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November 29th, 2016

Mr. Daniel A. Namur, *Manager*
National Saltonstall-Kennedy Program
NOAA Fisheries
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910

Dear Mr. Namur:

I am contacting you on behalf of Manna Fish Farms, Inc., located in East Quogue, New York and their recently submitted application for the 2016 Salton-Kennedy Grant. Manna Fish Farms, Inc., is an aquaculture company that is seeking to support baseline environmental surveys needed for the permitting process of offshore farming. If awarded, this grant will help in collecting data to support offshore planning/pilot studies, and create an aquaculture-focused public education and outreach initiative in our local communities here on Long Island.

Seafood products are widely regarded as one of the most nutritious and beneficial foods for human consumption. Though throughout our nation we are gifted with some of the world's most beautiful harbors, lakes, rivers and oceans, we still rely greatly on international trade for the importation of our seafood. In fact, a recent study shows that we import approximately 91% of our seafood consumed, and much of our exported seafood hails from aquaculture outside of United States waters.

Aquaculture is a reliable source of food across the globe. It is important that the United States – especially areas like Long Island, New York and the Northeastern United States – take advantage of their tremendous aquaculture-fertile resources. Investments of this nature will not only create jobs and stimulate local economies, but also allow the United States to remain and grow as an international player in the aquaculture industry.

It is with this in mind that I proudly support Manna Fish Farms, Inc. and their application for the 2016 Salton-Kennedy Grant. If I can be of any further assistance, or you would like to discuss this organization and their tremendous plans for the future, please do not hesitate to contact my office. I remain,

Sincerely yours,