

Bangs Island Mussels

Location:

72 Commercial St. #15, Portland, ME 04101

About the Company

Bangs Island Mussels is a sustainability-focused, multi-trophic aquaculture company. We have been farming mussels in Casco Bay for 25 years, kelp for 14 years, and oysters for one year. We are one of the largest aquaculture companies in Maine with aspirations to continue responsible growth. About a year ago, we took over a neighboring oyster farm and are now focused on scaling the oyster side of our operations.

Position Overview

The Pioneer will focus primarily on oyster farm operations while also being exposed to all other water crew responsibilities. The role includes harvesting, processing, and growing oysters with a small crew, as well as exposure to mussel, kelp, and urchin farming, environmental monitoring, equipment maintenance, and hatchery-related work. The Pioneer will also complete a farm-related research project focused on oyster growth and mortality data and present findings to staff.

Skills Required / Preferred

Required: Ability and enthusiasm for doing physical labor for the majority of your time on the farm, ability to work successfully in a dynamic ocean-based environment during all types of weather, Ability to create spreadsheets and keep accurate records. Preference to individuals that can demonstrate a high level of organization.

Preferred: Familiarity with technology and data platforms.

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift 50 lbs repeatedly; comfortable working on boats and docks; ability to work outdoors in all safe weather conditions

Schedule

Monday–Friday, approximately 40 hours per week; typically 6:00 AM–2:00 PM (tide dependent)

Blackstone Point Oyster Farm

Location:

27 River Rd., Newcastle, ME 04553

About the Company

Blackstone Point Oyster Farm is located on the Damariscotta River and we recently received our B Corp. certification, which is the only Oyster Farm in the state with that certificate, and only the second one in the United States. We are focused on sustainably harvested oysters and are incorporating new technologies that help electrify the working Waterfront and eliminate our emissions. We recently purchased a new building that will be the home of our warehouse and our cold storage, which will allow us to expand and operate in a more efficient manner.

Position Overview

The Pioneer's primary role for the summer will be assisting our nursery manager with seed management. This includes working on the dock and float, monitoring seed growth, and recording data to compare with previous years' records. Additional responsibilities include grading seed and cleaning tubes to ensure optimal growth.

When not assisting in the nursery, the Pioneer will participate in activities on our Work Float, where we harvest market oysters and bag them for wholesalers and restaurants.

Skills Required / Preferred

Required: Cleanliness, attention to detail, organizational skills

Preferred: Boat handling; social media marketing

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift 50 lbs; comfortable working on docks, floats, and boats

Schedule

Approximately 40 hours per week; typically 6:00 AM–2:00 PM (tide dependent)

Bombazine Oyster Company

Location:

697 Gurnet Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011

About the Company

Bombazine Oyster Company was founded in 2018 on the New Meadows River in Brunswick, Maine. Owned and operated by father and son duo Chris and Max Burtis, Bombazine focuses on bringing premium oysters to market while providing jobs that people enjoy. Staff are members of a tight-knit community of other oyster farmers, scientists, lobstermen, and recreational users of the water. Recent milestones include the purchase of a walk-in cooler and an oyster counting and washing machine, which automates much of the manual process of harvesting oysters.

Position Overview

The Aquaculture Pioneer will join Bombazine Oyster Company as a Farm Hand, supporting daily marine and shoreside operations on our oyster farm located on the New Meadows River. This entry-level role is designed to provide broad exposure to modern shellfish aquaculture while building hands-on skills in safe vessel operations, shellfish husbandry, and farm maintenance. The Pioneer will work as part of a small, collaborative crew responsible for deploying and maintaining floating gear systems; flipping, tumbling, and grading oysters, monitoring shellfish health and growth, and harvesting.

Because Bombazine is integrating automated systems, including a grading conveyor and oyster washing/counting machine, the Pioneer will gain experience in both traditional manual farm practices and technology-assisted processing. The role offers consistent on-the-water experience, opportunities to develop leadership and problem-solving skills, and direct exposure to the fast-growing aquaculture sector in Maine. As the season progresses, high-performing Pioneers may take on responsibilities in quality control, equipment troubleshooting, gear installation, and small-vessel handling under supervision.

