

STANDARD LEASE APPLICATION: NON-DISCHARGE

1. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicant	Robert Baines & Cole Baines		
Contact Person	Robert Baines		
Address	89 Waterman Beach Rd.		
City	South Thomaston		
State, Zip	Maine 04858		
County	Knox		
Telephone	207- 596-9121		
Email	Rsbaines566@gmail.com		
Type of Application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft Application <input type="checkbox"/> Final Application <small>[submitted before scoping session session] [submitted after scoping session]</small>		
Dates	Pre-Application Meeting: 7/20/21	Draft Application Submitted: 8/29/21	Scoping Session:
Payment Type	Draft Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check (included) <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card		Final Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Check (included) <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card

Note: The email address you list here will be the primary means by which we will contact you. Please provide an email address that is checked regularly. If you do not use email, please leave this blank.

2. PROPOSED LEASE SITE INFORMATION

Location of Proposed Lease Site	
Town	Unorganized Territory
Waterbody	West Penobscot Bay, Muscle Ridge Islands
General Description (e.g. south of B Island)	East of Muscle Ridge Channel, West of Hewitt Island, South of Clam Ledges
Lease Information	
Total acreage requested (100-acre maximum)	7.33 acres
Lease term requested (20-year maximum)	20 year
Type of culture (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bottom (no gear) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suspended (gear in the water and/or on the bottom)
Is any portion of the proposed lease site above mean low water?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Note: If you selected yes, you need to complete the steps outlined in the section titled: "19."

Landowner/Municipal Permission Requirements”.

3. GROWING AREA DESIGNATION

Directions: Information for growing area designations can be found here:

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/index.html>

Growing Area Designation (e.g. WL):	WV
Growing Area Section (e.g. “A1”):	A1

Note: If you are proposing to grow molluscan shellfish in waters classified as anything other than open/approved, you will need to contact the Bureau of Public Health to discuss your plans at the following email: DMRPublicHealthDiv@maine.gov

4. SPECIES INFORMATION

A. Please complete the table below and add additional rows as needed.

Name of species to be cultivated (include both common and scientific names):	Name and address of the source of seed stock or juveniles	Maximum number (or biomass) of organisms you anticipate on the site at any given time
1. Sugar Kelp (<i>Saccharina latissima</i>)	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	25,000 lbs
2. Skinny Kelp (<i>Saccharina angustissima</i>)	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	25,000 lbs
3. Winged Kelp (<i>Alaria esculenta</i>)	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	5,000 lbs
4. Horsetail Kelp (<i>Laminaria digitata</i>)	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	5,000 lbs
5. Shotgun Kelp (<i>Agarum cribosum</i>)	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	5,000 lbs
6. Dulse (<i>Palmaria palmata</i>)	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	5,000 lbs
7. Irish Moss (<i>Chondrus crispus</i>)	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	2,000 lbs

8. Nori/Laver (<i>Porphyra spp.</i>)	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	2,000 lbs
9. <i>Gracilaria tikvahiae</i>	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	2,000 lbs
10. Sea Lettuce (<i>Ulva lactuca</i>)	Atlantic Sea Farms Saco, Maine	2,000 lbs

B. Do you intend to possess, transport, or sell whole or roe-on scallops? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If you answered “yes” please contact the Bureau of Public Health to discuss your plans at the following email: DMRPublicHealthDiv@maine.gov

Note: If you are proposing to grow molluscan shellfish, this application also serves as your written operational plan as required in the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Model Ordinance Chapter 2 and must be maintained in your files. If you wish to submit an operational plan separate from this application, please contact: DMRPublicHealthDiv@maine.gov

5. VICINITY MAP

Note: Please label as: ‘Vicinity Map’.

Directions: Using a NOAA Chart or USGS topographic map, show the area within a minimum of one-half mile of the proposed lease site.

The map needs to display the following:

- The waters, shore lands, and lines of mean high and mean low water within the general area of the lease.
- An arrow indicating true north
- A scale bar
- The approximate lease boundaries

Vicinity Map is in the application attachments.

6. BOUNDARY DRAWING

Note: Please label as: ‘Boundary Drawing’.

Boundary Drawing and Coordinates are in application attachments

Directions: Depict the boundaries of the proposed lease site. Provide a drawing with all corners,

directions, and distances labeled. Provide coordinates for each corner as follows:

- **Coordinate Description**

Provide geographic coordinates for each corner of the lease site in latitude and longitude as accurately as possible (e.g., to the nearest second or fraction of a second). Identify the datum from the map, chart, or GPS unit used to develop these coordinates. The datum will be shown on the map or chart you are using. The Coordinate Description may be provided separately from the Boundary Drawing.

