at Blossie Creek, applicants names: Mr. Clower and Mr. Hopkins. These members of our community exemplify great passion for restorative ocean farming, but their ethical approach to appreciating the water way is honorable. It would be beneficial to continue to see aquaculture progress in Dare County. To provide regenerative food resources to our community and to strengthen the culture of sustainable ocean farming. North Carolina oyster habitats and fisheries are significant ecologically and economically to our state.  Based on the Shellfish Lease investigation report that is provided, I am in full support for this shellfish lease location in Dare County. It is presented that the location was chosen to ensure the bivalves have the most adequate conditions, the salinity, dissolved oxygen and protection for growing. These bivalves are considered the primary foundation species that encourage secondary and complementary foundation species. The Oyster lease will increase water quality, habitat availability , increase biodiversity and increase abundance.

**Dare County Shellfish Lease Hearing (4/12/23) Online Public Comments**

Created	First Name	Last Name	State/Province	Please type your comments in the box below:
4/12/2023 13:09	Brian	Klauser	North Carolina	<p>I am concerned that the bottom leases for proposed oyster farm (21-048BL) &amp; (21-052BL) do not take into consideration the amount of recreational use by kiteboarders and windsurfers and the hazard that it poses to them. This area gets a lot of use as it is located directly in front of National Seashore public access points known as ORV Beach Access numbers 53 and 54. This area has been a very popular spot for windsurfing, kiteboarding involving travelers from around the world to take advantage of the shallow water safe environment. We have people taking lessons in this area as well. The installation of an oyster farm in this area will directly effect the public access by creating a hazardous area that may not necessarily be navigated around safely. I would really hope that someone would take into consideration the thousands of tourists that travel to this exact location as they have for the past 30 years, not to mention the locals that like to enjoy this area. Please let me know if you think that any of my concerns have any merit.</p> <p>Thank you,                      Brian Klauser                      OceanAir Sports                      [REDACTED]</p>
4/12/2023 13:10	Karen	Greenwood	North Carolina	<p>As a full time resident of Avon I am in full support of Kinnakeet Oyster Company s seeding and harvesting of oysters in the Pamlico Sound. Their efforts aid in the economy of our island, county and state and the additional lease will allow them to service many more restaurants which help those fellow small business owners throughout the Outerbanks with increased revenue. Being in Property Management we have many guest who comment on how much they enjoy the fresh seafood they get while visiting the island. The additional crops they will be able to produce via the shellfish lease make this win-win for so many.</p>
4/12/2023 14:51	Frank	James	North Carolina	<p>I had the understanding that shellfish did an excellent job of cleaning up the water.</p>
4/12/2023 14:56	Kathryn	Tawes	North Carolina	<p>The benefits are everlasting. Preserving local heritage, naturally cleans water from septic run off, provides jobs, supplies food while helping to preserve our natural oyster population.</p>
4/12/2023 15:10	Taunya	Garber	North Carolina	<p>All for it! This is a responsible, sustainable use of resources to support the local economy and growing need.</p>
4/12/2023 15:14	Moriah	Garber	North Carolina	<p>This will be great for the environment and local economy.</p>
4/12/2023 15:42	William	Barley	North Carolina	<p>I do support the shellfish lease in Avon for Crew Hayes and his company. Thanks</p>
4/12/2023 15:42	Scott	McMahon	North Carolina	<p>To: Owen Mulvey-McFerron - Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program Coordinator NC Division of Marine Fisheries</p> <p>Dear Mr. Mulvey-McFerron,</p> <p>I am writing in opposition to proposed oyster farms in north Avon (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC). I support local oyster farming, however, this is the wrong location for it.</p> <p>I am a homeowner in Island Creek. The major attraction for my seasonal guests is the unobstructed access to the sound, it s sandy bottom and the absence of water hazards. Many of these folks, including me before I became on owner, have been coming to Island Creek for decades to enjoy windsurfing, kiteboarding, fishing, kayaking, wading, shell collecting and SUP. The proposed oyster farm will be a hazard and a danger. Imagine a windsurfer or kiteboarder colliding with a metal cage filled with razor sharp oysters.</p> <p>Any obstacle presents a greater danger to beginners but the structures of an oyster farm and their contents present treacherous risks that would soon turn away even the most seasoned enthusiasts.</p> <p>Again, I am not opposed to an oyster farm, just this location. I request that another location be chosen that does not have such a direct impact on the enjoyment of this area.</p> <p>Scott McMahon                      [REDACTED]</p>