The Pioneer will participate in:

- Safely working on skiffs, floats, and docks under varying tide and weather conditions
- Installing, maintaining, and repairing farm gear (cages, moorings, anchors, rafts, lines, buoys)
- Flipping cages during drying cycles, tumbling or grading oysters, and cleaning fouled gear
- Harvesting, sorting, counting, and bagging oysters following all safety and HACCP standards
- Operating or assisting with automated processing equipment, including the grading conveyor and washing/counting machine
- Maintaining orderly work sites, identifying maintenance issues, and communicating observations to the Crew Chief
- Monitoring general oyster health and reporting

Skills Required / Preferred

Required:

1. Ability to work safely on boats, docks, and floating structures
2. Positive attitude, reliability, and strong communication skills
3. Willingness to learn new tasks, ask questions, and follow safety protocols

Preferred:

4. Basic small-boat handling skills (launching, docking, navigating around gear)
5. Familiarity with power tools or simple mechanical troubleshooting
6. Basic knot-tying skills (bowline, clove hitch, trucker's hitch)"

Physical Requirements

- Ability to lift and carry 50 lbs repeatedly throughout the day
- Comfort working on small boats, floating rafts, docks, and wet/uneven surfaces
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions (heat, cold, wind, rain)
- Ability to bend, kneel, and climb in and out of vessels safely
- Ability to swim and re-board a vessel for cage flipping
- Comfort performing physical tasks for extended periods, sometimes in remote marine environments"

Schedule

Monday–Friday, 7:00 AM–3:00 PM (40 hours per week)

Downeast Institute

Location:

39 Wildflower Ln., Beals, ME 04611

About the Company

Downeast Institute is a non-profit marine laboratory with the mission of improving the quality of life for the people of downeast and coastal Maine through marine research, marine science education, and innovations in wild and cultured fisheries. Our roots go back to our soft-shell clam hatchery started in 1984 in response to years of decreased clam landings due to increased green crab predation. Since then, we've been able to expand our education and research efforts thanks to funding from donors and the earned income we generate from seed sales.

Position Overview

The Pioneer will work with the shellfish hatchery team and a variety of research teams to implement methods relating to the production of marine bivalves and other invertebrates for research and other programs at DEI's Research Hatchery, as well as seawater labs, experimental labs, tidal impoundments, and offsite rearing location (nursery, grow out, and field research sites and demonstration farms.) In addition, they will support routine production of seed for sale to commercial farmers to support aquaculture development and generate revenue. The Pioneer will learn hatchery tasks such as cleaning and maintenance of algae and animal culture tanks, caring for bivalves at all stages of life, growing microalgae, data collection, assisting on our oyster farm, assisting with field-based experiments, and other duties as needed. I, the hatchery manager, will oversee their work on a daily/weekly basis. Working at Downeast Institute is a wonderful way to get one's feet wet in the world of Maine aquaculture--it is a flexible and dynamic workplace that fosters learning and curiosity.

Skills Required / Preferred

Oral communication skills; ability to work as part of a team; flexibility with workloads and schedules

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift at least 50 lbs; comfort standing and working outdoors for long periods of time

Schedule

40 hours per week; five days between Saturday and Sunday to be discussed; typically 7:30 AM-4:00 PM

Eros Oyster

Location:

145 Heald Rd., Georgetown, ME 04548

About the Company

We are a mid-sized oyster farm and oystery, family-owned and operated, in Georgetown. In addition to growing our own oysters, we are also a dealer and shipper. We sell direct-to-chef (delivered within Maine and shipped overnight out of state). We also sell direct-to-consumer (both locally through our unique U-Pick operation and throughout the country via our website commerce page). We do boat tours and land tours of the farm as well (over a thousand guests each year). Our lease is positioned only 100' off our shore-attached float assembly which houses our tumbler, shaker table, culling tables, upwellers, skiffs, tour boats, and wet storage (U-Pick) crates. We have a dedicated oyster building which houses our cold room, shipping space, and crew quarters (bathroom/shower/lockers/breakroom). We have won Maine Oyster of the Year two out of four years at the Freeport Oyster Festival

Position Overview

Eros is seeking a pre-apprentice to join our team for the summer of 2026. This role provides hands-on experience across all four of the company's core functions: Waterfront, Shipping, Delivery, and Tours/Events.

The primary focus will be on Waterfront, the heart of our operations, where the pre-apprentice will help grow oysters from seed to market in floating cages on our 4-acre lease. In addition, they will assist with Shipping, preparing oysters for out-of-state customers, and Delivery, bringing oysters to customers throughout the greater Portland area.

