

**Public Comment on Proposed Shellfish Leases in Dare County**

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Submission Details					
Submitted Time	First Name:	Last Name:	City:	State:	Please type your comments in the box below.
3/30/2021 11:12	Avon Harbor	Preservation Society	█	North Carolina	<p align="center">3/28/2021 Re: Upcoming Shellfish Lease Public Hearings</p> <p align="center">To Whom It May Concern at the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality:</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments for the 2 proposed shellfish leases applications near Avon Harbor. The Avon Harbor Preservation Society is writing in support of the leases submitted by Martin Crew Hayes and Hans Tyler Hofe. We understand that the location of these 2 leases will have a low footprint on Avon Harbor and the Pamlico Sound bottomlands. We trust that the oysters grown by Hayes &amp; Hofe on Hatteras Island will prove to be highly productive overtime and “brand laudable” for their sustainability in sorely needed seafood market deficit. The establishment of oyster mariculture in Avon will be a generator of new coastal opportunity.</p> <p>Oysters are considered a species of concern by the NC Division of Marine Fisheries and therefore, worthy of public support. Having been in decline due to loss of habitat, over-harvesting, and water degradation, oysters are in a renaissance period due to legislative action in the State of North Carolina. The Hayes and Hofe oyster leases will lend to the state’s effort to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* establish oyster mariculture,</li> <li>* improve water quality and</li> <li>* bolster economic growth.</li> </ul> <p align="center">Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the AHPS - Bianca Aniski, MEd █ AHPS Correspondence █ AvonHarborPreservationSociety.org █</p>
4/5/2021 9:40	Michael	Flynn	█	North Carolina	<p>I support the proposed leases from applicants William Belter and Ryan Belter (20-021BL/20-022WC), Hans Tyler Hofe (20-030BL/20-031WC), and Martin Crew Hayes (20-028BL/20-029WC). I look forward to seeing the success of these shellfish growers as they attempt to expand an industry that is environmentally sustainable and provides economic benefits at the local, regional, and state level.</p>
4/12/2021 16:42	John	Fay	█	North Carolina	<p>This comment is in regards to the Shellfish Lease Hearing proposal for Mr. Hayes and Mr. Hofa. I wanted to voice my complete support for both of the lease applications.</p> <p>I firmly believe that the benefits of the proposed lease would be two-fold. Firstly, this would benefit the local community and economy as a new business venture into the ever-growing consumer demand of sustainably grown seafood. Secondly, the restorative benefits of oysters would help to promote cleaner water in the Pamlico Sound as a results of their filter feeder properties.</p> <p align="center">I trust that both Mr. Hayes and Mr. Hofa have the capability to operate a successful oyster operation.</p>
4/13/2021 11:33	Brad	Doerr	█	North Carolina	<p>I feel like that would be a good addition to our community and a good use of our natural resources Hatteras island can produce world class oysters or clams for many markets it would be nothing but a benefit to us on that Island</p>
4/13/2021 12:25	Laura	Miller	█	North Carolina	<p>I wish to voice my full support of the Shellfish Lease Hearing proposal for applicants Mr. Hayes and Mr. Hofe. I believe their oyster operation will be successful and benefit our community in many ways. This operation will not only create a positive impact on our local economy, but the oysters themselves will aide in cleaner water conditions in the Pamlico sound. It is with great confidence that I support the applications of both parties listed above.</p>

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4/13/2021 13:17	Sam	Hagedon	█	North Carolina	It is wonderful that a new generation of Native Avon residents want to keep the fishing heritage alive via sustainable aqua farming out of the Historic Avon Harbor. This is a dream come true for all residents of Avon and the cleanliness of the waters of the sound. As we all know Oyster due a tremendous job helping to filter the water of the sound. A true win win for Dare Co and Avon.
4/13/2021 13:35	Kathleen	Carolan	█	North Carolina	I fully support the two proposed shellfish leases off Avon, NC as I know they will provide a healthy impact to our local coastal/soundside environment
4/13/2021 14:17	David	Butrym	█	North Carolina	I'm in favor of the proposed shellfish lease application, especially the ones located outside of Avon Harbor. There is a growing demand for local farm raised shellfish and I support their effort.
