



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
21 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0021

Complete 9.12.25

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

CARL J. WILSON
COMMISSIONER

AQUACULTURE LEASE RENEWAL APPLICATION

For renewing a Scientific Experimental Lease

Please send this completed application and a certified tax map and updated list of riparian owners to the DMR Aquaculture Division at the above address. Please contact the Aquaculture Division at (207) 350-7815 or DMRaquaculture@maine.gov with any questions.

1. Name of leaseholder: Hurricane Island Foundation
Address: 19 Commercial Street, Rockland, ME 04841
E-mail Address: mmaier@hurricaneisland.net Telephone: (207)867-6050
2. Provide the acronym for the scientific lease you request to be renewed:
PEN Hlx
3. Describe the type and amount of aquaculture to be conducted during the new term:

Overview: The new term will continue to focus on both scientific research and educational outreach, with a focus on studying our permitted marine species, aquaculture techniques, and environmental stewardship. We will maintain the cultivation of sugar kelp, winged kelp, sea scallops, blue sea mussels, and Eastern/American oysters in line with established best practices, leveraging the long-term monitoring and research capabilities of our farm. In the new term, PEN Hlx will remain dedicated to studying key environmental and aquaculture-related questions and offering real-world applications and learning opportunities for students, researchers, and the surrounding communities. Additionally, we are seeking approval for non-commercial human consumption that furthers scientific research and increases educational engagement that 'advances [the] field or...impact[s]... the progress in that field' as defined in Chapter 2.05(H).

Scallops: Scallop aquaculture will continue in the new term. Animals will be grown in cages and nets on a long line system. Seed will come from spat bags that are deployed in the Fall and retrieved in the Spring according to spat license collection regulations. Scallops will continue to be hand-harvested.

Kelp: The seeding, cultivation, and harvesting that happened during the previous lease term will continue. All kelp lines will continue to be deployed in September or October and harvested in the late Spring. All kelp and associated gear will be out of the water by

the end of June. Seed will come from wild kelp or pre-seeded spools from approved sources.

Oysters: Oysters will continue to be grown in floating bags and overwintered on longlines or in bottom cages. Seed will be acquired annually or biannually through approved sources and likely received between June–August with harvesting occurring on an as-needed basis.

Mussels: Mussels will be grown on ropes hung off the underside of the float or where naturally set. Seed will be collected from wild populations on fuzzy ropes during the spring-summer spawning season or via natural settlement on vertical lines or the work float within the farm. If poor settlement occurs, we will consider acquiring seed from a hatchery. All mussels will be hand-harvested.

4. Describe the amount of aquaculture conducted on the lease site during the previous lease term, including but not limited to seeding, cultivation or harvest of organisms:

Overview: The previous lease term involved extensive aquaculture activities aimed at advancing both scientific research, sustainable practices and providing educational opportunities. PEN Hlx cultivated and studied scallops, kelp, oysters, and mussels.

Scallops: Spat bags were deployed annually in September around Hurricane Island and the Muscle Ridge closure area and retrieved in April/May and sorted over the course of the summer with students and staff. Approximately 35,000 spat were caught over this lease period and all were retained, though there were naturally high mortality rates in their first year of life.

Scallops were distributed between bottom cages and lantern nets with approximately 6,000-10,000 individuals on the farm at any time. Approximately 2,500 adult individuals were hand-harvested during this lease term. The majority of the scallops were harvested for tissue condition sampling associated with various experiments and for educational purposes. Research projects centering around scallops included biofouling studies and isotope analysis.

Kelp: Kelp was grown on our longlines. Within the previous lease term, we have used pre-seeded spools as well as seeded our own lines, sometimes with students. The lines were set and seeded in September–October. Students and staff harvested and sampled the kelp from May–June. There was no kelp line set in the Fall of 2023 due to poor settlement. All kelp were hand-harvested.

Oysters: Oysters were grown in floating bags and cages. We received seed from Muscongus Bay Aquaculture. Oysters were hand-harvested on an as needed basis. Research projects included trialing plastic alternatives to traditional gear.

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Mussels: Within the previous term, wild mussels settled naturally on vertical lines and the work float within the aquaculture site. No seed was acquired from a hatchery. All mussels were hand-harvested and used for educational purposes or collected as samples upon the request of the Department of Marine Resources.