4/12/2023 16:19	harvey	scarborough jr	North Carolina	<p>I Harvey Scarborough Jr, would like to express my support for the oyster leases applied for by Crew Hayes and Tyler Hoffe. I am a native of Avon and I see no reason to deny them for these particular leases. They will have no effect on any activities in Pamlico Sound and will provide the public including tourists with more opportunities to buy seafood from the area.</p> <p>Sincerely,                      Harvey Scarborough jr</p>
4/12/2023 16:21	Louis	Mercier	North Carolina	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am a home owner in North Avon ([REDACTED]) and I am deeply concerned by the 13 acres proposed formation of an oysters farm right in front of my property ((21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) . Not only am I an avid windsurfer but a majority of the people who rent my house are water sports enthusiasts (windsurf, kite surf, wing, foil, paddle board). The proposed location poses great risk (cages close to the water surface) of injuries and even death.</p> <p>Because of that, people will look elsewhere to practice their water sports. This will not only lower our rental revenues but will also negatively impact the city of Avon economically. Water sports are a big business here!</p> <p>The Sound is big, why create the farm just where it creates the most problems? Nobody practises water sports not even a mile North of the proposed location, it would make sense to do farming there instead of where it hurts the most!</p> <p>I hope you will take into consideration the interests of us residents and tax payers.</p> <p>Sincerely,                      Louis Mercier</p>

**Dare County Shellfish Lease Hearing (4/12/23) Online Public Comments**

Created	First Name	Last Name	State/Province	Please type your comments in the box below:
4/12/2023 16:23	Jeffrey	Lewis	North Carolina	<p>I am an owner. Jeffrey Lewis [REDACTED], Avon, NC 27915 I am totally against the shellfish lease application. We primarily rent to guests who wind surf and kite surf and also enjoy the beauty of the sound from our dock. Our guests have been coming to the home to use this area for foiling, kiting, fishing, sup, windsurfing, wakeboarding, and sailing for decades.</p> <p>I am concerned that the leases for a proposed oyster farm (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) does not at all take into consideration the amount of recreational use by kiteboarders and windsurfers and the hazard that it proposes to them.</p> <p>The proposed leases (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) encompass an area that is ideal for watersports due to the steady winds, the shallow, sandy bottom.</p> <p>The area gets a lot of use from locals and tourists as it is located directly in front of Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area public access points known as ORV Beach Access numbers 54 and 53, at or near Little Kinnakeet Lifesaving Station. This area has been a very popular spot for windsurfing, kiteboarding involving travelers from around the world to take advantage of the shallow water safe environment.</p> <p>The presence of subsurface and at surface obstacles create a navigational hazard to those new to the sport and veterans alike. As you can imagine, any obstacle presents a greater danger to beginners attempting to navigate around them. The structures of an oyster farm and their contents represent treacherous obstacles that would soon turn away even the most seasoned enthusiasts.</p> <p>The Pamlico Sound is a large body of water, I/we request that another location is chosen that does not have such a direct impact on the enjoyment of this precious resource.</p> <p>Jeff Lewis</p>
4/12/2023 16:44	Ivy	Smith	Ohio	This lease will help promote jobs, water quality and product quality. Thank you!
4/12/2023 16:49	Steven	Smith	Ohio	This lease will provide jobs and product quality.
4/12/2023 16:51	Ivy	Smith	Ohio	This lease would provide jobs, water quality and product quality. Thank you!