7. SITE DEVELOPMENT

Directions: If your operations require the use of cages, nets, ropes, trays, or any object (structure) other than the organism to be grown directly on the bottom or buoys to mark the corners of the lease site, you must submit gear drawings and maximum structure schematics (information below). This section is intended to provide accurate plans depicting the physical structures to be placed in the proposed area. All dimensions need to be labeled with the appropriate units (i.e. 10ft, 10in). If you are proposing a bottom lease (no gear), please skip to question “F. Marking”.

Note: You may embed the schematics within the document or attach them to the end of your application. If you attach the schematics, please label them according to the instructions provided below.

A. Gear information

Directions: Include a drawing of an individual piece of gear for each of the gear type(s) you plan to use. Include units referenced (i.e. 10in, 10ft, etc.).

1. **Gear Drawing:** Please include the following for each gear type that will hold organisms to be cultured (e.g. polar circles, marine algae longlines, oyster cages) and label as “Gear Drawing”. This view must show the following:
 - Length, width, and height of each gear type.
2. **Gear Table:** List and describe each individual gear type that you will use in the table below. (e.g. polar circles, marine algae longline, oyster cages, moorings, mooring lines, buoys, etc.).

Specific Gear Type (e.g. soft mesh bag)	Dimensions (e.g. 16"x20"x2")	Time of year gear will be deployed (e.g. Spring, Winter, etc.)	Maximum amount of this gear type that will be deployed on the site (i.e. 200 cages, 100 lantern nets, etc.)	Species that will be grown using this gear type
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Longlines	1,000 ft, long	Nov thru May	17 longlines	Marine Algae
Pyramid Anchors	200 lbs	Nov thru May	10 ea.	Marine Algae
Mushroom Anchor	250 lbs	Nov thru May	26 ea.	Marine Algae
Lobster Buoys	7"x11"	Nov thru May	119 ea	Marine Algae
Mooring Lines	5/8" twisted line	Nov thru May	34 ea. cut sections	Marine Algae
Corner Markers	Poly Ball	Nov thru May	4 ea.	Marine Algae

Mushroom Anchor:



Pyramid Anchor:



Mooring Line (5/8ths rope):

Longlines (3/8ths sink rope):



Lobster Buoys (depth control) :

Poly Balls for lease corner markers:



B. Maximum Structure and Mooring System Schematic

Directions: Include drawings of your maximum gear layout. Include units referenced (i.e. 10in, 10ft, etc.).

Overhead View, Cross Section View, and End View are in application attachments.

1. Overhead View. Please include the following and label as “Overhead View”:
 - Maximum layout of gear, including moorings.
 - Length and width of project.
 - Approximate spacing between gear.
 - Lease boundaries and the location of proposed corner markers and any additional gear markers that would be present.
2. Cross-Section View. Please include the following and label as “Cross-Section View”:
 - The sea bottom.
 - Profile of gear in cross-section as it will be deployed.
 - Label gear with dimensions and materials.
 - Show mooring gear with mooring type, scope, hardware, and line type and size.
 - Depth of gear in relation to the water’s surface at mean low water and mean high water (if applicable).

Note: Please include an additional Cross Section View, depicting the elements listed above, if there will be seasonal changes to gear layout (i.e. over wintering).

C. On-Site Support Structures

2. Describe the storage and use of oil, gasoline, or other hazardous materials on site. If petroleum products are to be stored on site, provide a spill prevention plan.

N/A

D. Gear Color

Provide the color of the gear and structures proposed to be used at the lease site.

Orange Poly balls marking the four corners of the lease site and mixed style lobster buoys used as depth control buoys across the farm.

E. Equipment Layout

Provide schematic or photographic renderings of the generalized layout of the equipment as depicted from two vantage points on the water. Provide the locations of the two vantage points.

F. Marking

Will you be able to mark your site in accordance with DMR regulations, Chapter 2.80? In part, this requires marker buoys which clearly display the lease ID and the words SEA FARM to be located at each corner of the lease.

☒ Yes ☐ No

If you answered no, explain why and suggest alternate markings.

N/A

Note: If a lease is granted, you will also be required to mark the site in accordance with appropriate

US Coast Guard Regulations. If you have questions about US Coast Guard Regulations contact: 1st Coast Guard District, Aids to Navigation Office ((617)-223-3293).

8. PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

Directions: If you are cultivating more than one species, you will need to provide the following information for each species. Please attach additional pages if needed.

