

SCANNED

Rec. 3/31/26
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T H E N O A N K
A Q U A C U L T U R E C O O P E R A T I V E

Dear Noank Zoning Commission Members,

The members of the Noank Oyster Cooperative, located at 100 Main St, Noank, respectfully submit the following request as a Text Amendment to the Noank Zoning Regulations.

Specifically, the Noank Aquaculture Co-op would like to amend Section 3.1.8 to allow for retail sales from our location. Currently, Section 3.1.8 allows for, "A base for fishing and lobstering, excluding sale of lobsters or fish on the premises except as a customary home occupation in accordance with Section 3.1.5." We humbly request that Section 3.1.8 could be modified to allow for retail sales.

The Noank Aquaculture co-op has been a staple of the Noank community and exists as one of the last working waterfronts in the entire state of Connecticut. We have been in operation for 25 years growing some of the best oysters and shellfish in the country. In fact, Governor Lamont gave a speech on our dock, right here in Noank stating that, "Oysters are to Connecticut, as lobsters are to Maine!" The oyster industry is a critical piece of Connecticut's economy and history; the cooperative is an integral part of both.

As a co-op, we have had a direct, positive enhancement of the water quality and health of the headwaters of the Atlantic Ocean here in Noank. One oyster can filter 55 gallons of water a day. We typically plant 50-75 million oysters a year, with production trending upwards. We help the town shellfish commissions in restocking the recreational beds multiple times throughout the year and even host Veteran fundraisers that generate upwards of \$50,000 a year to help them get started in farming and other ventures.

Our growers are absolutely dedicated as stewards to this community, our environment, and the development of sustainable farming. We are requesting to formally invest into a retail side of our business that will allow for increased revenue in an area that we have not capitalized on effectively. Our main outlet has been wholesale distribution, but we are requesting to give the public easy access to the same fresh, sustainable food. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

The Noank Aquaculture Cooperative