



MICHAEL A. MONTESANO  
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March 1, 2018

Dr. Michael Triantafyllou  
MIT Sea Grant Director  
Room 5-226 – Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

**Re: NOAA National Aquaculture Initiative Research Proposal**

Dear Dr. Triantafyllou,

I am writing to urge you to consider this research proposal set out by NOAA National Aquaculture Initiative titled, "Offshore Marine Testing of an Economical Submersible Cage System for Aquaculture." The purpose of this research project is to address one of the fundamental barriers to the U.S. offshore aquaculture industry, namely cages that are economically cost-effective for the fish farming industry. This project will test the durability of the StormSafe submersible cage system, which has been successfully used in the extreme conditions of Lake Huron, the notoriously challenging waters of New England. Why is the testing of this technology imperative? The technology is significantly less expensive than the current technology on the market today, so a successful demonstration of this technology could be a significant boost for the entire U.S. offshore aquaculture industry. Manna Fish Farms is ready to test this technology in collaboration with scientists and engineers at the prominent Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Manna Fish Farms, Inc. is a female-led U.S. aquaculture company that was established in 2013 and founded by Donna Lanzetta, the current CEO. Lanzetta's company is paving the way for offshore aquaculture development in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region. The company is taking a leadership role in breaking barriers to support offshore marine aquaculture in our region, by assembling teams of research collaborators comprising of experts from various academic institutions and other East Coast aquaculture firms. The integration and partnerships between academia and industry are vital to advancing offshore aquaculture, which is why I respectfully request that you consider this research proposal. This research is vital for sparking the sustainable and cost-effective development of offshore marine aquaculture in the U.S.

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Thank you for your consideration of this research proposal.

Sincerely,

*Michael A. Montesano*

Michael A. Montesano  
Member of the Assembly  
15<sup>th</sup> District