A. Please explain your proposed seeding activities. What months will seeding occur and how often will you be onsite to seed during this time.

Kelp seeding will take place during the months of November and possibly December lasting no more than one week a season.

In the future, red and green seaweed species will be seeded depending on seasonal availability of the species either in the fall (November) or early spring (March).

B. Please explain your proposed tending/maintenance activities.

Longlines will be monitored at a minimum of every two weeks or directly after any significant storm during the growing season, between early December and early May annually.

C. How frequently will you visit the site for routine tending/maintenance (i.e. flipping cages, etc.)?

Longlines will be monitored at a minimum of every two weeks during the growing season, between early December and early May annually.

D. Describe the harvesting techniques you will use. If you plan on using a drag, please provide the dimensions.

Harvesting will be done using my lobster boat. Longlines will be hauled using a winch mounted on deck and through a block hanging off a secured boom. Kelp will be cut by hand from the longline prior to reaching the block. Once the kelp is cut from the line it will be promptly transferred by hand into harvest bags on the deck of the boat until it is offloaded at the dock later that day.

E. How often will you be at the site during harvesting periods?

Farmers will be at the kelp farm on favorable weather days during the harvest season depending on market demand. Harvesting typically occurs during April and early May annually. I can harvest up to 10,000 pounds a day. I estimate it could take 5 to 12 working days to complete the harvest, depending on weather and the amount of harvestable kelp.

F. Will gear be on the site year-round? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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G. Describe any overwintering or “off season” plans for the site. For example, will you remove gear from the site and/or deploy gear in different areas within the proposed site? Please include where gear or product will be located if removed from the site.

All gear will be removed from site by May 31, and will not be back on site until November 1. All gear will be stored on shore on lease owners’ property.

H. Please provide details on any predator control techniques you plan to employ, including the use of bird deterrents. Will you use commercially available or custom equipment? If commercially available equipment, please include the brand and model names. If custom equipment, please attach a detailed schematic that includes the dimensions, materials, and function of the equipment.

N/A

9. NOISE AND LIGHT

Directions: If a question does not pertain to your proposed operations, please write “**not applicable**” or “N/A”.

A. What type of boats will be used on the site? When and how often will these vessels be on the site?

A lobster boat will be used to set and retrieve gear (moorings & longlines) and also used for harvesting operations. Skiffs will be used to seed the long lines once a season on the farm and assist in tending the gear for detail oriented tasks.

B. What type of powered equipment (e.g. generator, power washer, grading equipment, barges, etc.) will be used on the site? When and how often will the equipment be used?

Not applicable

C. Specify how you intend to reduce noise levels from the boats and other powered equipment.

All seeding, monitoring and harvesting operations are done by hand on the boats and require no powered equipment. There will be minimum engine noise that is traditional for lobster fishing operations in the area.

D. Provide the number, type (whether fixtures are shielded), wattage and location of lights, other than those used for navigation or marking, that will be used at the proposed lease site.

Not applicable

E. Indicate under what circumstances you might work at your site beyond daylight hours.

Not applicable

10. CURRENT OPERATIONS

Directions: If a question does not pertain to your proposed operations, please write “**not applicable**” or “N/A”.

A. Describe your existing aquaculture operations, including the acronyms of all active leases and/or licenses.

Robert Baines currently holds an experimental lease: PEN CLx where he grows kelp.

B. What are your plans for any existing leases and/or Limited Purpose Aquaculture (LPA) licenses if the lease is granted? Will any existing leases and/or LPA licenses be relinquished if the lease is granted? If so, please indicate which ones.

Experimental lease (PEN CLx) is set to expire on 10/31/2022 and would be replaced with the lease in this standard lease application.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERIZATION

Directions: Using your knowledge of the area, describe the environment of the proposed lease site. Be sure to include units of measurement in your answers (i.e. feet, cm/s).

A. What are the approximate depths at mean low water?

34 feet

B. What are the approximate depths at mean high water?

44 feet

C. Provide the approximate current speed and direction during the ebb and flow.

2 knots, NE/SW

D. The following questions (D.1 through D.6) may be answered in writing or by submitting a video. If you plan to submit a video, please contact the Department prior to video collection.

1. What are the bottom characteristics (mud, sand, gravel, rock, ledge or some mix, etc.)?

Mud bottom

2. Describe the bottom topography (flat, steep rough, etc.).

Flat bottom

3. Describe marine organisms by species or common names. Based on your personal observations or other sources of information, are these species abundant, common, or rare?