The pre-apprentice will also gain experience on the hospitality side of the business by supporting Tours and Events, learning about customer engagement and the educational aspects of oyster farming.

Waterfront (Primary Focus)

- Operate outboard skiff, tumbler, and shaker table
- Cull oysters, flip cages, and move oysters between lease and floats
- Assist U-Pick customers

Shipping

- Prepare invoices and shipping labels
- Weigh, bag, and box oysters
- Maintain shipping logs

Delivery

- Load and unload delivery van

- Deliver oysters and interact with chefs

Tours & Events

- Set up and break down tour equipment
- Greet guests and answer questions about farm operations
- Shuck oysters at festivals and events
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Skills Required / Preferred

Required: Self-starter; ability to work well with others; comfort interacting with customers

Preferred: Boat handling; knot tying

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift 50 lbs; comfortable working around boats and water; good balance; ability to work in the rain

Schedule

Generally Monday–Friday, approximately 40 hours per week; flexible start and stop times

Glidden Point Oyster Farm

Location:

637 River Rd., Edgecomb, ME

About the Company

Glidden Point is first and foremost an Oyster Farm, where we grow the eastern oyster *Crassostrea virginica*. But we are unique on the Damariscotta River because we also have a retail store and Event space to support our local community. The one we are most proud of here is our "Paddle for a Purpose", which we co-host with Hardy Roots to raise money for their organization. We also offer shuck your own oysters through the retail store during the summer season.

Position Overview

The Pioneer will be involved in all aspects of running the farm. Throughout the summer we are always harvesting oysters, which then need to be culled out into several different sizes. They will also help grade out our 2025 seed into three sizes that will be deployed back out on the river for the summer, as well as the seed we get in 2026. Every week we need to flip our bags and cages to dry out any biofouling that slows the oyster's growth, which will be done in the water or from a boat. We also wash and pack oysters twice a week on Monday and Wednesday morning which are then shipped out to our customers.

Specific tasks may include: Culling, grading, sorting, packing, counting, flipping bags and cages weekly. The farm manager will oversee the Pioneer. The farm manager will work with the Pioneer to allow them to fully understand the process of growing a high quality product from hatchery to table. It will also allow the pioneer to gain knowledge of the environment on the Damariscotta River.

Skills Required / Preferred

No skills are required, knot knowledge and boat skills are desired but not necessary, the pioneer will receive on the job training in every aspect of oyster farming. The farm manager will teach the pioneer these skills during the internship.

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift at least 50 lbs; comfortable working on boats and floating structures; on feet most of the day

Schedule

Typical work hours are 6:30 AM–2:30 PM

Islesboro Marine Enterprise

Location:

127 Marshall Cove Rd., Islesboro, ME 04848

About the Company

Islesboro Marine opened in 1977 as a full-service boatyard, offering storage, service & repairs for commercial and recreational vessels, along with mooring and pier service. In 2016, we diversified into aquaculture beginning Marshall Cove Mussels, a rope-grown mussel farm. We currently farm mussels off 9 rafts and a six-acre lease in Penobscot Bay. Our crew works harvesting and maintaining the farm, servicing moorings and building, repairing piers, and maintaining boats.

Position Overview

This pioneer position supports day to day operations of our mussel farm and related boat maintenance, and crew for mooring and marine construction.

Major Responsibilities/Activities: The scope of work varies daily such as: Duties related to aquaculture include harvesting and sorting mussels, and regular maintenance on mussel rafts. During the 12-week pioneer position, the successful candidate will harvest, sort and pack mussels for market, prepare and deploy seed collection lines, support regular maintenance requirements on rafts/moorings, and clean and inspect predator nets.

This position requires flexibility to support multiple areas to ensure successful projects in a small but versatile boatyard environment. Based on weather and deadlines, the pioneer will also have the opportunity to assist with boat maintenance & launching, as well as crew for waterwork servicing moorings and installing floats.

Skills Required / Preferred

Willingness and interest to learn is the most important skill required knot tying and boat handling is a plus

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift 50 lbs; perform physical labor on floating structures and around machinery

Schedule

Monday–Friday, 7:00 AM–3:00 PM

Islesboro Oyster Co.