4/13/2021 16:18	Michael	Green	█	North Carolina	I think this is a perfect idea for the area
4/13/2021 16:28	Kenny	Brite	█	North Carolina	Oyster farms are very important to our waterways and economy. I am in favor of expanding the oyster farming enterprises anywhere in the Pamlico Sound estuary. I feel there is plenty of recreational areas and oyster farming will not hamper any recreational use.
4/13/2021 17:06	Dickie	Ashe	█	North Carolina	I think it's a great idea to encourage Shell fishing on the Outer Banks, nothing would be better than to obtain locally harvested seafood. I for one am all about investing in the local economy and giving people the opportunity to improve their way of life and a honest way to provide food and support for their family. Dickie Ashe
4/13/2021 18:45	Alyson	Flynn	█	North Carolina	As a resident of Hatteras Island, I fully support all three of the proposed shellfish leases as they will cultivate a sustainable seafood product and support diversity within our local economy.
4/13/2021 19:00	Matthew	Coats	█	North Carolina	As a resident of Dare County I'm in support of these proposed oyster bed leases for the following reasons; these organisms do an amazing job of cleaning and restoring the quality of our waters in a manor that is natural and sustainable, there is an enormous untapped export resource for our community due to the very high quality of our local oysters, our economy is heavily dependent upon tourism which directly benefits from the branding of our exported products such as these, and the documentation provided for the applications that have been submitted are as professional and well-organized as the companies that will arise from their approvals will surely be.
4/13/2021 19:35	Christine	Parnham	█	North Carolina	The proposed oyster farms outside Avon Harbor can only benefit our community. Oysters can filter vast amounts of water in a day, naturally cleaning the water of bacteria and other contaminants. Oysters will help clear the water of the sound and keep deadly algal blooms at a minimum. Anyone that enjoys life on the sound, whether commercial or leisure, will directly benefit from the improved water quality. As a community, we have to come together and support residents in their business endeavors. Or we allow those who do not have the same vigilance for the future of Hatteras Island to step in. Those attached to the proposed shellfish leases have superior knowledge of the sound and, I believe, would only improve what is there.
4/13/2021 19:51	Wayland	Jennette Jr	█	North Carolina	I support my friends venture in the oyster farming business and location. Revitalization of the fresh seafood market is what Hatteras island needs.
4/13/2021 21:35	Jim	Stokes	█	North Carolina	I'm very happy to see an oyster business come into the Avon Harbor. So glad that the harbor is coming back to life, that people in the community are becoming watermen, and the thought of being able to buy local oyster is fantastic. Win win.
4/14/2021 8:59	Travis	Tabeling	█	North Carolina	I believe oyster farming could only help the harbor by bringing in more revenue and garnering more attention for that area.
4/14/2021 9:36	Richard	Corbin	█	North Carolina	I believe this proposal would be a great opportunity not only for the benefits it has for promoting a healthy marine system but also helping to preserve the heritage of fishing in the outer banks.
4/14/2021 9:46	Eric	Braojos	█	North Carolina	In regards to the Shellfish Lease Hearing proposal for Mr. Hayes and Mr. Hofa. I support it.  I know this is a great thing for our area. It helps clean the water and keeps this area going with natural resources.  I believe that Mr. Hayes and Mr. Hofa have the knowledge and will be able to operate a successful oyster operation with doing things the right way for our eco system
4/14/2021 10:09	Addie	Van Salisbury	█	North Carolina	These shellfish leases are great for our waters, our community, and our economy. I am looking forward to having more of these in our sound!
4/14/2021 10:42	Tracy	Reaves-Allen	█	North Carolina	We need Oyster farming!! Yes yes!!

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4/14/2021 10:47	Michelle	Hooker	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	We need to keep the local fishing traditions alive and active. These boys are local and know what they're doing let's give them a chance. I give my support on this!  Michelle Hooker Midgett Realty
4/14/2021 11:49	Daniel	Homiak	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	I am under the opinion that the proposed shellfish lease at the Avon Harbor is a great idea to help revitalize The Avon Village community and offers a fresh seafood option that wasn't available before. I myself live in Avon Village and would love to see this come to fruition.