I have not observed any marine organisms in the lease area or in the mud that has surfaced when retrieving the farm anchors.

4. Are there shellfish beds or fish migration routes in the surrounding area? If so, please describe.

No shellfish beds, no known fish migration routes in the surrounding area.

<p>5. Describe the presence and extent of submerged aquatic vegetation, i.e. eelgrass, within the proposed lease area. Please include the date of this observation along with the method of observation. If submerged aquatic vegetation is observed, please also describe the abundance below and sketch the limits of the beds in the vicinity map.</p>
None known
<p>6. Describe the general shoreline and upland characteristics (rocky shoreline, forested, residential, etc.)</p>
Rocky shoreline

<p>E. Is your proposed lease located within a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife designated Essential Habitat?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Note: The location of Essential Habitats in the State of Maine, along with information on how projects within these areas are reviewed, can be found here: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/endangered-threatened-species/essential-wildlife-habitat/index.html>

If a project is located within an Essential Habitat, applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the MDIFW Environmental Review Coordinator (John.Perry@maine.gov, phone: 207-287-5254) prior to application submission.

12. EXISTING USES

<p>A. Describe the existing uses of the proposed area in questions A.1 through A.5 below. Please include the a) type b) time of year c) frequency and d) proximity to the lease site for each existing use.</p>
<p>1. Commercial Fishing</p> <p>Some lobster fishing mid-June through mid-October. A number of lobster boats transit this area during November and in April and May as well. All these boats come from Spruce Head where I also keep my boat. I have spoken with the local fishing community about my standard lease application and will be reaching out to as many as possible to urge them to come to my scoping session. There is ample room to transit around either side of my proposed sight.</p>
<p>2. Recreational Fishing</p> <p>None known</p>
<p>3. Boating Activities (please also include the distance to any navigable channel(s) from your proposed site at low water)</p>

During late fall and spring (time lease is active) some lobster and recreational boats transit through this area which is located over a mile from the navigable channel. There is room to navigate around the lease with ease. Robert is in the process of contacting residents of Hewitt Island, which has a summer community and could be boating in this area in the late spring to early summer.

4. Ingress and egress (i.e. coming and going) of shorefront property owners within 1,000 feet of the proposal (e.g. docks, moorings, landing boats on shore, etc.)

None, the lease is over 1,000 feet from any shorefront property owners.

5. Other uses (kayaking, swimming, etc.)

Some kayaking during summer months

B. Are there private docks, moorings, or other access points within 1,000 feet of the proposed lease? If yes, please include approximate distance from the proposed lease.

No.

C. Are there public beaches, parks, docking facilities or federally, state, or municipally conserved lands within 1,000 feet of the proposed lease site? If yes, please describe and include approximate distances from proposed lease.

No.

D. Are there any Limited Purpose Aquaculture (LPA) licenses or aquaculture leases within 1,000 feet of your proposed lease site? If yes, please list their acronyms below.
Current and pending aquaculture leases and active LPA licenses may be found here:
<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/leases/index.html>

No.

13. EXCLUSIVE USE

If your lease is granted, what activities would you request be excluded from occurring within the boundaries of the lease site? In your answer please address applicable commercial and recreational fishing, boating activities, and other activities you listed in the 'Existing Uses' section of this application.

Exclusive use of the sight would be requested. All boats would be asked to transit around the lease area to maintain farm gear and safe navigation for all users.

14. RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS AND SITE ACCESS

A. If your lease is within 1,000ft of shorefront land (**which extends to mean low water or 1,650 ft. from shore, whichever is less, according to NOAA charts**), the following supporting documents are required:

1. A labeled copy of a tax map(s) depicting the location of the proposed lease site and including the following elements:
 - Label the map "Tax Map: Town of (name of town)."
 - Legible scale
 - Tax lot numbers clearly displayed
 - The boundaries of the proposed lease
2. Please use the Riparian Landowner List (included on the next page) to list the name and address of every shorefront landowner within 1,000ft of the proposed lease site. Have the tax collector or clerk of the municipality certify the list. Refer to the riparian determination guidance document to ensure all riparian landowners are included:
<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/forms/documents/RiparianDetermination.pdf>
3. If any portion of the site is intertidal, you need to complete the steps outlined in the section titled: "19. Landowner/Municipal Permission Requirements".

B. Will your access to the lease area be across riparian land?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Note: If you selected yes, you will need to complete the landowner permission requirements included in "19. Landowner/Municipal Permission Requirements" of this application.

C. How will you access the proposed site?

Access to the proposed lease site will be by boat, leaving from the Spruce Head Fishermen's Co-op.

