



**Town of Southampton**  
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SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK 11968  
**TOWN COUNCIL**

**JOHN BOUVIER**  
COUNCILMAN

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January 10, 2023

James W. Eklund, GP  
Waterways Management Advisory Council  
Water Quality Improvement Advisory Board  
38 North Ferry Road  
P.O. Box 970  
Shelter Island, NY 11964

Dear Mr. Eklund:

I'm writing in support of Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program, and their proposed expansion of shellfish and habitat restoration efforts in Shelter Island waters.

We have a longstanding partnership with CCE Marine Program that further expanded in 2020 when we awarded them a \$579,000 Community Preservation Fund grant to increase their water quality improvement initiatives to benefit our local waters in the Town of Southampton. CCE's proven success in the field of aquaculture and marine and coastal habitat restoration was applied to this project, and their scientific and technical expertise paired with outreach and education capabilities has been making a real difference to our water quality goals. The millions of oysters, clams and scallops CCE produced for this project have been successfully grown and planted within our waters, and observations find that these shellfish are thriving, thus actively filtering our waters and adding to the spawning populations. Recent years have yielded some of the highest landings of commercially important shellfish within our Town, and the lowest occurrence of harmful algal blooms, and projects like the one we funded CCE to conduct are helping this trend. We are also seeing expansion of the eelgrass meadow that CCE established using their various restoration methodologies, which is important to the lifecycle of shellfish and other marine species that help make our waters healthy.

We feel strongly it is important to address water quality initiatives in a multitude of ways. We see what CCE Marine Program does through their restoration work and related community programs as an important approach and a very worthwhile utilization of our CPF funds.

If you would like to learn more about our experience working with CCE Marine Program, or more information about the elements of the successful CFP project we have underway I would be happy to discuss further.

Sincerely,

John Bouvier  
Councilman