

Notice of Intent to Adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration

County of Humboldt Recorder's Office
825 5th Street Fifth Floor
Eureka, CA 95501

Project Title: Hog Island Oyster Company Shellfish Farm in Arcata Bay

Lead Agency: Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (HBHRCD)
601 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA 95501

Lead Agency Contact: Adam Wagschal, Deputy Director
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
Phone number: (707) 443-0801
Email: awagschal@humboldtby.org

Project Location: Tidelands in Arcata Bay, California (parcel 506-121-001)

General Plan Land Use: Natural Resources

Zoning: Natural Resources/Water.

Project Description: Hog Island Oyster Company (HIOC) proposes to grow the three species of oyster that have been historically cultivated in Arcata Bay – Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*), Kumamoto oysters (*Crassostrea sikimea*), and the native “Olympia” oysters (*Ostrea lurida*) – with a primary focus on Pacific oysters. HIOC’s hatchery and nursery operations are already permitted to produce these species and will provide a steady, local seed supply. HIOC will employ exclusively near-bottom culture methods, using bags or baskets on intertidal longlines (up to 27 acres), with a small amount (up to 3 acres) of “raised rack and bag” culture. The intertidal longline methods include the use of SEAPA-type culture baskets or “tipping bags.” The proposed HIOC Project would be phased in over a 5-year period, with an initial focus on those areas already classified as Conditionally Approved by the California Department of Public Health. Harvested oysters would be processed at HIOC’s hatchery facility in Samoa, California, and sold primarily within HIOC’s family of California seafood restaurants. Proposed culture areas will avoid eelgrass beds by working at higher tidal elevations ranging from +1.6 feet to +4.6 feet MLLW and incorporating a 16-foot buffer from eelgrass when installing shellfish aquaculture gear.

The Initial Study/Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration will be available for the public’s review and comment beginning March 13, 2021, online at <http://humboldtby.org/> or upon request from HBHRCD at (707) 443-0801.

Written comments are due to Adam Wagschal at awagschal@humboldtby.org or 601 Startare Drive, Eureka, CA 95502 by 4:00 p.m. April 12, 2021.

HBHRCD will consider adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration at a public meeting on or after April 15, 2021. Questions or comments may be directed to Adam Wagschal, awagschal@humboldtby.org.

Signature:  _____

Date: March 8, 2021