Location:

Gilkey Harbor / Grindle Point, Islesboro, ME

About the Company

Islesboro Oyster Co. is a small, family-run aquaculture business on Islesboro, Maine. The farm began with LPAs stocked with 13mm oyster seed in 2020 and has grown into a diversified operation that now integrates oysters, kelp, and shore-based processing of value-added products. In 2022, we launched Islesboro Sea Salt, a solar-evaporated sea salt line that complements our shellfish and seaweed products and adds year-round work on the shore side. Workforce development is becoming a core focus of the business. Because we operate both on the water and on land, a Pioneer can gain experience in multiple parts of the aquaculture value chain: seeding, gear maintenance, harvest, grading, kelp handling, basic processing, packaging, and event preparation for our mobile raw bar. As the business continues to grow, we are building capacity for event catering in mid-coast Maine, wholesale partnerships, a small on-island farm stand, and a dealer license; there is strong potential for returning seasonal employment and future leadership roles. Our goal is to help train the next generation of Maine aquaculture workers through real, hands-on experience.

Position Overview

The Pioneer will be supervised directly by Kim Grindle, Owner/Operator, who will oversee daily tasks, provide safety training, and conduct weekly check-ins focused on skill development, goals, and emerging interests. Additional guidance will come from other team members, who are involved in daily operations.

This role offers rich learning opportunities because it exposes the Pioneer to the full aquaculture value chain, not just repetitive labor. They will see how oysters and kelp grow, how products move from farm to customer, and how innovation (solar salt, mobile raw bar, farm tours) helps small coastal farms thrive. Through on-water work, processing, customer interactions, and real conversations about regulations and sustainability, the Pioneer will gain a deeper understanding of Maine's working waterfront and the career paths available within aquaculture.

Skills Required / Preferred

Adaptability & Willingness to Learn – Ability to adjust to changing weather, tides, and daily priorities while staying positive and curious.

Customer Service Professionalism – Comfortable interacting with visitors during farm tours or events in a friendly, respectful, and informative way.

Comfort Working Outdoors – Ready to work on a moving boat, dock, or shoreline in variable conditions.

Attention to Detail – Important for sorting/grading oysters, handling kelp, maintaining gear, and producing consistent sea salt.

Teamwork & Communication – Ability to take instructions, ask questions, and work safely alongside others in both on-water and shore-based tasks.

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift and carry 40–50 lbs; comfortable working on boats, docks, and floating structures; ability to perform repetitive physical tasks outdoors

Schedule

40 hours per week; days and hours flexible based on tides, weather, and events

Love Point Oysters

Location:

43 Old South Freeport Rd., Freeport, ME

About the Company

Love Point Oysters is a boutique oyster farm located in Freeport, Maine. We farm world-class oysters for restaurants and the raw bar industry in an effort to highlight our inherent love of the natural world and celebrate positive, healthy relationships with our oceans and our natural resources. Our small business is fully immersed in the rapidly expanding and changing aquaculture industry, both in Maine and nationally. In the past year we have grown to a total of 12 farmable acres of water in Casco Bay and fully moved our land based ops into a dedicated property in Freeports commercial zone.

Position Overview

We are seeking a summer intern to help operate our growing aquaculture business. The candidate chosen for this position will work closely with the two owner/operators and farm crew to facilitate efficient on-water oyster husbandry, farm build-out, general farm and facility maintenance, deliveries, and other duties as needed. They should be excited about gaining hands-on experience in the field of aquaculture, but also understanding the challenges of growing a small business on the water in Maine.

Responsibilities will include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Manage biofouling on the farm via flipping and cleaning oyster gear
- Sort / tumble oysters
- Stage oysters into market sizes
- Count and bag oysters for market
- Install and maintain farm gear on and off the water
- Assist in boat and facility maintenance
- Help with deliveries to local wholesalers and restaurants
- Packing oysters for national shipping
- Help set up and run raw bar events on occasion

Skills Required / Preferred

In no particular order: Basic Knowledge of knots and general mechanical aptitude, Interest in environmental sustainability, marine economies, and ocean food systems, Basic boat handling skills, Service industry experience

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift up to 60 lbs; ability to work on uneven terrain; agility and balance on boats and docks

Schedule

Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM

Maine Family Sea Farm Cooperative

Location:

Multiple sites in Yarmouth and Freeport, ME

About the Company

We are a cooperative of 10 member farms and Aquaculture aligned businesses. We are currently reviewing applications for three new member farms who are looking forward to leverage the benefits of our community/organization, We offer shared processing, storage and dealer distributor resources. Recent milestones include one member farmers addition of a Kelp seed lab.

