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**NRAC FULL PROPOSAL REVIEW FORM**

Project Code/Title: [**23-01 Brayden**](https://www.nrac.org/_files/ugd/5d062c_48ba2be666e8478b818d568346c95feb.pdf) - Northern New England Shellfish Best Management Practices

Date Due: December 9, 2022

Please provide the information requested below. Length and detail of responses may vary according to the nature of the proposal. We value your honest appraisal and the format allows you to be as expansive as you deem necessary (feel free to use a separate sheet if necessary). Your comments and scoring will be shared with the principal investigator but with complete anonymity.

1. **Science, Technology, and/or Extension Program Design (technical merit of all aspects of the project, 30%):** Does this proposal use top quality science and/or technology, or demonstrate extension scholarship? Is (are) the PI(s) familiar with relevant previous and contemporary investigations? Are the objectives and hypotheses explicit and clear? Is the experimental plan clear and the statistical design appropriate? Is the methodology described in the plan appropriate to meet the objectives for a research or extension project? Will this work advance understanding of the science and the contemporary problems that the industry faces? If this is an Extension-demonstration or education project do the PI(s) provide an adequate plan to evaluate the success of the effort? Are the proper metrics provided? Can the PI(s) accurately assess the short-term, medium-term, long-term outcomes projected?

*Comments: The proposal outlines the development of BMPs for aquaculture based on prior BMPs, references to agricultural BMPs in the states and successful BMPs from existing farms. The design is clear and should be of success, if buy-in by all the regulatory agencies is obtained. the project is integral to improving increased success by the industry.*

*Rating: Maximum score = 30*

Excellent (numerical value = 30) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Very Good (numerical value = 27) \_\_\_x\_\_\_\_

Good (numerical value = 24) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fair (numerical value = 21) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Poor (numerical value = 18) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Industry Relevance and Probability of Success (30%):** Are the benefits and potential impacts related to industry utility such as increased farm-gate value or grower profitability? Will the project likely provide usable results that can be adopted by the industry in a timely manner? Alternatively, if it is a development effort toward an innovative technology, will this project’s results increase the team’s capacity to compete for external funds to support the next iteration of research and outreach needed to take the results to application? Will this project create an opportunity for information to be turned over to the industry for refinement and adoption that will eventually become self-sustaining?

*Comments: The development of BMPs based on successful operations and with the approval of the regulatory agencies would be a boon to the shellfish industry and improve farm gate value regionally. As the proposal mentioned, there will be a lag between development of BMPs and actual grower profitability and increased farm gate value. The project will create a blueprint for BMPs to be submitted for regulatory approval. The BMPs will be turned over to industry and adapted for specific sites.*

*Rating: Maximum score = 30*

Excellent (numerical value = 30) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Very Good (numerical value = 27) \_\_\_x\_\_\_\_

Good (numerical value = 24) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fair (numerical value = 21) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Poor (numerical value = 18) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Integration with Extension (20%):** Does this work identify the key stakeholders? Stakeholders include those individuals (industries and agencies) not directly involved in the project. Is the extension plan appropriately designed to reach the targeted stakeholders? How will the results of this work address the needs of key stakeholders? Will this project extend our knowledge to all stakeholders? Are the expected outputs, outcomes, and impacts clearly described? Is the budget appropriate for effective integration?

*Comments: The project identifies stakeholders and includes successful farmers and regulatory agencies. The extension plan appears to be appropriate although the major disseminator of the information appears to be Maine Aquaculture Association and not Extension. If that is the accepted route for the information that is fine. My major concern is the project appears to be very regionally directed, primarily at Maine and to some degree New Hampshire, but oyster aquaculture is a major industry in the majority of the region, and the project scope should be expanded within the project or later down the line.*

*Rating: Maximum score = 20*

Excellent (numerical value = 20) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Very Good (numerical value = 18) \_\_\_x\_\_\_\_

Good (numerical value = 16) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fair (numerical value = 14) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Poor (numerical value = 12) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Capacity (10%):** Is (are) the principal investigator(s) and specified members of the research (extension) team qualified to conduct the research (program)? Is there industry representation as part of the team? Have the investigators clearly articulated they have adequate facilities and equipment to complete the project. Is the overall budget appropriate given the scope of the project? Is there a reasonable chance the project will be completed on-time?

*Comments: all investigators have the capacity to conduct the research, contacts within the industry to obtain information and regulatory contacts to get regulatory feedback for the BMPS. Budget appears to be adequate. There is a reasonable chance for the project to be completed on time, however any work with BMP's and regulatory agencies is extremely time consuming because regulatory agencies have difficulty making decisions in a timely manner, it's even outlined in the proposal.*

*Rating: Maximum score = 10*

Excellent (numerical value = 10) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Very Good (numerical value = 9) \_\_\_x\_\_\_\_

Good (numerical value = 8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fair (numerical value = 7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Poor (numerical value = 6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Accountability (10%):** Does the investigator and her/his team have a successful track record of previous NRAC funding being adopted by the industry? Have they leveraged NRAC funding for additional resources to solve bigger problems that can be funded by NRAC alone? Is there evidence that the investigator(s) has (have) an established record indicating a high probability of success on the proposed work? Does the PI(s) have an established record of completing projects on-time meeting the objectives laid out in previous projects? Can this project integrate or be leveraged with funding from other work of the investigator(s)? Does the investigator(s) have a track record that suggests this project will be a good investment for NRAC resources?

*Comments: the investigator and team of a successful track record with NRAC funding and adoption by the industry. The interaction with the association can lead to increased acceptance and is another pathway for grow word utilization. A regionwide project for BMPs would be a long term goal.*

*Rating: Maximum score = 10*

Excellent (numerical value = 10) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Very Good (numerical value = 9) \_\_\_x\_\_\_\_

Good (numerical value = 8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fair (numerical value = 7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Poor (numerical value = 6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Non-Applicable – First Time Applicant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**6*.* Total score: \_\_\_\_90\_\_\_**

**Rating Excellent \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Very Good \_\_\_x\_\_\_**

**Good \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Fair \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Poor \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Final Recommendation: Must fund \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Fund if resources are available \_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_**

**Encourage Resubmission next year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Do Not Fund \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**7. Strengths:** What are the major strengths of this proposal? If you provided a rating of excellent for any of the categories above but did not comment, would you please share why you rated a particular category as “excellent”?

The proposal is an excellent start in two states for BMPS to streamline regulatory development of oyster aquaculture in two states. The budget appears to be reasonable for the potential benefits to the industry.

**8. Weaknesses:** Identify the weaknesses of this proposal. Are there any flaws (design, methodological, etc.) that might seriously compromise the scientific integrity, value and/or validity of the work? If you rated an evaluation area as fair or poor, how might that area of the proposal be improved?

Oyster aquaculture is extremely important to the region. More funding, a larger team and more states represented could improve the project. This project might be the initial phase of a larger regionwide project. Any time dealing with regulatory agencies in different states, BMP's become state specific and eventually become localized.