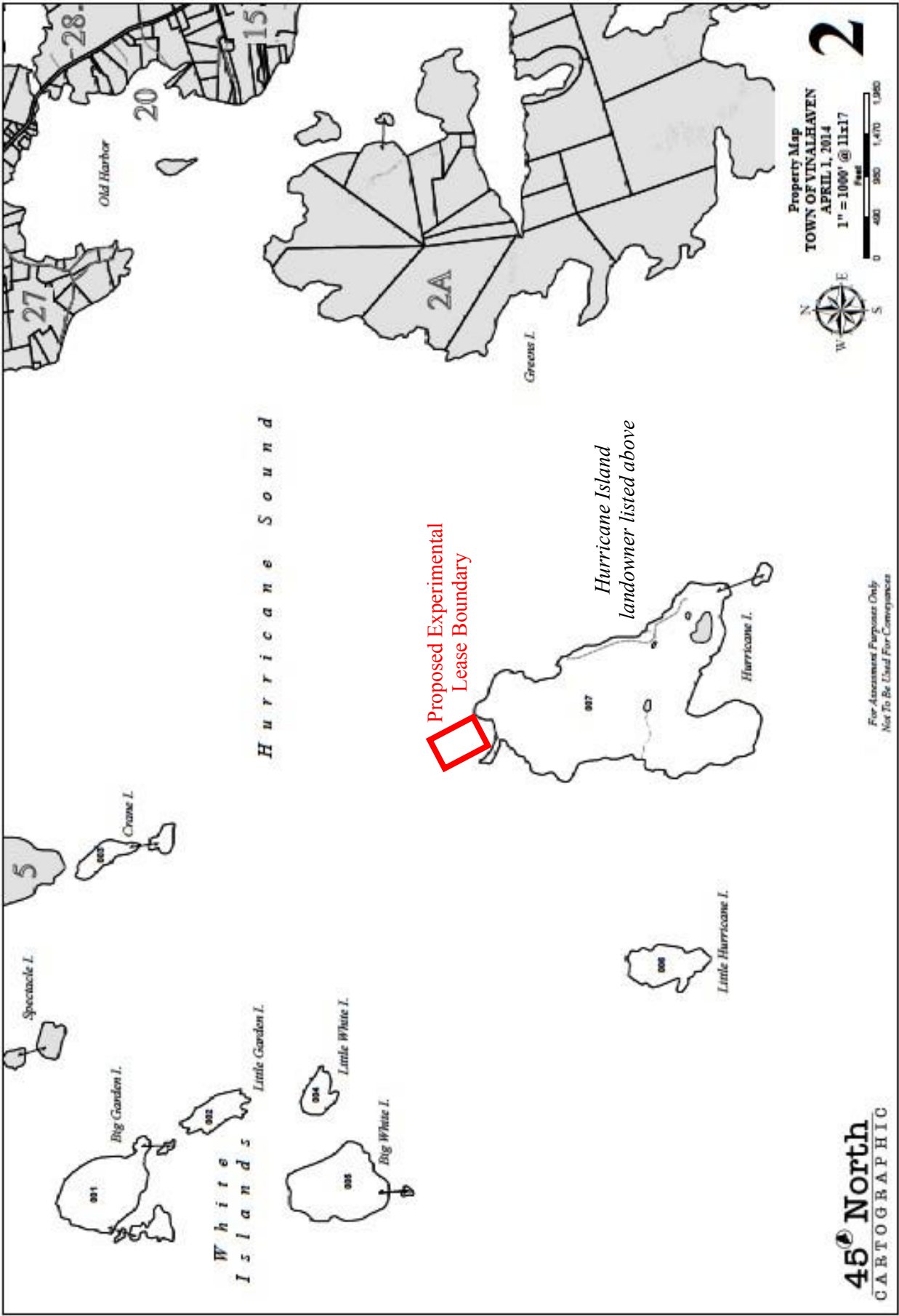
☒ Certified tax map *and* updated list of riparian landowners enclosed

☐ \$750.00 application fee enclosed

8/22/2025
Date

Madison Maier
Signature of Leaseholder

Tax Map: Town of Vinalhaven



RIPARIAN LANDOWNER LIST

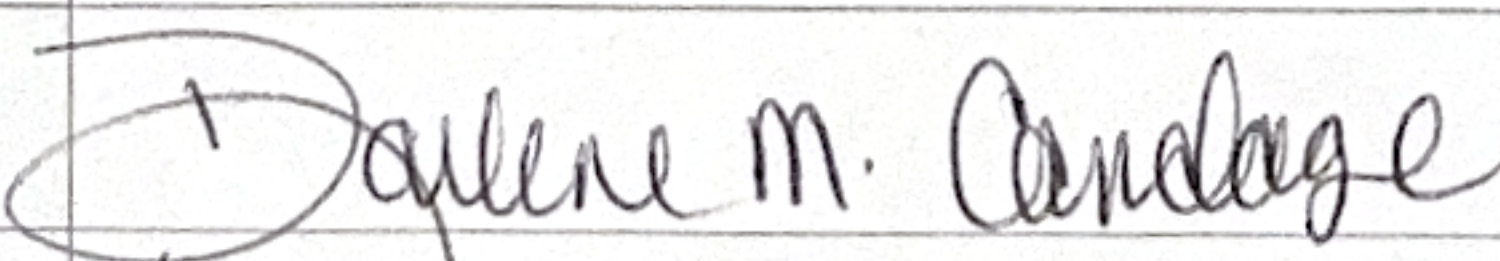
Using municipal tax records, complete the table below for all riparian shorefront parcels within 1,000 feet of the proposed lease site. **It is the applicant's responsibility to assemble the information for the municipality to certify.** The municipality only certifies that the information is correct according to the town's tax records. Once you have completed the form, ask the municipality to complete the certification section below. Attach additional pages as necessary.

Name of Municipality:	Vinalhaven
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Tax Map Number	Lot Number	Name of Landowner(s)	Mailing Address (Based on municipal tax records)
002	007	Hurricane Island Trust J. F. Gaston J. Strater	P.O. Box 100 Sherman, CT 06784

Town Certification

By signing below, I am certifying on behalf of the municipality listed above that the names and addresses of the property owners, including the map and lot numbers, are those listed in the records of this municipality and are current as of this date.

Printed Name:	Darlene M. Candage
Signature:	
Position:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> Town Assessor <input type="checkbox"/> Other town official. Please specify:
Date:	7/31/2025