D. How will your proposed activities affect riparian ingress and egress?
There will be no direct effect on riparian ingress and egress. There will be navigable waterways around all sides of the proposed lease site.

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There will be no direct effect on riparian ingress and egress. There will be navigable waterways around all sides of the proposed lease site.

RIPARIAN LANDOWNER LIST

****THIS LIST MUST BE CERTIFIED****

On this list, please show the current landowners' names and mailing addresses as listed in the municipal tax records for all riparian shorefront parcels within 1,000 feet of the proposed lease site along with the map and lot number for each parcel. **It is the applicant's responsibility to assemble the information for the Town Clerk to certify.** The Town Clerk only certifies that the information is correct according to the Town's records. Once you have completed the form, ask the Town Clerk to complete the certification section below. If the parcels are within more than one municipality, provide a separate, certified riparian list for each municipality.

TOWN OF:

MAP #	LOT #	Landowner name(s) and address(es)
n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a

Please use additional sheets if necessary and attach hereto.

CERTIFICATION

I, _____N/A_____, Town Clerk for the Town of _____N/A_____ certify that the names and addresses of the property owners listed above, as well as the map and lot numbers, are those listed in the records of this municipality and are current as of this date.

SIGNED: N/A **DATE: N/A**

15. TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

Provide information regarding professional expertise. Attaching resume or documentation of practical experience necessary to accomplish the proposed project would satisfy this requirement.

Robert Baines currently has two years experience in kelp farming. Documentation of success is available using DMR's Landings program. Additionally, Robert has participated in farmer training from Atlantic Sea Farms through their partner farmer program. Robert is also a dedicated member of the Maine lobstering community.

16. FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

A. Financial Capability

Please provide documentation to show you have the financial resources to implement the proposal. For example, you may submit a letter from a financial institution or funding agency indicating that you have an account in good standing, or their willingness to commit funds.

Note: Any financial information you submit with your application is part of the public record. Please exercise discretion when submitting financial information.

Robert Baines currently owns all gear necessary for implementation of the proposed lease.

B. Cost Estimates

Please provide cost estimates of the proposed aquaculture activities.

Fixed costs include Lobster Boat (\$250k), skiff (\$5k), 40 pyramid and mushroom anchors (\$15K), 5/8-inch mooring lines (\$2k). Annual cost of replacing longlines (\$3k).

17. ESCROW ACCOUNT OR PERFORMANCE BOND

Check the category that describes your operation:

Check Here	Lease Category	Amount of Required Escrow or Performance Bond
<input type="checkbox"/>	No gear/structure, no discharge	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	No gear/structure, discharge	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	≤ 400 square feet of gear/structure, no discharge	\$1,500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	>400 square feet of gear/structure, no discharge	\$5,000.00*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gear/Structure, discharge	\$25,000.00

*DMR may increase the bond/escrow requirements for leases with more than 2,000 square feet of structure.

I, (printed name of applicant) Robert S. Baines have read DMR Aquaculture Regulations Chapter 2.64(10) (D) and if this proposed lease is granted by DMR, I will either open an escrow account or obtain a performance bond, in the amount determined by the lease category.

Robert S. Baines
Applicant Signature

8/29/21
Date

Note: Add title if signing on behalf of a corporate applicant.

ADDITIONAL APPLICANTS: Each applicant must sign this section indicating that they will open an escrow account or obtain a performance bond. Use the space below for additional persons listed on the application. You may attach additional pages, if necessary.

I, (printed name of applicant) Cole Baines have read DMR Aquaculture Regulations Chapter 2.64(10) (D) and if this proposed lease is granted by DMR, I will either open an escrow account or obtain a performance bond, in the amount determined by the lease category.

Cole Baines
Applicant Signature

8/29/21
Date

Note: Add title if signing on behalf of a corporate applicant.

18. APPLICANT SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby state that the information included in this application is true and correct. I have also read and understand the requirements of the Department's rules governing aquaculture and the application instructions pertaining to the standard lease process.

Printed name: Robert S. Baine

Title (if corporate applicant): _____

Signature: Robert S. Baine Date: 8/29/21

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

Note:

- All applicants must sign and date this page. Please use the space below, if additional signatures are required.
- Corporate applicants, please be sure to include the title(s) (i.e. President, Treasurer, etc.) of the individual(s) signing on the company's behalf.