4/14/2021 12:28	James	Holmes	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	I fully support the the 2 shellfish lease proposals near Avon harbor. Oysters are not only considered a species of concern, but they also are good for our water quality. The more the merrier.
4/14/2021 12:31	Amanda	Haage	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	Hello, I am writing in support of Hans Tyler Hofe's oyster proposal in Avon, NC. Mr. Hofe is a great, responsible member of our local community, and is conscientious in his businesses. The addition of his oyster business would be beneficial for our area, and we would happily be his customers. Please approve Mr. Hofe for this endeavor. Thank you, Ananda Haage
4/14/2021 12:33	Kyle	Ford	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	Hi, I support these guys in their effort. There is a deficit in oysters and would help rebuild their mariculture. Oysters are extremely important to ocean health. This is a no brainer.
4/14/2021 12:37	Joe	Thompson	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	I support the proposed lease.
4/14/2021 12:59	Matt	Stankavich	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	Our community will benefit from this both environmentally and economically.
4/14/2021 13:07	Jennifer	Gaskins	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	Good for oysters, good for the sound, good for the local economy -- it's a win, win, win for the people of Avon!
4/14/2021 13:17	Brian	Beckham	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	We are in desperate need of oyster farming in this area due to the lack of oysters naturally growing here anymore. These two gentlemen will do a fine job so I can speak On character of both of them it will be a well needed resource for this area
4/14/2021 13:24	Amanda	Tucker	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	This is a great opportunity for economic growth and job opportunity! The shellfish lease will also improve water quality and is a great way to get fresh seafood from water to table quickly. The shellfish beds will be a great addition to have in Avon NC.
4/14/2021 13:24	Stephen	Heinz	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	I support crew and hofe in there 2 shellfish leases. When I typed in google first thing to pop up about osyters benefit for water . " Besides providing seafood, oysters make waters healthier. Because oysters feed by filtering algae from the water, they function as a natural filter and improve water that is overloaded with nutrients. A single oysterfilters up to 50 gallons of water per day. " plus growing up with crew and knowing hofe for years I know there good people who do right.
4/14/2021 13:39	CARL	WORSLEY	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	Thank u for this opportunity... I m writing in favor of Martin Crew Hayes and Hans Hofe oyster harvesting from the 2 leases in the Pamlico sound  off Avon NC...  This fishing heritage of the OBX should be sustained.....  respectfully ,,,  Carl Worsley [REDACTED]
4/14/2021 13:46	Chris	Garber	[REDACTED]	North Carolina	To whom it may concern in regards to the proposed oyster farm lease,  As a former Aquaponics owner in Virginia, I would like to express my overwhelming support for the Hayes/Hofe lease. Oyster farming in the sound/areas in and around Avon and their harbors will, no doubt, provide added water quality, locally grown/sourced seafood, reduced the need for wild caught seafood, and provide a positive impact on the local economies. I see only positives in this venture. I respectfully ask your consideration to pass this lease.  Regards, Chris Garber

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4/14/2021 13:48	Robert	Spangler	█	North Carolina	<p>I wish to express my total support for the proposed shellfish leases application near Avon Harbor for Mr. Hayes and Mr. Hofe. While teaching at Cape Hatteras Secondary I was involved with the school's "Oyster Reef Project" and understand the need for more oyster areas. Even though this is a commercial enterprise the oyster will help filter our sound. I know these two men and taught Mr. Hayes chemistry and I know they will take great care of the leases. The addition of more renewable seafood resources to our local economy will be of great benefit to our island.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Robert C. Spangler (Capt. US Army Ret)</p> <p>█</p>
4/14/2021 13:53	Taunya	Garber	█	North Carolina	<p>In regards to the Avon Harbor oyster Farm lease, I support the crew Hayes, Hans Hofe oyster farm lease. I see no reason this would not present anything but positives for the environment and community. Oysters, alone fill many beneficial qualities, as I'm sure you well know, in addition to the community benefits and economic perks.</p> <p>Taunya Garber</p>