Position Overview

The Candidate will rotate through a variety of farms each week and be expected to use our online calendar and scheduling tools to identify where and when they are expected to report. Oyster and Kelp farm gear assembly, maintenance and repair are typically daily or weekly tasks. Anti fouling procedures, product culling tumbling and sorting as well as product packaging and tagging for go to market are expected. Comfort with boat handling, securing and deck work are daily requirements. We expect candidates to be flexible with weekly scheduling, curious about diverse farm operations and strategies. Given the fact that we have retail, hospitality, dealer/distributor, and farming operations with in our cooperative we have a unique opportunity for exposure to a farm to table experience with inclusion into permitting and regulatory requirements.

Skills Required / Preferred

Knot Tying proficiency or the willingness to learn and practice

Good communication skills and relationship development as the exposure to many different business owners and supervisors will happen

Proficiency and remote access to google docs and calendar for scheduling and communication and time sheet entry

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift 50 lbs; comfortable working on boats, floating structures, and outdoors in all summer weather

Schedule

Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM, with tide-based variations

Nauti Sisters

Location:

47 Dartmouth St., Yarmouth, ME 04096

About the Company

We are a small-scale, boutique oyster farm based in Yarmouth, Maine, focused on producing high-quality oysters while creating meaningful connections between people and the working waterfront. Our approach emphasizes careful husbandry, attention to detail, and stewardship of the coastal environment. In recognition of our product quality, we were honored to receive the second-best oyster award in Maine at the Maine Oyster Festival, a milestone that reflects both our growing reputation and commitment to excellence. In addition to farming, we have expanded into agritourism, offering on-the-water tours and charters with our team of licensed captains that provide the public with hands-on exposure to aquaculture and life on the coast. Through these experiences, visitors learn about oyster farming practices, food and shellfish safety, and the broader role aquaculture plays in Maine's coastal economy. By blending production with education and tourism, our business supports both sustainable aquaculture and increased public awareness of Maine's working waterfront.

Position Overview

On the water, the Pioneer will support boat operations and maintenance, including cleaning vessels, with opportunity to learning basic small engine maintenance, and assisting with seasonal preparation. They will also may help prepare for and support on-the-water tours and tourism experiences.

There may be opportunities for involvement in content creation or storytelling around the farm, though this is optional and based on the Pioneer's interests.

This role helps build awareness and interest in Maine's aquaculture industry by providing hands-on exposure to multiple aspects of shellfish farming. We frequently collaborate with other local farmers, allowing the Pioneer to see different scales and models of aquaculture. Our highly collaborative, team-oriented environment ensures the Pioneer learns not only technical skills but also how Maine's aquaculture community works together.

Skills Required / Preferred

Interest or experience in social media, content creation, or public engagement
Online marketing, website management, or print media experience
Comfort interacting with customers during tours, charters, or events

Physical Requirements

Lift and carry at least 50 pounds
(Willing to learn to) Work comfortably on boats and floating structures
Perform repetitive physical tasks such as lifting gear, handling equipment, and moving supplies

Work outdoors for extended periods in variable weather conditions, including rain and wind, when deemed safe

Maintain agility, balance, and situational awareness in a marine environment

We prioritize safety and provide training and guidance to reduce physical strain whenever possible, while acknowledging that shellfish farming is physically demanding work.

Schedule

4–5 days per week; typically 7:30 AM–3:30 PM

OystHERS Sea Farm

Location:

208 W. Georgetown Rd., Georgetown, ME 04548

About the Company

OystHERS Sea Farm is an oyster farm located in Georgetown, a little island in the Midcoast region of Maine. OystHERS was started in 2019, by Sadia Crosby (she/her), who grew up in Georgetown in a commercial fishing family. Sadia leads the crew at OystHERS and apprentices and interns at this farm will work alongside her to learn the process of raising oysters, starting from managing seed in nursery racks, through harvesting and delivery to markets- plus all the fun stuff in-between. The farm has grown each year and continues to have larger harvests and catering events with our mobile raw bar each season. OystHERS sells to local restaurants and wholesalers and is the showcase at their sister-business, OystHERS Raw Bar & Bubbly in Bath, opened in 2023 by Sadia and her sister, Lauren.