4/12/2023 19:06	Andrew	Misener	North Carolina	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed shellfish lease in north Avon close to our home. I am very familiar with the proposed lease area and existing lease area South of Big Island. We have been coming to Avon for 20 years for water sports activities from Windsurfing to Kiting to Boating and Fishing. The proposed location is in an area of high usage for many water sports activities and boating and I believe a poor choice for expansion, and I would ask the committee to decline the application and suggest the applicant find a more suitable and less trafficked location. The applicants first farm is in a much better location that sees limited water sport use and in terms of motor vessel navigation, the existing location is not in the path of those exiting around big island to head south. The proposed location in this application is in the path we take to head north to Waves by boat. While we do not travel by boat at night often I have not noted any lights on the existing farm to warn boaters of the hazard, and in the 20 years of visiting and now owning a property I have seen countless water sport participants(my son included) washed down and through this location by SW winds.</p> <p>I wish the applicant the best, but my family oppose this location and application due to the impact on boater safety and water sport enthusiast safety. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
4/12/2023 21:33	D'Arcy	Kelley	Virginia	<p>I am opposed to the currently proposed locations for oyster farm leases, 21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC.</p> <p>The proposed locations are too close to one of the most popular water sport areas in the sound. It will endanger the water sports enthusiasts who rent our home and frequent businesses in the area. People can, and likely will, get hurt. As a mother, the attitude of "if you don't know what you're doing, you don't belong out there" concerns me. One of the reasons we bought our home in Avon was the number of shops who teach water sports, essentially in our backyard. We plan to learn with our son, but if this goes through I don't know that I would risk it.</p> <p>If we can't learn in our own backyard, then where should we go? Where should our guests go? If the next generation discovers other locations, then will we lose our top tier status for water sports and what will that mean for the area?</p> <p>I'm concerned about the economic impact to the area once word gets out that Avon is no longer friendly to water sports on the sound.</p>



**Dare County Shellfish Lease Hearing (4/12/23) Online Public Comments**

Created	First Name	Last Name	State/Province	Please type your comments in the box below:
4/12/2023 22:22	Joanne	Fiore	North Carolina	<p>I own a home on Pamlico Sound that I use with my family and also rent. In the recent past. Guests have been coming to the home to use this area for foiling, kiting, fishing, sup,windsurfing, wakeboarding, and sailing for decades.</p> <p>I few years back, I cut my hand on an oyster shell when I fell out of my kayak into the Sound. It was a small cut, but an infection associated with oyster shells (same as the one that causes tuberculosis) set in, and I was hospitalized twice at UNC Chapel Hill, following two hand surgeries.</p> <p>So my reasons for objecting to the leases for a proposed oyster farm (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) are very personal. In addition, they do not take into consideration the amount of recreational use by kiteboarders and windsurfers and all the hazards that it proposes to them.</p> <p>The proposed leases (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC) encompass an area that is ideal for watersports due to the steady winds, the shallow, sandy bottom.</p> <p>The area gets a lot of use from locals and tourists as it is located directly in front of National Seashore public access points known as ORV Beach Access numbers 54 and 53. This area has been a very popular spot for windsurfing, kiteboarding involving travelers from around the world to take advantage of the shallow water safe environment.</p> <p>The presence of subsurface and at surface obstacles create a navigational hazard to those new to the sport and veterans alike. As you can imagine, any obstacle presents a greater danger to beginners attempting to navigate around them. The structures of an oyster farm and their contents represent treacherous obstacles that would soon turn away even the most seasoned enthusiasts.</p> <p>And based on my personal experience, cuts from oyster shells can be disastrous.</p> <p>The Pamlico Sound is a large body of water, I/we request that another location is chosen that does not have such a direct impact on the enjoyment of this precious resource.</p> <p>Thank you for your serious consideration.</p> <p>Joanne Fiore  <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span></p>
4/13/2023 7:35	Dale	King	North Carolina	<p>Fish these waters almost every day 8 months out of the year. The new lease site will in no way impede or prevent the recreational use of the area, kite boarding, etc.</p>
4/13/2023 7:43	April	Rhodes	Virginia	<p>Kinnakeet oyster Company has been wonderful. They are the best oysters that I have eaten. It is so great to have a locally run business that is also environmentally helpful to the sound.</p>
