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Aphrodite Oysters
LD 1722

Over the last two years DMR and MAA have conducted a series of listening sessions with both aquaculturalists and other stakeholders. In both series aquaculturalists clearly indicated that the backlog of lease applications was one of the most serious challenges to the sector. Treating lease renewals as a full adjudicatory process for an existing lease that in some cases has been operating for years and for which the department has found no cause to revoke significantly adds to the administrative workload of the department. The DMR has repeatedly indicated that the reason for the lease backlog was lack of adequate staff and a burdensome administrative workload. The industry has repeatedly suggested process improvements and supported the department's budget requests in front of the administration and the legislatures appropriations committee. The department now has more aquaculture staff than it ever has in its history. LD 1722 seeks to help solve some of the administrative and staffing challenges the department itself has identified.

Thank you for your consideration!