

## SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE REGULATORY WORKSHOP

Atlantic Cape Community College

October 8, 2014

9 am to 3 pm

You are cordially invited to attend a public shellfish aquaculture workshop hosted by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. This public workshop is part of the NJDEP's on-going efforts to engage interested industry stakeholders in the State's shellfish aquaculture policies. The purpose of this meeting is to continue the conversation about how the current program will be regulated and to receive input on what rule amendments could be made to support this industry. The meeting will be held at the Rutgers University [Life Long Learning Center](#) on the campus of Atlantic Cape Community College on October 8, 2014, from 9-3 pm.

The development of an economically viable shellfish aquaculture industry in New Jersey has the potential to augment existing fisheries production, relieve pressure on natural stocks and create new 'green' jobs and revenue. With this potential in mind, in March 2014, the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife created a Shellfish Aquaculture Regulatory Workgroup with state and federal members representing a wide range of agencies, responsibilities and perspectives. This group consists of members of the following agencies: the DEP's Bureaus of Shellfisheries, Marine Enforcement, Tidelands, Land Use Regulation and Marine Water Monitoring, as well as representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, NJ Department of Health and the NJ Department of Agriculture.

This meeting will include presentations from each state and federal agency on their respective roles. There will be an "open house session" in which attendees will have an opportunity to speak with representatives from the various agencies. This will be followed by a wrap-up session where all outstanding issues noted in the "open house session" are discussed, ranked and prioritized by attendees. This meeting will help inform the regulatory process moving forward and hopefully continue a constructive and much-needed dialogue.

The agenda will be posted on the Department's website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/workgroups/> prior to the meeting.

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING? HERE'S HOW TO REGISTER:**

Advance registration is required in order to attend this meeting. Please register by October 1, 2014. Due to the size of the venue, we will be capping registration at 100 participants. If you are interested in registering, please contact the Bureau of Shellfisheries Nacote Creek Office at 609.748.2040 and tell them you want to attend the "Shellfish Aquaculture Workshop."