

Growing Community Support for the Humboldt Bay Mariculture Pre-Permitting Project

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Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation
and Conservation District





Map by: Carson Hubauer
 Humboldt State University Natural Resource Planning
 Practicum Group Group Spring 2010 Coordinate System:
 WGS_84_UTM_10N Scale 1:90,000 2005 NAIP I
 magery and California Map Provided by HSU Data Files



California

Humboldt Bay Mariculture Industry

- Humboldt Bay is the Oyster Capital Of California (State Legislature)
- Oysters and Clams





Long-line Culture
Raft Culture

Floating Upwelling Systems
Rack and Bag



Current Mariculture Industry

- 325 Acres Cultured (4,000 Acres Certified by Department of Public Health)
- 56 Jobs
- Total Sales = \$6 Million
- Payroll = \$1.4 Million
- Arcata Oysterfest = \$750,000 Annually



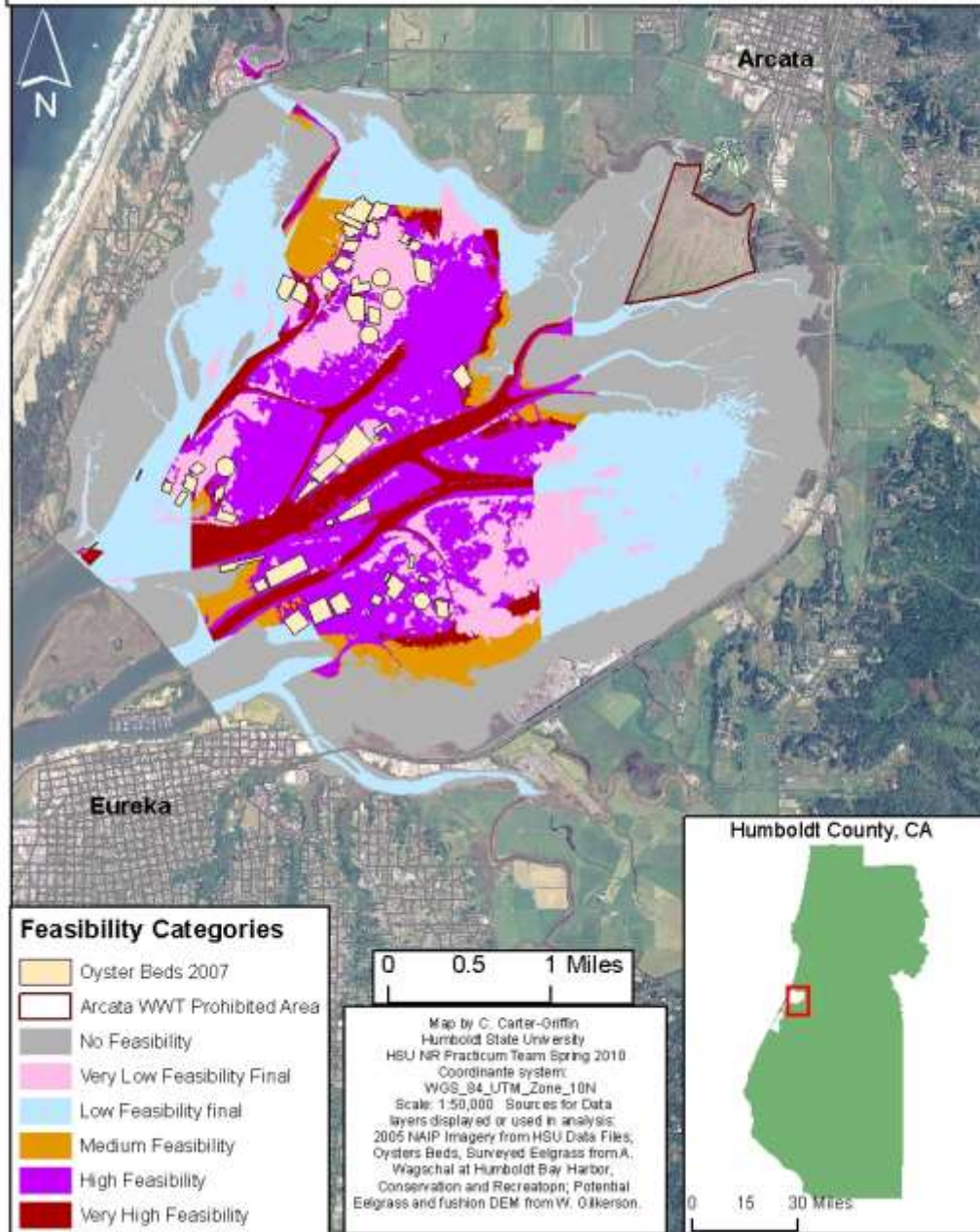
Shellfish “Culture”