4/14/2021 13:58	Jadon	Stockdale	█	North Carolina	<p>I support oyster farming in Avon. The Hayes/Hofe lease would be an excellent addition to our diverse culture with many ecological and economic benefits! I ask for your support in passing this lease.</p> <p>Jadon Stockdale</p>
4/14/2021 15:34	Jeffrey	Hayes	█	North Carolina	<p>I am in support of these applications for the shellfish leases. These leases will help the local economy and keep watermen working in the communities where they live.</p>
4/14/2021 15:48	Mary	Hayes	█	North Carolina	<p>I speak in support of the proposed shellfish leases in Dare County, NC. I am a 35 yr resident, homeowner and business owner on Hatteras Island. Shellfish aquaculture will help increase the long-term economic prosperity of our coastal community and is good for the environment!...It's sustainable, improves water quality, and provides habitat for fish, crabs and other organisms.</p>
4/14/2021 16:35	Cheryl	Peele	█	North Carolina	<p>As shellfish leases are in line to support our state's efforts to establish oyster mariculture, improve water quality, and bolster economic growth and with the understanding the lease locations near Avon Harbor will have a low footprint on Avon Harbor and Pamlico Sound bottomlands, I am in support of the proposed shellfish lease application submitted by Crew Hayes and Hans Tyler Hofe.</p>
4/14/2021 16:43	J.E.	Fay	█	Virginia	<p>As longtime property owners and part-time residents of █ NC, my family and I wholeheartedly support the awarding of these leases and the establishment of this enterprise. Supporting oyster mariculture in Avon is in everyone's best interest - from the improvement it brings in water quality to the boost it brings to our local economy,</p>

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4/14/2021 17:12	Martin	Hayes	█	North Carolina	<p>My name is Martin Crew Hayes and I am one of the applicants for a proposed lease being heard during this public comment period. I am also a lifelong resident of █ for the past 33 years. I didn't think it appropriate to submit a comment on my own behalf because it goes unmentioned that I hope to gain approval during this process. However, after last night's hearing I think it important that I quickly address a couple points that I find to be of value to both myself as an applicant, and the community at large.</p> <p>Avon, as well as the rest of Hatteras Island, has since it's colonization been an area that survived only by what it could accomplish on the water. Whether it be harvesting seafood, chartering for sport, or simply acting as ambassadors for a resource that we all who have lived and grown up here hold near and dear. It is almost a part of us that we get to share with others, whether it be through experience or sustenance. It is also way of life and a heritage that I personally believe needs to be nurtured, preserved, and cherished because it truly is special.</p> <p>I want to do my part to preserve this heritage. I realize our historic fishing community is struggling, and I feel like aquaculture, among other sustainable options are the way of the future. Also, it is the way to keep the community of watermen I grew up in thriving and to provide another generation of watermen the opportunity to do what they were born to do. When the only constant is change, adapting to the new rigors of life working on the water is exactly what I aim to do. I want to do this through a successful oyster aquaculture lease. Where I can create additional opportunities for others like myself that just want a chance to spend their days working in the water with the sun on their backs. Where they too can share the same appreciation that myself, and the generations that have grown up here before me, have for this special place.</p> <p>I appreciate your time to read my comment of support for my proposed, as well as Mr. Hofe's , and the Belter's proposed leases.</p>
4/14/2021 17:48	nanci	weaver	█	North Carolina	We are in support of crew Hayes's lease
4/14/2021 17:55	Denise	Gaskins	█	North Carolina	I feel like it would be a great opportunity to bring harvesting seafood back to Avon waters, I can see the area from my back porch and I would love it
4/14/2021 17:55	Warren	Gaskins	█	North Carolina	I am in favor of the oyster farm. I would like to see working watermen in Avon harbor again. I can only think of positives!
4/14/2021 17:56	Les	Weaver	█	North Carolina	I am fully in support of the Aqua farming lease off of Avon Harbor. I believe these projects our great ambassadors for the environment and for the local enjoyment of restaurants and residents. They also provide an interest point for visitors to the island demonstrating cultivating oysters without damaging our precious sounds. They are unobtrusive and provide a cleaner and healthier product.