Position Overview

The pre-apprentice/intern will be expected to work as a farm hand and help the crew with day-to-day operations. This includes sorting, culling, counting and grading oysters, helping the team manage biofouling, preparing market-sized oysters, and maintaining gear and equipment. The Pioneer will be mentored on the farm by owner, Sadia, and accompanied by potentially one or two other apprentice/hands for the season. We are seeking a candidate with a willingness to learn and ability to be flexible with changing tasks and environmental conditions. Safety and compassion to others is a pillar of this business. Individuals who can problem solve and work in a fast-paced environment will excel here.

Over the course of this program, the pre-apprentice/intern will receive hands-on training and experience that can help them decide their next move in the aquaculture industry. OystHERS is an excellent example of one person starting a small, successful and growing aquaculture farm. We would love to share how we did it and help them develop the skills and decision making tools that have made the business what it has become today. We also have strong friendships and support for adjacent businesses in the industry and would be happy to connect our apprentice/intern to our network to help with career opportunities.

Skills Required / Preferred

Strong work ethic, reliable and shows up on time, self motivated and takes initiative, creative and able to problem solve.

They must live or be able to reasonably commute daily to the shop in Georgetown, Maine. A valid driver's license and dependable vehicle are required. They must also be able to work independently and on a team.

Physical Requirements

Potential apprentices/interns must be able to lift 45 lbs. and work in harsh weather conditions.

Schedule

Monday–Thursday, 7:30 AM–4:30 PM; Friday, 7:30 AM–11:30 AM

Pemaquid Oyster Company

Location:

1005 Bristol Rd., Bristol, ME 04539

About the Company

Pemaquid Oyster Company is primarily an oyster farm located on the Damariscotta River, farming over 20 acres of leases and approaching its 40th anniversary. The farm has recently expanded into seaweed farming.

Position Overview

Our intern works closely with the farm manager and crew, and thru the course of their internship work on many aspects of our farm's production, including stocking, grading and maintaining our seed upweller systems; stocking, grading and maintaining the oyster nursery, working on the harvest boat (a 32 ft. Maine lobster boat) culling, grading and counting oysters, working with the sales team, packing, washing, bagging and delivering oysters for market, and assisting with routine equipment maintenance.

The intern will work closely with the company owners, farm manager and crew. Since our farm is in the Damariscotta River and in close proximity to a handful of other experienced oyster farms, the intern will also be part of an oyster-growers community and interact with other interns and crew members.

Skills Required / Preferred

No specific skills are required- it's considered an entry-level position, but boat handling and knot tying experience would be considered a plus- but those skills can be learned on the job. Many of our interns have had limited experience on the water but have left feeling a sense of accomplishment.

Oyster farm work is very physical and our interns will be required to routinely lift 30-50 #s, will be working on docks, rafts and in boats (ranging in size from 16- 32 feet), so being comfortable on the water is critical. Swimming ability is also an advantage, if not a requirement.

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift 30–50 lbs; comfortable working on docks, rafts, and boats

Schedule

Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM, with tide and weather variability

Petit Manan Oyster Company

Location:

1 Francis Rd., Steuben, ME

About the Company

Petit Manan Oyster Company is a small but growing commercial oyster farm started in 2020. Located a few miles up from the Petit Manan Point lighthouse on Dyer Bay, Steuben, the Francis family has owned and operated their lobster pounds and wharf since the 60's. With the pound usage for housing lobster becoming no longer economically feasible, our inaugural seed crop was introduced in the spring of 2020, making us one of the first successful farms in Downeast Maine to have utilized existing lobster pounds into a fully functioning oyster farm. Primarily, we are a surface growing operation, deploying floating gear across our two pound lease sites totaling 6.5 acres.

We will be entering our 6th grow season in 2026 and are primed to have our biggest year yet in terms of volume on the farm and sales. In 2020, we started with an introduction of 300K seed oysters as an experimental operation. We now have over 2 million oysters growing between our two pound leases. We were granted our 20 year standard lease in early 2025 and so we are very excited to have secured our spot as one of Downeast's largest producing commercial oyster farms for the extended future!

Position Overview

The Pioneer's role this summer would essentially be a farm hand involved in all aspects of the day to day operations on the farm. There are many different jobs carried out on the farm that keep the operation running and our goal would be to have our intern help us carry out those jobs allowing us to continue to run things as smooth and efficiently as possible.