Background data

- Economic Development Study (HBHRCD), 2007
 - Of the seven economic clusters studied mariculture was the only one that was “space limited”
- HSU study, 2009
 - Identified 2,647 acres of potential area for additional culture.

Figure 5. North Humboldt Bay Mariculture Feasibility Categories



Community Benefits

- 50 acres (long-line culture) = 10 direct jobs.
- 2 rafts = 1 direct job.
- Lease revenue for participating local agencies (e.g., Humboldt Bay Harbor District).
- Locally grown, sustainable seafood sold at local businesses and farmer's markets.
- “Humboldt Made” brand



Constraints

- Locations for additional farming not identified.
- Cost of permitting does not allow for expansion of mariculture industry by private entities.
- Existing operators have spent over \$1,000,000 to permit existing mariculture operations.
- Past conflicts (low threshold for new conflict)
- Funding to engage in the process



Prioritized Approach

- Address known conflict before starting funding and permitting process.
 - Acknowledging power, influence and responsibility.
- Understanding common goals
 - Clean water
 - Environmental monitoring
 - Jobs and economy, New Fishermen's Terminal
 - Culture, Oyster Festival (Arcata)
- Open and respectful dialogue about differences:
 - Habitat impacts

Environmental Research and Interest Groups and Agencies

- Humboldt Baykeeper
- Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
- Audubon Society
- Sierra Club
- Humboldt Bay Stewards
- Humboldt Bay Institute
- Humboldt State University (various departments)
- Resource agency staff

Reach Out to Public and Business Community to Support Process

Speak in a language they understand.

- Pre-permitting and the “business park” model.
- Not permit streamlining, offering a product that is paid for.

Business community and at large public (e.g.)

- Shellfish growers (e.g.)
- Redwood Region Economic Development Commission
- Local governments
- North Coast Small Business Development Center
- Headwaters Fund
- Local rotaries and other clubs
- Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District



Current Status

- Project received \$200,000 from Headwaters Fund
- Permit Application to be submitted this month for approximately 300 acres of culture.
 - If permitted will generate approximately 55 new jobs and \$7 million in revenues.
 - ~\$300,000 community investment.
- Greater Community Awareness
- Increased Communication
- New Partnerships

The next project... (preview) National Marine Research and Innovation Park (NMRIP)



NMRIP Project Summary

- Conversion of a defunct pulp mill to a:
 - Public Multiuse Dock
 - Aquaculture Business Park
 - Renewable Energy Research and Innovation Center
- Assets include:
 - ~150 acres of industrial waterfront
 - 250,000 sqft of warehouse, shop space and offices
 - 30 million gpd ocean outfall (1.5 miles)
 - 30 million gpd freshwater source
 - 30 million gpd
 - High capacity gas and electrical connections.



NMRIP Project Summary

- Potential Energy Projects:
 - Biomass
 - Wind and Wave Energy
 - Osmotic Power
- Potential Aquaculture:
 - Shellfish Hatchery and Grow-out
 - Algae
 - Finfish
- Academic research (i.e. Oceanography, Fisheries, Energy)



Different circumstances dictate different process

- No current public ownership.
- Need financial “partners” for purchase.
- Currently outreach is public but focused on potential partners including:
 - Humboldt State University
 - Schatz Energy Research Laboratory
 - Humboldt Bay Municipal Water
 - Aquaculture Companies
 - Redwood Region Economic Development Commission
 - Headwaters Fund



Relationships and conversation built on pre-permitting process has been invaluable... however more outreach will be needed if this project moves forward.



Win-Win!

(hopefully)

