

Applied Shellfish Farming Course at RWU to Equip Commercial Shellfish Farmers

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

BRISTOL, R.I., December 14, 2015 – 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, and other shellfish species.

The 14-week program, led by Dale Leavitt, aquaculture extension specialist and associate professor of 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. Professor Leavitt complements the class with mentoring and site visits, remains in contact with many participants, and advises shellfish farmers internationally.

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 (Those classes marked with an asterisk - 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. The introductory class will be on Monday, Jan. 11 with the remaining classes continuing Tuesdays through April 26. The fee for the course is \$125 per student, which includes all class materials. Interested participants alternatively may attend the classes on a drop-in basis for \$10 per class.

Pre-registration is preferred by contacting Cheryl Francis at (401) 254-3110 or cfrancis@rwu.edu. For more information about the course and a NOAA-funded effort to expand the reach of this course in 2017 through online sessions, please visit: <http://www.rismp.org/topics/aquaculture/>

Course Schedule:

Date	Day	Discussion Topic
11-Jan-16	Monday	Introductions & Shellfish Aquaculture Overview
19-Jan-16	Tuesday	Shellfish Biology*

26-Jan-16	Tuesday	Site Selection & Monitoring
2-Feb-16	Tuesday	Shellfish Growout Systems I - Oysters*
9-Feb-16	Tuesday	Shellfish Growout Systems II - Quahogs & other Clams
16-Feb-16	Tuesday	Shellfish Growout Systems III - Scallops, Mussels & other species
23-Feb-16	Tuesday	No Class - National Shellfisheries Association Annual Meeting
1-Mar-16	Tuesday	Permitting & Regulations*
8-Mar-16	Tuesday	Shellfish Nursery Systems I
15-Mar-16	Tuesday	Shellfish Nursery Systems II
22-Mar-16	Tuesday	No Class - UPenn lecture
29-Mar-16	Tuesday	Risks to Growing Shellfish - Predators & Pests*
5-Apr-16	Tuesday	Risks to Growing Shellfish - Diseases*
12-Apr-16	Tuesday	Shellfish Business Management I
19-Apr-16	Tuesday	Shellfish Business Management II
26-Apr-16	Tuesday	Shellfish Hatchery Techniques