Daily Job Details

- Bringing in gear lines to the work raft for sorting/culling/cleaning
- Running oysters through tumbler/sorter and swapping totes out as necessary
- Hand culling/grading of oysters for market harvest
- Filling gear back with oysters and deploying lines back out onto farm
- Bagging and tagging of market oysters to be prepped for shipment
- Flipping of gear lines on the farm for air drying/biofouling control
- Periodic hose washing of lines when necessary to keep up with biofouling
- General work raft clean-up at the end of the day

Skills Required / Preferred

We understand the program is an introduction into a business involved in the aquaculture industry and so specific skills are not required but having a basic knowledge in the following skills would help with introduction into the job: Knot tying, Boat Handling, Working Independently,

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift 50 lbs

Comfortable working on boats/ floating rafts

Comfortable getting into water with waders

Comfortable with getting wet/ dirty

Able to stand/ work on feet for extended periods (with breaks)

Ability to lift 50 lbs; comfortable working on boats and floating rafts; able to stand for long periods; comfortable getting wet and dirty

Schedule

Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM

Saco Bay Sea Farms

Location:

Operating out of Yarmouth, ME

About the Company

Saco Bay Sea Farms LLC (SBSF) operates a 13.8 acre a multi-tropic aquaculture lease in Casco Bay, growing sea scallops, green sea urchins, and sugar kelp. We are the only scaled scallop lease in Southern Maine. SBSF has several research contracts, including contracts with UMaine, URI, and UNH, experimenting with co-culture of scallops and urchins and deep water aquaculture. Our goals are to develop Maine's first scaled offshore lease in Saco Bay. The road to Saco Bay starts now, and it's all beginning at our lease in Casco Bay.

Position Overview

Saco Bay Sea Farms LLC (SBSF) operates a 13.8 acre a multi-tropic aquaculture lease in Casco Bay, growing sea scallops, green sea urchins, and sugar kelp. We are the only scaled scallop lease in Southern Maine. SBSF has several research contracts, including contracts with UMaine, URI, and UNH, experimenting with co-culture of scallops and urchins and deep water aquaculture. Our goals are to develop Maine's first scaled offshore lease in Saco Bay. The road to Saco Bay starts now, and it's all beginning at our lease in Casco Bay.

Skills Required / Preferred

It's required to at least be able to lift 50lbs, have a good attitude, and be ready for any weather. All else can be taught.

Preferred: Knot tying, research, social media marketing

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift at least 50lbs, comfortable working in any conditions on a 24-26ft vessel inshore, and potentially a 33ft vessel in an offshore exposed environment

Schedule

Monday–Thursday, 7:00 AM–3:00 PM

Saltwind Sea Farm

Location:

Pine Point Co-Op, Scarborough, ME

About the Company

Saltwind Seafarm is a rapidly growing oyster farm located at the confluence of the Scarborough River, and the Nonesuch River. Our mission is to provide high quality sustainably raised shellfish to local seafood markets, restaurants and individual consumers.

Position Overview

The pre-apprentice at Saltwind Seafarm will work directly alongside the Farm Manager and play an active role in the daily operation of a rapidly growing oyster farm. This position offers an immersive introduction to oyster aquaculture, with a focus not only on hands-on skills but also on understanding the decision-making processes that drives a successful farm. Unlike a typical farm-hand role, the pre-apprentice will gain insight into how we assess variables like tidal windows, weather patterns, crop performance, and gear efficiency, and what effects they can have on our end product. They will learn why specific farming strategies are chosen, how work is planned around short tide cycles, and how seasonal change in environmental conditions influence our approach. Most days will be spent on the water, moving between the boat, work float, and gear systems, with occasional shore-based maintenance. Throughout the season, the Farm Manager will provide direct mentorship to create a positive, educational, and productive experience that prepares the pre-apprentice for future employment in aquaculture or other marine trades.

The pioneer can expect to assist in all things related to the oyster cultivation operation, including but not limited to; Tumbling, sorting, harvesting, cleaning, rigging gear and flipping cages. The work can be physically demanding.

Skills Required / Preferred

Preference may be given to candidates with experience in the following areas: Commercial fishing, working in marine environments, outboard motor handling and operating, and Aquaculture

Physical Requirements

Ability to lift 50 lbs regularly and occasionally up to 80 lbs; ability to stand for long hours; willingness to work in wetsuits and unfavorable weather

Schedule

Monday–Friday, 7:00 AM–3:00 PM, with tide-based flexibility