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**Humboldt Bay Harbor,
Recreation and Conservation District**
(707) 443-0801
P.O. Box 1030
Eureka, California 95502-1030



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
A NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

This is to inform the public and interested agencies that in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District is circulating the Initial Study/ Negative Declaration for public comment.

- Project Title:** Mad River Slough Shellfish Nursery
- Lead Agency:** Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District (HBHRCD)
601 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA 95501
- Lead Agency Contact:** Doug Saucedo, Natural Resources Coordinator
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
Phone number: (707) 443-0801 Email: dsaucedo@humboldtby.org
- Project Location:** The Project’s shellfish nursery is located off of Lanphere Road in the tidelands of Arcata Bay, California at 40°53'59.3"N 124°08'11.8"W (APN 506-291-013).
- General Plan Land Use Designation** The General Plan designation for the shellfish nursery site is Agriculture Exclusive (AE)/Natural Resources (NR).
- Zoning** The Project’s shellfish nursery is on land zoned Agricultural Exclusive (AE) and Natural Resources (NR)/Water (W).

Project Description: The Project objective is to restart a shellfish nursery that will set and mature oyster and clam seed to be sold to farmers that will grow the shellfish to market size. The nursery would culture four shellfish species: Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*), Kumamoto oysters (*Crassostrea sikimeia*), native “Olympia” oyster (*Ostrea lurida*) and Manila clams (*Venerupis philippinarum*). The proposed project would utilize a combination of existing and newly constructed mariculture equipment. Existing equipment includes an upland shellfish larvae setting facility and upwelling tanks. The newly constructed mariculture equipment includes a new floating upwelling system (“FLUPSY”) and a water intake raft that would be attached to existing anchors in Mad River Slough. A FLUPSY is a raft consisting of a series of bins containing shellfish seed suspended into the water and an electric paddle wheel to move water through the bins to create “upwelling” that is beneficial to growth of shellfish seed. The new water intake raft would provide bay water through pipes to the existing upland larvae setting facility and upwelling tanks. Bay water would be discharged to an existing “discharge ditch” located directly adjacent to the slough. Based on the findings of the Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

The proposed Initial Study/ Negative Declaration (IS/ND) will be available for the public’s review and comment beginning June 20, 2023, at HBHRCD’s office at 601 Startare Drive in Eureka, online at <https://humboldtby.org/public-notices-announcements-information>, or upon request from HBHRCD at (707) 443-0801. Written comments are due at 601 Startare Drive, Eureka, CA 95501 or dsaucedo@humboldtby.org by 4 p.m. July 20, 2023.