



WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL

The International Business Alliance for Corporate Ocean Responsibility

Kevin Law & Stuart Rabinowitz
Long Island Regional Economic Development Council Co-Chairs
c/o Empire State Development
150 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge
New York 11788

Subject: Manna Fish Farms, Inc. – Grant #72899

Dear Mr. Law and Mr. Rabinowitz,

As the CEO of the World Ocean Council, I am writing in support of the application submitted by Manna Fish Farms, Inc. for funding through Empire State Development.

Manna Fish Farms is a leadership company in its plans to be the first offshore finfish farm on the East Coast of the United States. The project plan documents the company's responsible, transparent and environmentally sound.

Manna Fish Farms is working in collaboration with SUNY Stony Brook, Stony Brook SoMAS (School of Marine and Atmospheric Science), University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island, and University of Miami, and in collaboration with ocean farm experts Neil Sims, from The Vellella Project and Kampachi Farms in Hawaii, and Brian O'Hanlon, Founder of Open Blue cobia farm in Panama (www.openblue.com).

Ocean Farming of seafood is the future. The United Nations projects that aquaculture production must double by 2030, in order to maintain current levels of seafood consumption. Ocean farming is occurring throughout the world, and the United States lags behind in the development of offshore aquaculture. Currently the U.S. imports 91% of seafood consumed, a \$14 billion dollar trade deficit. The ocean is the natural place where ocean currents swiftly move through submerged cages, without negative impact on the environment.

This project will support the local economy, with an estimated 100 jobs to be added over the next years, while at the same time take pressure off wild fish stocks, and revitalize the working waterfront.

Manna Fish Farms is committed to responsible, transparent, sustainable ocean farming through the first off shore finfish farm on the East Coast of the United States.

Paul Holthus

Founding President and CEO
World Ocean Council