

SHUCKS with Sixpenny:  
Sharing Hands-on Understanding and Cultivating Knowledge on Shellfish



Work type: Part-time, seasonal (16 hrs/week), paid training experience (\$25/hr)

Duration:

Extended Track: 24 weeks; ~May 13th - November 1st (Funded by The Nature Conservancy)

Condensed Track: 12 weeks; ~June 3rd - August 30th (Funded by CT Sea Grant)

Location: Sixpenny Oyster Farm, Noank CT

#### TRAINING SUMMARY

Sixpenny Oysters LLC is a small oyster farm located in the mouth of the Mystic River. The farm utilizes floating bags during the grow-out and nursery phase and bottom cages for depuration and over winterizing. The farm began as a hobby/experiment utilizing budget friendly homemade devices and used gear. As the farm continues to grow and evolve, gear has been upgraded, husbandry has improved and oysters and the business are on a positive trend.

The team at Sixpenny Oysters have a wide range of aquaculture experience, yet all agree that the years of working as industry farm hands is the fundamental reason we are able to operate our own oyster business. We hope to provide that type of hands-on experience for incomers to the industry.

Therefore, Sixpenny seeks 2 eager trainees (18 years or older) for the 2024 farming season to participate in our training program: SHUCKS with Sixpenny: Sharing Hands-on Understanding and Cultivating Knowledge on Shellfish

The goal of the training experience is to provide a pathway from the classroom and/or exploratory phase of the oyster industry directly to farming. The chosen trainees will work alongside the Sixpenny Oyster crew to develop skills within the framework of a typical oyster farming season.

Through participation in the program, we anticipate trainees to develop a solid understanding of farming techniques, including: seed deployment, gear maintenance, boating operations, handling maturing oysters, depuration, harvesting and marketing. We also anticipate each trainee developing technical competence when handling and grading oysters, driving and maintaining the boat and shucking oysters at direct to consumer events; as well as increased environmental awareness and insight to regulatory compliance.

We ask that trainees approach the season with a positive attitude, willingness to work hard and a strong motivation to learn!

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TO APPLY:

Please provide answers to the following questions to Ashley Hamilton at [aphamilton1791@gmail.com](mailto:aphamilton1791@gmail.com), with the subject line "Your Name, SHUCKS with Sixpenny" by May 7, 2024; applications will be reviewed and interviews will be conducted, as necessary by May 10, 2024.

1. Brief introduction statement (ex: name, location, why are you interested in this opportunity, etc.)
  
2. Have you taken CT Sea Grant's Foundations of Shellfish Farming or a similar aquaculture training course? Describe any additional aquaculture industry experience you may have thus far.
  
3. What are your short and long term goals within the aquaculture industry?
  
4. What do you hope to gain from this training experience?
  
5. Are you interested in:
  - Extended Track; ~May 13th - November 1st (Funded by The Nature Conservancy)
  - Condensed Track: ~June 3rd - August 30th (Funded by CT Sea Grant)
  
6. What days of the week (Mon - Fri) are you consistently available for the track you indicated above?
  
7. Do you have your CT safe boaters license?  
*\*Note: This is not a requirement, but you will be encouraged to obtain it to gain more independence over the course of the training program*
  
8. Preference will be given to underserved/under-represented groups including (but not limited to) Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. If applicable, please provide a brief statement explaining how you may represent an under-represented community.