



MICHAEL J. FITZPATRICK  
Assemblyman 8<sup>th</sup> District

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Resources

February 27, 2018

Mr. Michael Triantafyllou,  
MIT Sea Grant Director

Dear Mr. Triantafyllou:

I am writing to express my support for the NOAA National Aquaculture Initiative research proposal titled, "OFFSHORE MARINE TESTING OF AN ECONOMICAL SUBMERSIBLE CAGE SYSTEM FOR AQUACULTURE".

This proposal addresses one of the fundamental barriers to the U.S. offshore aquaculture industry, namely cages that are economically cost-effective for the fish farming industry. The proposal will test the durability of the StormSafe submersible cage system, and will be on course to be the first open ocean finfish farm in Federal waters off the East Coast of the United States. Utilizing this submersible cage technology, Manna Fish Farms will build and operate a commercial fish farm, growing finfish and researching IMTA (Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture) with macroalgae (kelp) and shellfish (sea scallops).

Manna Fish Farms will use world proven submersible cage and automated feed technologies to grow local, wild species finfish. The proposed 1.5 square mile site is located eight (8) miles from shore, off the South Shore of Eastern Long Island.

Manna Fish Farms, Inc. is a women-owned U.S. aquaculture company that was established in 2013. The company is paving the way for offshore aquaculture development in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region, and is taking a leadership role in breaking barriers to support offshore marine aquaculture in the Long Island region.

As the Assemblymember representing the 8th Assembly district, I support this grant proposal as an innovative and necessary approach for the sustainable and cost-effective development of offshore marine aquaculture in the U.S.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Fitzpatrick".

A small, handwritten mark or signature in the bottom right corner of the page.

Michael J. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Assembly  
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