4/13/2023 8:47	Vicky	Lowe	North Carolina	<p>I have been a resident of Avon for 12 years. Some of which were spent living on the harbor. I am also a kiteboarder. It s why I moved there. In my opinion it has been a joy to watch new life come to Avon Harbor with the Kinnakeet oyster company. As a kiteboarder there is miles of open water there. Frisco, Buxton, salvo, the reef. Miles of downwinder options. If kinnakeet oyster company need more space for a thriving business then they should have it. Without question. It is great to see them grow.</p>
4/13/2023 9 02	Jenn	Augustson	North Carolina	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Kinnakeet Oyster Company (KOC) and their desire to continue their leasing agreement in Avon.</p> <p>The proposed leased area is shallow and sandy, which is what is needed for the oyster aquaculture to thrive.</p> <p>KOC has helped revitalize the Avon Harbor s economy as well as support our fragile ecosystem on the Outer Banks with their oyster farm.</p> <p>As I m sure you are well aware of the environmental benefits of oyster farms, I urge you to take that into consideration when deciding on this lease agreement.</p> <p>Help us protect our coastal ecosystems and support local business owners.</p> <p>Thank you,                      Jenn Augustson  <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>                      Avon NC 27915</p>
4/13/2023 9 07	Jessie	Mastro	North Carolina	<p>I am a 16 year resident of Avon. I am a wife of a volunteer firefighter of Avon for over 10 years. We are in support of the shellfish lease in the pamlico sound. I am in support of local business and I am in support of the benefits shellfish bring to the ecosystem and our environment. Please allow these local shellfisheries to bring more attractions to our communities and businesses and environments. Thank you.</p> <p>-Jessie Mastro</p>
4/13/2023 9:21	Taylor	Rawl	North Carolina	<p>I am in support of more oyster farms in our sound. They do way more good than jetskis and kite surfers. Definitely pro natural filtrators that actually help the environment.</p>

**Dare County Shellfish Lease Hearing (4/12/23) Online Public Comments**

Created	First Name	Last Name	State/Province	Please type your comments in the box below:
4/13/2023 9:22	Gwenda	Burkholder	North Carolina	<p>To: Owen Mulvey-McFerron - Shellfish Lease and Aquaculture Program Coordinator NC Division of Marine Fisheries</p> <p>Dear Mr. Mulvey-McFerron,</p> <p>We are writing this letter to express our objection to the pending application for a permit to allow the proposed formation of an oyster farm in our community (21-052BL, 21-053WC, 21-048BL, 21-049WC). While we understand the economic benefits of such a venture, we cannot ignore the potential dangers that it poses to windsurfers. We are home owners in Island Creek, Avon, NC, where wind sports enthusiasts come from around the world to engage in water sports.</p> <p>As you may know, windsurfing, kiteboarding and other water sports are popular activities in our area, however, the presence of an oyster farm in the same waters could have disastrous consequences. Oyster farming involves the use of cages and ropes that can be extremely hazardous to windsurfers. These obstacles can easily get entangled with their sails and fins, causing accidents and injuries. Moreover, windsurfers and kiteboarders often rely on the wind to propel themselves, and oyster farms can disrupt the natural flow of air currents, creating dangerous eddies and currents that can put them at risk.</p> <p>We believe that the formation of an oyster farm in our community is not worth the risk to our windsurfing and other water sports community. It is our responsibility to ensure that our recreational activities are safe and accessible to all. Therefore, we urge you to reconsider the proposal and explore alternative sites for the oyster farm.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you soon.</p> <p>Sincerely Gwenda &amp; John Burkholder, [REDACTED]</p>
4/13/2023 9:24	Richard	Corbin	North Carolina	I am in favor for the shellfish lease. Oysters and other filter feeders help aquaculture water and air quality. This would be beneficial for marine life and everyone.
4/13/2023 9:27	Addie	Van Salisbury	North Carolina	I am in favor of more bottom being used for an oyster lease. Oyster farms have continually proved to be good for water systems. They clean our water & it s always good to have more life in our sound. Not to mention the heritage of commercial fishing that should be respected in the area. This is a sustainable fishery that should continue to grow in this area.
4/13/2023 9:34	Rich	Corbin	North Carolina	I think the shellfish lease would be a good thing. Oysters and other filter feeders help aquaculture water and air quality. This would be beneficial for marine life and everyone.
4/13/2023 9:44	Elizabeth	Mayle	North Carolina	As a local to Avon North Carolina I support our local oyster farm! They provide filtration for the water, are environmental friendly, do not cause any damage to the ecosystem and bring commerce and jobs to our small community. The oyster farm provides many benefits to the sound and the community.
