



**US Army Corps
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New England District

News Release

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Public Hearing set for Mohegan Tribe Aquaculture Permit

CONCORD, Mass. – A permit application for the Mohegan Tribe's commercial aquaculture operations in the Long Island Sound will be the subject of a public hearing on June 25 hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in Groton, Conn.

The Mohegan Tribe is seeking permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to install fixed and floating structures for a commercial aquaculture operation.

According to the application, approximately 40 acres will be utilized for shellfish rearing in the first year. The commercial operation will expand within five years to incorporate approximately 265 acres of shellfish habitat currently leased by the Mohegan Tribe. The proposed activity was outlined in a public notice originally published on March 20, 2001.

The property is located at 70-72 Water Street, Stonington Borough, Stonington, Conn. and within the surrounding waters of Stonington Harbor, Niantic Bay, Pine Island Bay, Pawcatuck River and Fishers Island Sound at seven sites as listed in the public notice.

A public hearing to acquire information that will be considered in evaluating the permit application has been set. Anyone wishing to attend the hearing is invited to submit oral or written statements and to present recommendations.

The hearing will be held on June 25, 2001, at the Groton Inn and Suites, 99 Goldstar Highway, Groton, Conn. Registration for oral comments will begin at 6 p.m. with the hearing starting promptly at 7 p.m. Dr. Maugle will host an informational poster session from 5 to 7 p.m. in the hall and will be available to discuss the proposed project.

Written and oral statements may be presented at the hearing and written statements may also be forwarded to the Corps of Engineers no later than July 12, 2001. Comments should be forwarded to and additional information may be obtained by contacting Cori Rose at the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

The application for the federal permit was filed with the Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 which provides for federal regulation of any work in, under or over navigable waters of the United States.