



Ventura Shellfish Enterprise  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Costa Mesa, CA  
November 15, 2019



# Presenters



**Brian Pendleton**  
General Manager  
Ventura Port District  
BPendleton@venturaharbor.com



**Everard Ashworth**  
Commissioner  
Ventura Port District  
EAshworth@venturaharbor.com



**Robert Smith**  
Project Attorney  
Plauche & Carr LLP  
Robert@plauchecarr.com





# PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Ev Ashworth



# Project Description

- Project Size:** Twenty 100-acre growing sites, 2,000 acres total
- Shellfish Species:** Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*)
- Growing Method:** Open water long lines
- Growing Location:** Santa Barbara Channel, beginning 3.53 miles WSW of Ventura Harbor in federal waters
- Landing Location:** Ventura Harbor





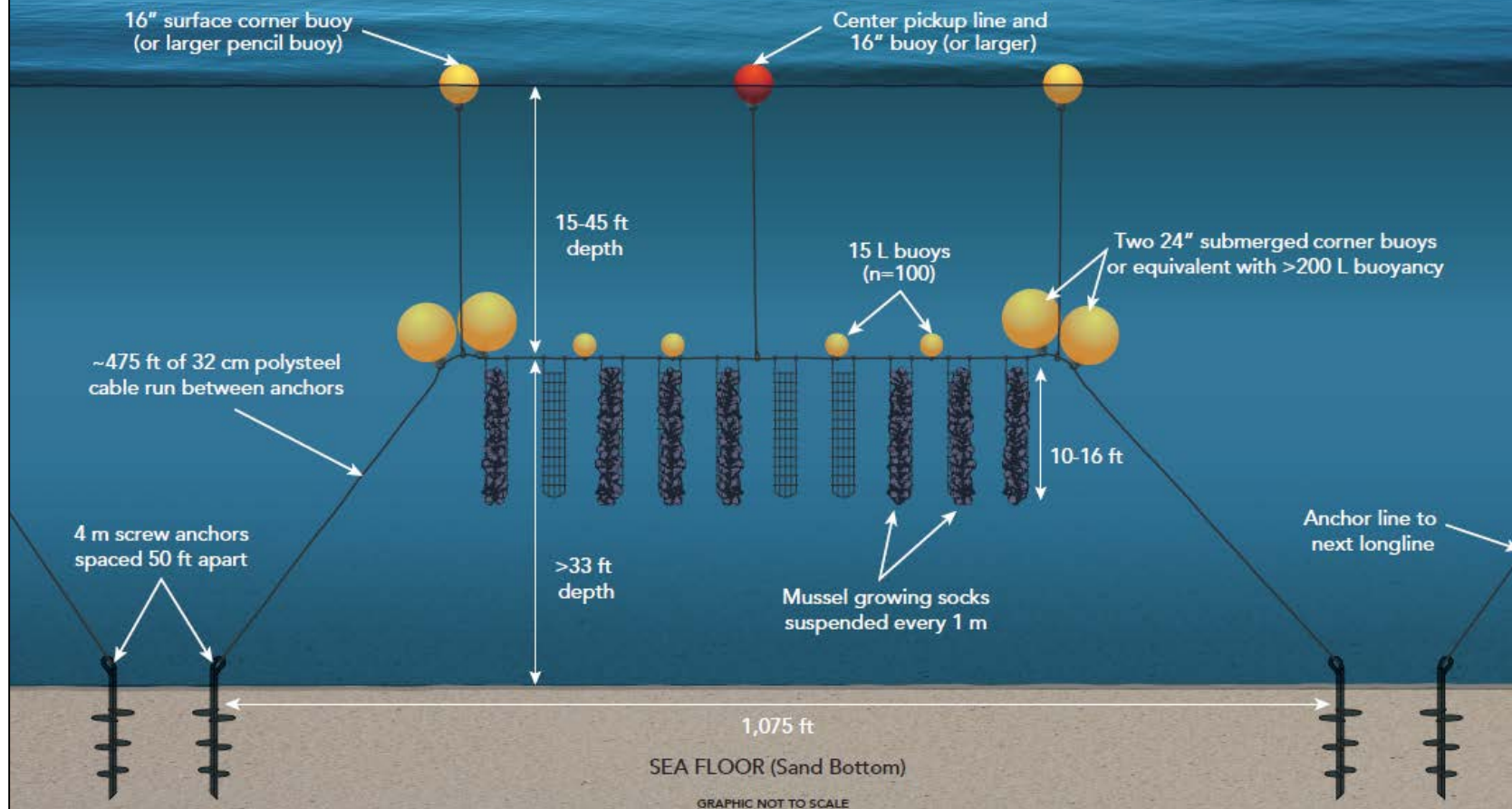


# Project Description

## General Plan for Submerged Longlines

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

- Anchor lines should have 2.5:1 slope from anchor to submerged corner buoy
- Submerged buoyancy keeps lines tight despite surface waves and storms





# Project Objectives



To increase the supply of safe, sustainably produced, and locally grown shellfish.

To enhance and sustain Ventura Harbor as a major west coast fishing port and support the local economy.

To provide economies of scale, pre-approved growing areas, and technical support to include small local producers who would not otherwise be able to participate in shellfish aquaculture.







# Project Objectives



To enhance public knowledge and understanding of sustainable shellfish farming practices and promote community collaboration.

To advance scientific knowledge and state of the art aquaculture practices through research and innovation.







# PUBLIC OUTREACH SITE SELECTION PROCESS

Brian Pendleton





# Public Outreach

- VPD hosted a series of public educational workshops in 2017
  - 10 educational and site selection workshops, including 3 to engage with stakeholders on project siting
  - Notice of workshops mailed to 500+ commercial fishing vessel owners between Goleta and Port Hueneme
- Public Board Meetings
  - Reports on VSE project at 8 meetings starting in 2017
- Meetings with agencies
  - 2 interagency pre-application meetings
  - 2 permit application meetings with Corps
  - 2 meetings with U.S. Coast Guard
  - Ongoing coordination





# Site Selection Process

- 8 alternative sites originally evaluated
  - SeaSketch – UCSB Bren School spatial planning analysis
  - Criteria / Siting Decision Matrix
  - Stakeholder feedback - site selection workshops, Board meetings
  - State waters option rejected based upon impact to halibut fishery
- SeaSketch Alternative 8 federal waters option initially selected by Board (Nov 15, 2017)
- NOAA's National Ocean Service Coastal Aquaculture Siting and Sustainability (CASS) Technical Report
  - Two new alternatives were identified consistent with the Board's prior site selection
  - CASS Technical Report Alternative 1 was selected by Board (Sept 26, 2018)
- Permit and project applications submitted (Oct 4 and 5, 2018)







# Site Selection Process





# STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

Robert Smith





# Status and Next Steps



## 2019

- Respond to agency information requests
- Continue refining project BMPs, monitoring plans, and permit conditions
- Meetings with the agencies
- Establish sentinels

## Fall 2020

- Tentative timeline to obtain permits
- Establish health protocol pursuant to NSSP requirements

## Winter 2020/2021

- Begin sub-permitting agreements
- Initial project implementation



QUESTIONS?