4/13/2023 9 53	Evan	Ferguson	North Carolina	I support the Kinnakeet Oyster Company Lease. Oysters support the local ecosystem and economy. Kriters have enough access to launch and kiting locations throughout the island. Do not shut down a local business which positively impacts the local economy and ecosystem because someone is inconvenienced.
4/13/2023 9 56	Katherine	Augustson	North Carolina	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>Please consider leasing for the Kinnakeet Oyster Company as it s vital for the fragile ecosystem on Hatteras Island. The harbor in Avon is shallow and in need of Kinnakeet Oyster Company to support the ecosystem.</p> <p>I am in support of maintaining Kinnakeet Oyster Company because of the ecosystem and for having a local business on Hatteras Island.</p> <p>Thank you for considering leasing Kinnakeet Oyster Company in your decision making.</p> <p>Sincerely yours, Katherine Augustson</p>
4/13/2023 10:13	Morgan	Greenwood	North Carolina	<p>As a local and full time resident of Avon I am in agreement and support of the Kinnakeet Oyster Company s proposed lease expansion. Not only does KOC benefit from this expansion, but other local businesses do as well. I work in Avon at The Mad Crabber restaurant where we started selling the locally harvested oysters last season. In addition to The Mad Crabber, I am aware that KOC also sells to various other restaurants in the nearby area. When customers ask where our oysters come from, I am proud to tell them they come from right here in Kinnakeet.</p> <p>Last year many of the islands southern oyster farms lost their crop, which made KOC the only local producing company around the holiday season.</p> <p>After listening to the public comment last night it seems that those in opposition are seasonal/nonresidential property owners. While I understand where they are coming from, there is a vast body of water out there and plenty of room to share. As you may know, the recreational sport is seasonal and weather dependent where oyster farming is year round. It is my understanding that KOC chose this particular location because it is the ONLY shallow sandy location available here in Avon. It is a small fraction of water to the windsurfing and kiteboarding community, but it is a huge benefit to the growth of the local business. I urge you to keep this fact in consideration. Please help support our locals.</p>
4/13/2023 10:25	chandler	Butler	North Carolina	I am in full support of the expansion of kinnakeet oyster company and feel that is very beneficial for the environment , for tourism and for local restaurants and seafood markets .
4/13/2023 11:05	Lisa	AUGUSTSON	North Carolina	As family of generations of past and current Avon residents , I support Kinnakeet Oyster Company as a local business . I purchased Shellfish from them this year as their practices are environmentally sound and they follow ethical business practices. I want to keep them open and they need their lease renewed .

**Dare County Shellfish Lease Hearing (4/12/23) Online Public Comments**

Created	First Name	Last Name	State/Province	Please type your comments in the box below:
4/13/2023 11:20	Linwood	Rhodes	Virginia	We are property owners within one block of the harbor where Kinnakeet Oyster Company operates out of. The area is keep clean and safe. I have personally purchase oster s twice and they were excellent. It s also great to see a younger generation continuing to make a living from the sound/local area. Linwood R Rhodes [REDACTED] Avon NC
4/13/2023 11:22	Christine	Parnham	North Carolina	The proposed leases of Avon Harbor would continue to bring commerce and cleaner water to the community. A single oyster filters 50 gallons of water a day, aiding in the efforts to keep our sound waters clean and healthy for both human use and the animals that call it home. The current leases that are in the area have enhanced our small community and surged commerce to a dying area. We should support small businesses from our own communities, allowing them to fill a market share that may otherwise be fill by large corporations. By approving these new leases we continue to foster small business growth, with the unique opportunity of benefiting our marine environment.
4/13/2023 11:53	Madeline	Chander	North Carolina	I am in favor of the proposed shellfish lease being granted to Kinnakeet Oyster Company
4/13/2023 12:04	Kathy	Butler	North Carolina	We love oysters but don t get them fresh up here so we love when our daughter brings them to us or sends them.
