RESOLUTION NO. 394 -2019, IMPLEMENTING A SHELLFISH ANNUAL TEMPORARY EVENT PERMIT

WHEREAS, shellfish farming and wild harvest shellfish culture are heritage industries in Suffolk County waters that has characterized Long Island quality of life for generations; and

WHEREAS, shellfish such as oysters can filter up to 50 gallons of water each day and they help our waterways by eating algae, filtering out particulates and excess nutrients and creating habitat for other organisms to thrive; and

WHEREAS, Shellfish aquaculture introduces millions of new oysters and shellfish to our waterways in programs supported by the County and individual Suffolk County Towns stretching from Islip to East Hampton; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York ceded underwater lands in the Peconic Bay Estuary to Suffolk County in 2004 for the purpose of private shellfish aquaculture and authorized the County to establish a lease program to secure the economic development and environmental benefits associated with shellfish farming in the region; and

WHEREAS, the County created the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program to support shellfish farming in the region; and

WHEREAS, the program has issued leases to 55 new businesses in Peconic and Gardiner’s Bay; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest information available in the 2012 U.S Census of Agriculture, aquaculture is a $9.3 million per year industry in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, the County has both an environmental and economic interest in promoting shellfish aquaculture, supporting the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program and supporting local businesses; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in administrative fees and application processing steps will streamline government services at the Department of Health Services enabling shellfish vendors to expand their retail opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County Department of Health has recently streamlined the temporary food service permit process by (a) creating an annual permit allowing vendors to provide food samples at an unlimited number of events to help market processed and packaged foods, and (b) introducing a multi-event permit application in which a vendor may submit a single application to obtain permits for multiple events in advance, and at reduced cost; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Department of Health Services will implement a Shellfish Annual Temporary Event Permit for vendors of shellfish grown or harvested in Long Island waters; and be it further
2nd RESOLVED, that the Shellfish Annual Temporary Event Permit applies to persons who vend only molluscan shellfish as defined by Article 13 of the Suffolk County Sanitary Code; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the Shellfish Annual Temporary Event Permit is only valid at temporary events approved by the Department of Health Services; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that there will be no fee for the Shellfish Annual Temporary Event Permit for 2 years after the effective date of this resolution. The “fee waiver” expires at the end of the 2 year pilot period; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), N.Y. Environmental Conservation Law Article 8 and Chapter 450 of the Suffolk County Code, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (“NYCRR”) in that the action constitutes routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: May 14, 2019

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: May 28, 2019