Additional Applicant:

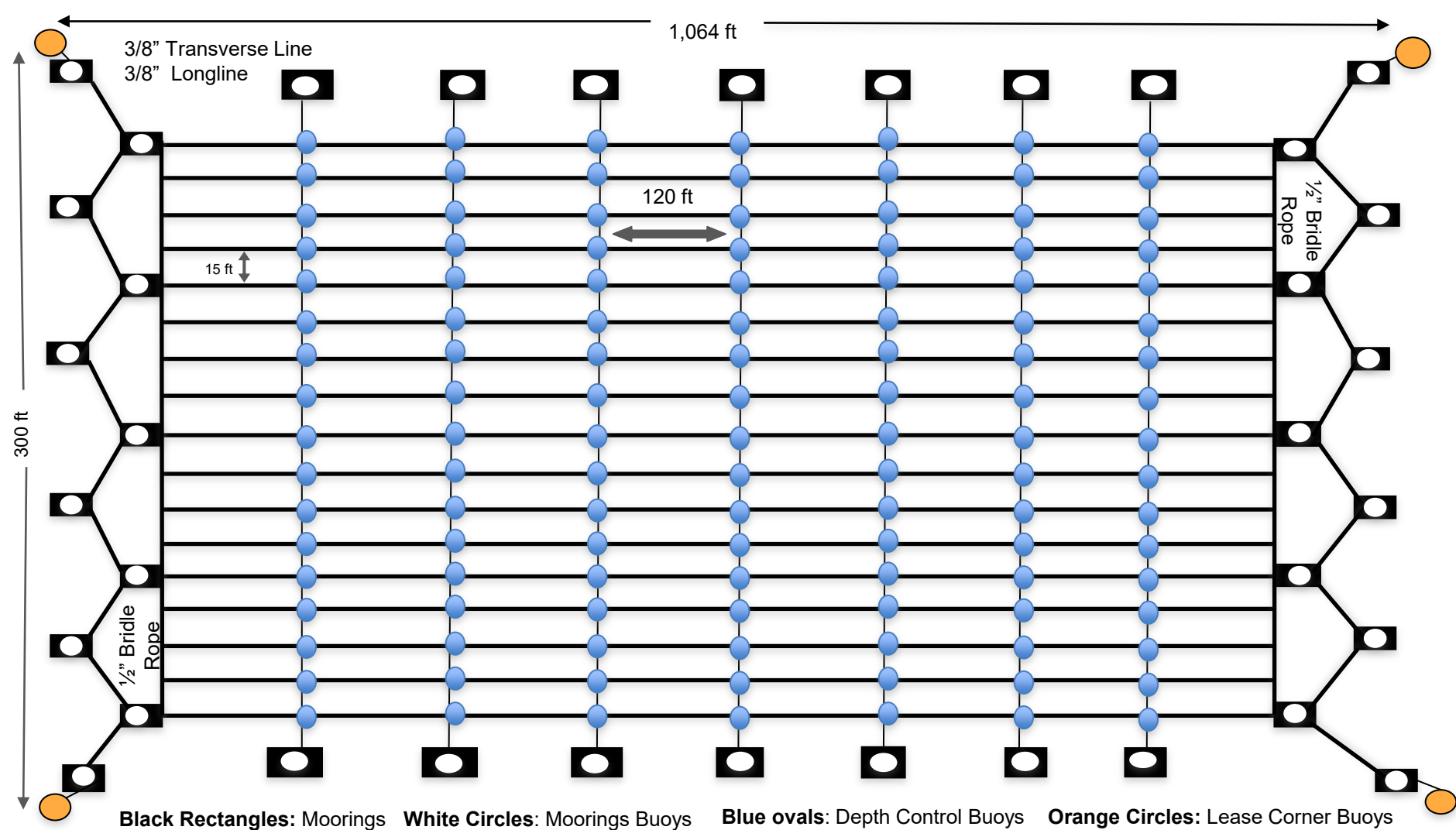
Printed name: Cole Baines

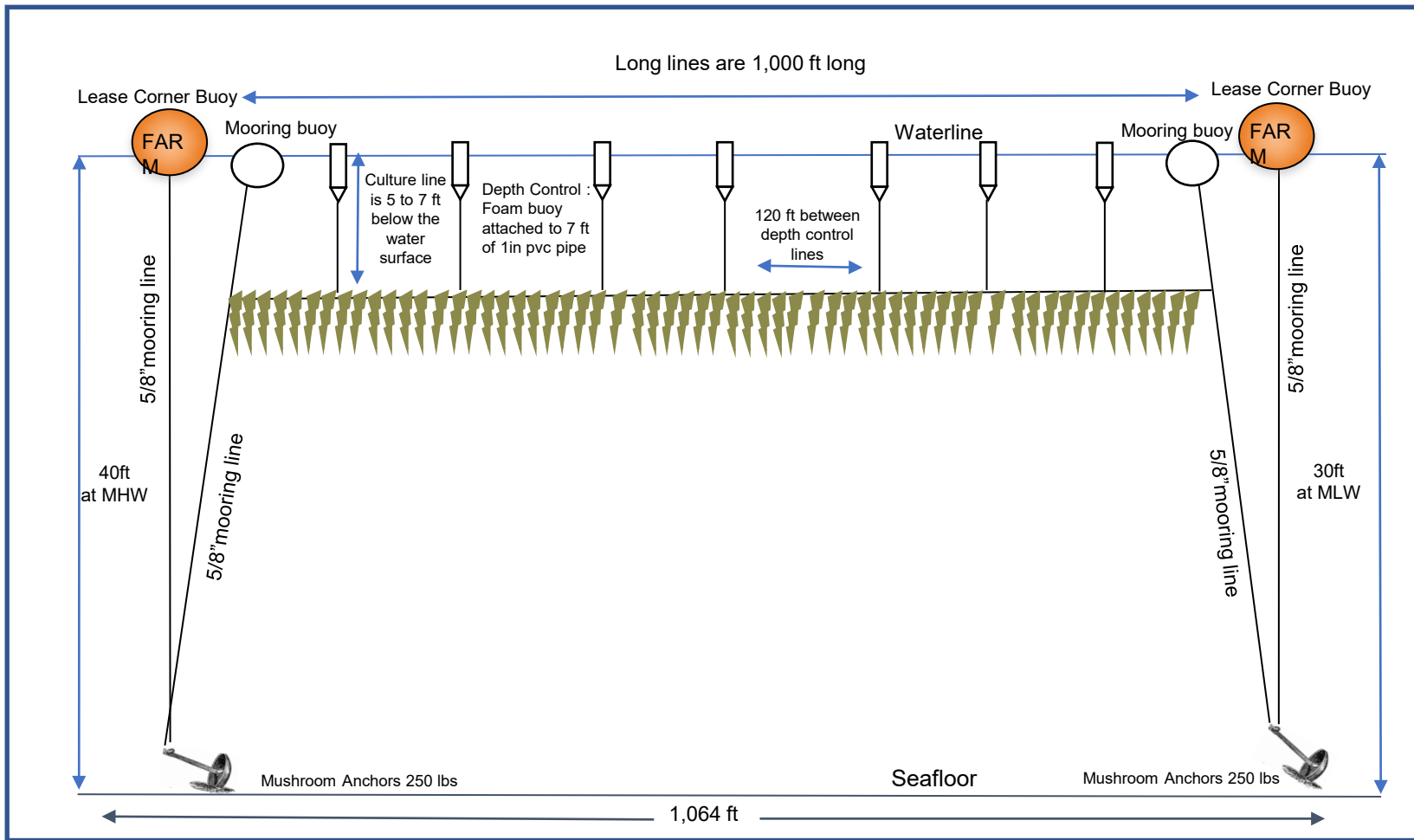
Title (if corporate applicant): _____

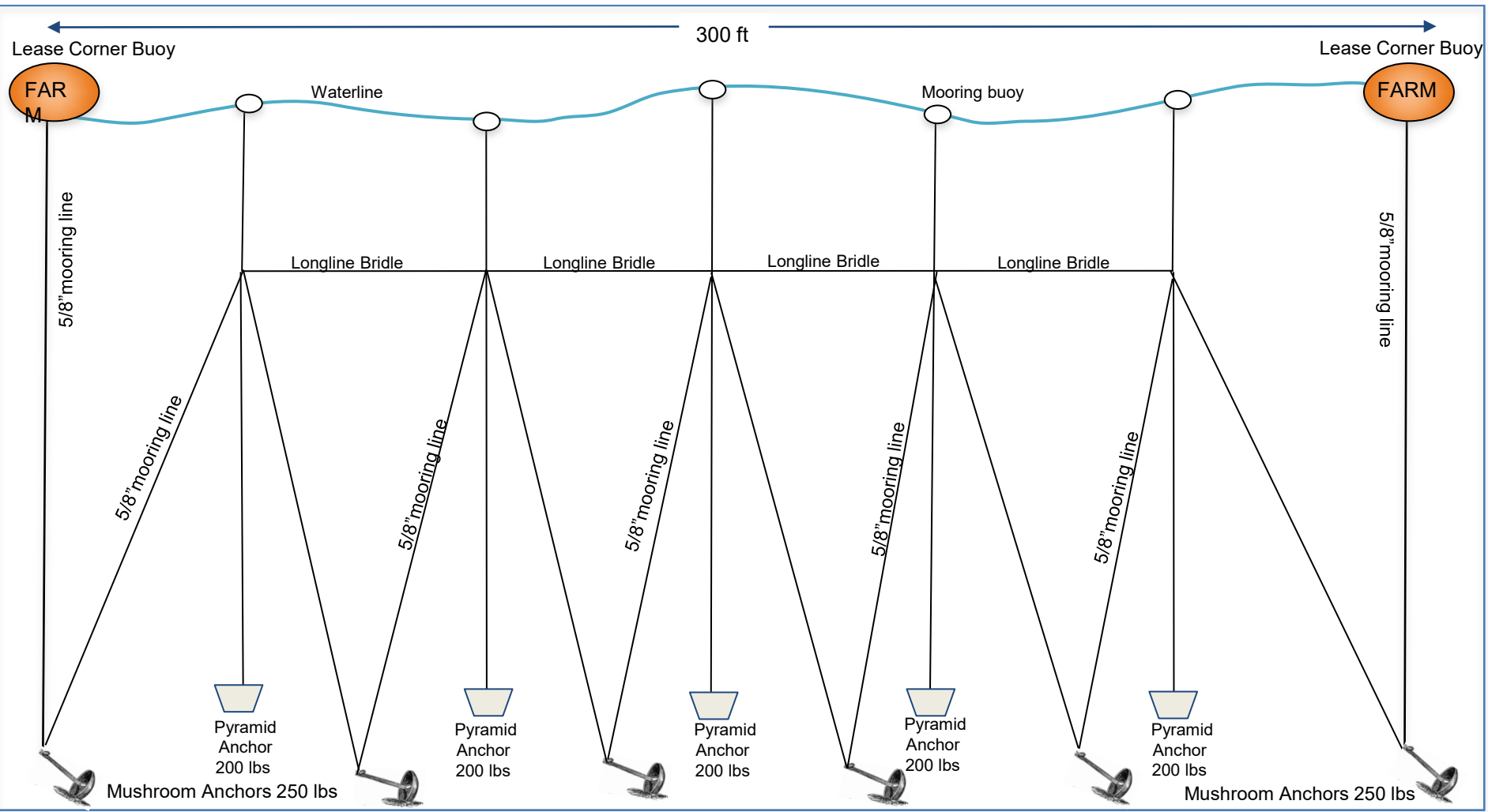
Signature: Cole Baines Date: 8/29/21

BAINES STANDARD LEASE APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS

1. Gear Diagram #1 Farm Overhead View
2. Gear Diagram #2 Farm Cross Section View
3. Gear Diagram #3 Farm End View
4. Vicinity Map
5. Boundary Map
6. New Lease Coordinates









Vicinity Map

Key: proposed standard lease
perimeter outlined in Blue



Boundary Map

Legend

-  Existing Experimental Lease in Yellow