4/13/2023 12:05	Richard	Butler	North Carolina	We support the oyster farms
4/13/2023 13:03	Brent	Midgett	North Carolina	Personally I believe the oyster leases are a great service for the island and the oysters I've gotten from kinnakeet oyster company are among the best I've eaten. The oyster reefs help with water cleaning and the general state of the sound
4/13/2023 13:25	Susan	Caton	North Carolina	I support the oyster businesses in Avon nc
4/13/2023 13:26	Don	Presnell	North Carolina	I support the oyster businesses in Avon NC
4/13/2023 13:28	Martha	Presnell	North Carolina	I support the oyster business in Avon NC
4/13/2023 13:30	Eric	Greene	North Carolina	I support the oyster business in Avon NC
4/13/2023 13:45	Matt	Stankavich	North Carolina	I ve lived on Hatteras island for over 10 years. I have a degree in biology and have over 15 years experience on the water between sports and fishing. It seems obvious we need to support the local mariculture. A single adult oyster can clean 50 gallons of water each day! Between the Albermarle and Pamlico sound we have the second largest estuary in the United States! There is space for everyone to enjoy these waters.  " The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it." -Chief Joseph
4/13/2023 13:47	Tabitha	Rose	North Carolina	I am in favor of expanding area for oyster farming for the Kinnakeet oyster company. Oyster farming is known for its environmental benefits, also oysters carry lots of nutrients for people for consumption.
4/13/2023 13:51	Justin	Souter	North Carolina	As the operator of a water sports Business in the sound primarily off Avon I wholeheartedly support the Kinnakeet Oyster Company s leases. I point out the oyster beds to all my clients on the water and There response is overwhelming positive. We are lucky to have these guys Avon.
4/13/2023 13:59	William	Schmitt	North Carolina	N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, Shellfish Leases, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, N.C. 28557  I am writing to express my strong objections to the proposed formation of an oyster farm in our local waters, particularly those near Avon, NC (21-053WC, 21-049WC) . While I understand the benefits that an oyster farm could bring to our community, I believe that the economic harm associated with such a venture outweigh any potential benefits.  Specifically, I am concerned about the obstructive impacts these oyster farms would pose to wind and water sports tourism in the area. I am a soundside homeowner in Avon and operate a home that caters to water sports. Our guests have been coming to the home to use this area for foiling, kiting, fishing, sup, windsurfing, wakeboarding, and sailing for many years. The area has a renowned reputation for unobstructed waters perfect for water and winds ports and the area gets a lot of use from locals and tourists. Wind and water sports are a large part of the local economy including rental income of my home.  The Pamlico Sound is a large body of water, I request that another location is chosen that does not have such a direct impact on the enjoyment of this scarce resource.  Considering these concerns, I urge you to reconsider the proposed formation of an oyster farm in our local waters.  Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Mark and Wendy Schmitt
4/13/2023 15:21	Edward	Bonnevie	Pennsylvania	To whom it may concern,  This is a note to oppose the proposed oyster area farming area in north Avon. The location selected, north east of Island Creek poses a potential hazard to many water sports enthusiasts (windsurfers and kitesurfers). For West, Northwest, Southwest winds, which are very common for this location, the farm location may become an unavoidable obstacle for wind/kite surfers launching out of Northern Avon.  Please reconsider the location for this lease that minimizes this impact.  Thank you, Edward Bonnevie

**Dare County Shellfish Lease Hearing (4/12/23) Online Public Comments**

Created	First Name	Last Name	State/Province	Please type your comments in the box below:
4/13/2023 16:30	Michael	Burns	North Carolina	<p>It was recently brought to my attention (this morning) that there is a plan for an oyster farm to be constructed at the north end of Avon, NC. This is deeply concerning as my livelihood is based off of the ability of wind sports users to freely access the waters in the Pamlico Sound and adjacent beaches and properties at the north end of Avon, NC.</p> <p>I live full time on the Outer Banks, own a local business and I'm the President of an HOA for one of the associations in which rentals in our building are due to our location near the shallow, flat water that is found at the North end of Avon. I'd like to take a moment to explain how creating an oyster farm in this one particular location will affect my businesses, future businesses and tourism in the area.</p> <p>My primary role is managing two of the largest windsurfing brands in the world for North America and the Caribbean. Severne Windsurfing and Starboard Windsurfing. Other wind sports brands under our umbrella include Airush Kite, FreeWing, Starboard Wing, Starboard Foil, Starboard SUP and IQ FOIL (the official windsurf race class of the 2024 olympic games).