PROJECT APPLICANT: **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

PROJECT TITLE: **Shellfish & Habitat Restoration**

PROJECT TYPE: **Aquatic Habitat Restoration**

SCALE: Neighborhood/Watershed

APPROACH: **Restoration**

DESCRIPTION

The proposed project seeks to expand the shellfish and plant nursery operations at the Tiana Bayside facility. CCE Marine Program will produce bay scallops, oysters, clams and cultivate marsh and dune grass and expand local eelgrass meadows to provide habitat and reduce excess nutrients in Town waters. The CCE and SPAT (Suffolk Project in Aquaculture Training) Program will install additional floating upweller systems (FLUPSY) at the Tiana Bayside facility. These units will be installed and then stocked with shellfish; including hard clams (Mercenaria mercenario), oysters (Crassostrea virginica), and bay scallops (Argopectin irradians). This project is also proposing a nursery net system in conjunction with the floating dock infrastructure.

This project would provide spawning of bay scallops in June of 2021, then placing bay scallops in Goose Creek Southold, and then the Tiana Bayside facility in Hampton Bays in July 2021 and finally growing out the bay scallops in Orient Harbor to a planting size of 40+MM, by late November. The bay scallops would then be transplanted back in Southampton Town waters to help improve local populations and water quality through nutrient removal and filter feeding. The project also proposes spat-on-shell "reef" structures to assist with eelgrass habitat restoration and will provide for storage of these plantings prior to restoration plantings commence, hoping to limit the transport of plants and reduce the stress on the plants, resulting in higher success rate.

The project also proposes to maintain and expand the Coastal Plant Nursery, for propagation of beach grass (Ammophila breviligulata) and cord grass (Spartina altrniflora) for dune and salt marsh plantings. Plantings will start in sand filled trays, small flats or pots and some free planting into the native sand, which will be maintained and tended to by CCE employees, volunteers and school groups and provide education to the public to develop a stewardship program. This project notes that the plants produced would be able to be used to improve coastal resiliency efforts and habitats, supporting the Water Quality Project Plan goals.

MAP OF PROJECT LOCATION

REQUESTED AMOUNT: **$ 579,328**