-  Standard Lease Boundary Markers



New Lease Coordinates:

NW Corner: $43^{\circ}59'42.61''$ N, $69^{\circ}4'55.04''$ W

NE Corner: $43^{\circ}59'41.07''$ N, $69^{\circ}4'51.54''$ W

SW Corner: $43^{\circ}59'34.49''$ N, $69^{\circ}5'3.7''$ W

SE Corner: $43^{\circ}55'32.78''$ N, $69^{\circ}5'0.41''$ W

Marcy Nelson
DMR Aquaculture Division
21 State House Station
Augusta, ME. 04333-0021

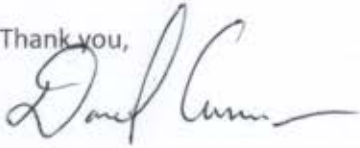
September 28, 2021

David Cousens
343 Waterman Beach Road
South Thomaston, ME 04858

Dear Ms. Nelson,

I am writing in support of the application submitted by Robert and Cole Baines for a 20 year standard lease to grow kelp off of Hewitt Island. I fish and transit in the area where this kelp farm is proposed, and have witnessed for the last two years the experimental lease held by Robert Baines on this same site. This proposed kelp farm does not interfere with lobster fishing in this area since the lobster season is finished before the beginning of November, and does not start up again until the end of June at the earliest. There is ample room to navigate around the proposed lease site and I see no negatives to granting this application.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Cousens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Cousens