</p> <p>Over the past 6 years I have been able to migrate our base of North American operations for our windsurf brands to the Outer Banks. Avon is the perfect venue to test our current products, run R&amp;D on future products, run events, and to use our brands to help the local community / economy grow.</p> <p>One of the ways we create growth across the local community is to use our global media resources to showcase the Outer Banks as an incredible windsurfing destination. Severne Windsurfing, who's global headquarters is in Western Australia, has recently showcased Cape Hatteras on the world stage here: <a href="https://www.severnesails.com/locations-feature-ocean-air-sports/">https://www.severnesails.com/locations-feature-ocean-air-sports/</a> Windsurfers have started traveling from all over the globe to hit the waters in North Avon.</p> <p>Together, with the support of the local community here in Avon, we have also been able to create the largest windsurfing event in North America right here in Cape Hatteras. The event is called OBX-WIND and is a week long of family friendly festivities based around windsurfing. <a href="https://youtu.be/eo22HUOR3Wo">https://youtu.be/eo22HUOR3Wo</a></p> <p>This annual Windsurfing event attracts hundreds of windsurfers and their families from all over the world and the long distance windsurf race is the highlight of the event. The race course is approximately 3 miles out and back, directly across the proposed location for this oyster farm. It will create a real danger for windsurfers unable to navigate around the farm.</p> <p>The annual OBX-WIND event along with other wind sports businesses help to sustain some much needed local income to local families right here in Hatteras during the "off" season as this event is typically held later on in the fall. More info about OBX-WIND on the Severne International website: <a href="https://www.severnesails.com/2023-obx-wind-is-a-success/">https://www.severnesails.com/2023-obx-wind-is-a-success/</a></p> <p>The proposed location for this one particular oyster farm creates a danger for running our events, running daily lessons and rentals with businesses that have been here and using this area for 25+ years.</p> <p>I am also concerned about a decline in my own property rentals and property values here in Avon. Windsurfers and Kite Boarders rent our condos throughout the spring and fall purely for the purpose of windsurfing on the Pamlico Sound in the proposed oyster farm area.</p> <p>Please don't get me wrong.... I am NOT against the creation of oyster farms in the Pamlico sound and I realize that other locals will rely on these farms for their livelihood. I'm pointing out that this particular location of this one oyster farm will have ramifications throughout the local community. Many local restaurants, businesses and in turn, their employees will have their seasons' income cut short due to our lack of being able to continue to run our globally recognized events, wind sports lessons and rentals. Property owners will see a decline with their property rentals and in time, property values will also decline as the focus of wind sports community shifts to more friendly venues like Corpus Christi, TX / Hood River, OR, /Cape Cod, MA or any other number of windsurfing destinations around the US.</p> <p>We should work together to find a reasonable location where everyone involved can thrive.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mike Burns</p> <p>Brand Manager for Severne &amp; Starboard Windsurfing North America and the Caribbean President of Pamlico Point Condominiums</p>
4/13/2023 16:45	Luther	Hooper	North Carolina	<p>I would like to share my support for the proposed oyster bed lease application. First it supports local fishermen and their families. The Kinnakeet harbor now has watermen making a living again which for years had slowly faded. Local restaurants and their customers are able to have locally sourced shellfish that are able to go from the sound, within hours, to a restaurant insuring the freshest oysters available.</p> <p>It can only be considered a plus to have the harbor beginning to thrive again in this small community that has historically had for hundreds of years a fishing industry located here. I was born and raised on this island and started crabbing in my early teens and hope to see the fishing and shellfish industry return to what it once was.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
4/13/2023 16:46	Holland	Gorman	North Carolina	<p>I have been a permanent resident and home owner on Hatteras Island for ten years now. I feel very privileged and proud to call this place my home.</p> <p>The Pamlico-Ambermarle water way system is an amazing and diverse ecosystem. It s one of the largest estuaries in North America. It being so large and diverse allows for all the wonderful opportunities to everyone!</p> <p>Oysters are not only an amazing cleaning system for our waters but also a very large tourist attraction. Just this year the Hatteras Oyster Roast in February brought visitors from all over. I would like to encourage expansion for oyster farmers. Our waters are vast and plentiful and there is room enough for everyone.</p> <p>Thank you! Support our local businesses.</p>