

BALLARD FISH & OYSTER CO. LLC DBA



P: (757) 331 1208

W: www.clamandoyster.com

A: 1588 Townfield Dr. Cape Charles, VA 23310

January 10, 2025

CFPF Review Committee,

Ballard Fish & Oyster Co., LLC DBA Cherrystone Aqua-Farms has produced quality clams and oysters for over 115 years, initiating operations on Virginia's pristine Eastern Shore in 1895. Our vertically integrated production includes in-house hatchery operations at multiple locations and over 10,000 acres of coastal grow-out production areas in the pristine waterways around Chesapeake Bay tributaries along Virginia's easternmost peninsula.

I write to provide enthusiastic support for Northampton County's proposed project: *Advancing Flood Resiliency of the Working Waterfront in Oyster, VA*. This project represents a real effort by a local community and the Commonwealth of Virginia to address coastal resilience in a highly vulnerable, rural landscape by providing next steps towards implementation of the Oyster Plan. The Plan outline projects, costs and priorities that are necessary to begin to address threats due to sea-level rise and flooding. This project represents the next step- creating a final engineered design that is ready for permitting for implementation.

Cherrystone Aqua-Farms has a vast interest in the working waterfront in Oyster, VA, an area heavily utilized for our operations and impacted by issues the plan addresses. We are supportive of working with Northampton County and the community to provide a more resilient future for this important coastal village.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Rapine', is written over a horizontal line.

Timothy Rapine, COO

Ballard Fish & Oyster Co., LLC DBA
Cherrystone Aqua Farms
1588 Townfield Dr.
Cape Charles, Va 23310
timr@clamandoyster.com
(757)331-1208