

Applied Shellfish Farming Course at RWU to Equip Commercial Shellfish Farmers

Non-credit course will teach basic shellfish farming theory & techniques

BRISTOL, R.I. – The Roger Williams University Center for Economic and Environmental Development is now enrolling students for Applied Shellfish Farming, a non-credit course offered during the winter/spring semester that teaches both aspiring shellfish farmers and aquaculture professionals the ins and outs of commercially growing oysters, quahogs, scallops and mussels.

The 14-week program, led by Dale Leavitt, aquaculture extension specialist and Professor of Marine Biology at Roger Williams University, is designed to aid new and experienced shellfish farmers to start or grow their shellfish farming enterprise in Rhode Island and other areas of Southern New England.

Topics in the course include: an overview of shellfish farming, shellfish biology, farm site selection, the permitting process and regulatory aspects of securing and maintaining a lease, an overview of shellfish nursery and grow-out systems, risk management strategies, other technical aspects of shellfish farming, and business and marketing management advice. Dr. Leavitt complements the class with mentoring and site visits, remains in contact with many participants, and advises shellfish farmers nationwide.

CRMC considers the course an unofficial requirement for prospective shellfish farmers. Aspects of the course are also required for individuals wishing to apply for a Recreational Aquaculture Permit in Rhode Island (For more information about the Recreational Aquaculture Permit, contact Dale Leavitt at dleavitt@rwu.edu).

The course will be held at the University's Bristol campus on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 10 and continuing Tuesday evenings through April 25. This year, the course also will be offered as an on-line webinar, available to anyone with Internet access. More details will be forthcoming on how to sign up for the webinar. If you are interested, please contact Dale Leavitt at dleavitt@rwu.edu.

Pre-registration is preferred by contacting Cheryl Francis at (401) 254-3110 or cfrancis@rwu.edu. For more details on the on-line version, please contact Dale Leavitt at dleavitt@rwu.edu.

The fee for the course is \$100 per student, which includes all class materials. Interested participants can also attend individual classes on a drop-in basis for \$10 per class.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Applied Shellfish Farming Course Schedule

Tuesday evenings; 6:30 to 9:00 PM

Date	Discussion Topic
10-Jan-17	Introductions & Shellfish Aquaculture Overview
17-Jan-17	Shellfish Biology*
24-Jan-17	Site Selection & Monitoring
31-Jan-17	Shellfish Growout Systems I - Oysters*
7-Feb-17	Shellfish Growout Systems II - Quahogs & other Clams
14-Feb-17	Shellfish Growout Systems III - Scallops, Mussels & other species
21-Feb-17	Permitting & Regulations*
28-Feb-17	Shellfish Nursery Systems I
7-Mar-17	Shellfish Nursery Systems II
14-Mar-17	Risks to Growing Shellfish - Predators & Pests*
21-Mar-17	Shellfish Restoration
28-Mar-17	NSA annual mtg - no class
4-Apr-17	Risks to Growing Shellfish - Diseases*
11-Apr-17	Shellfish Business Management I
18-Apr-17	Shellfish Business Management II
25-Apr-17	Shellfish Hatchery Techniques