

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Steven Bellone**  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 23, 2018

Long Island Regional Economic Development Council  
Mr. Kevin Law and Mr. Stuart Rabinowitz, Co-Chairs  
C/O Empire State Development  
150 Motor Parkway, Suite 311, Hauppauge, New York 11788

Dear Co-Chairs Law and Rabinowitz,

I am writing in support of Manna Fish Farms' Consolidated Funding Application for funding through the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council. Manna Fish Farms has made steady progress in the development of what will become the East Coast's first offshore fish farm. This will prove to be an important first step in demonstrating the ecological and economic viability of offshore fish farming in the United States.

Ocean-based finfish aquaculture is emerging internationally as a new economically viable means of sustainable seafood production. Finding the space necessary for responsible aquaculture expansion has led to calls to expand aquaculture to our offshore waters. Fortunately, Manna Fish Farms has made steady and continuous progress in its efforts to open the East Coast's first off-shore finfish production operation. As these finfish aquaculture efforts advance, Long Island's heritage bayman culture is well-positioned to participate in these exciting new economic opportunities. Ultimately, developing an offshore aquaculture industry on the East End of Long Island will support our existing working waterfronts and provide a great number of new jobs.

Suffolk County is particularly excited to see Manna Fish Farms work with the Town of Southampton to repair and revitalize the traditional waterfront workspaces at 361 Beach Road in Hampton Bays, near the Shinnecock Fish Docks. This type of investment can pay economic dividends in both the aquaculture and wild-harvest commercial fishing industries. The revitalization of Shinnecock's working waterfront is imperative for the future of seafood harvest and production on Long Island.

Amazingly, 91% of the seafood Americans eat comes imported from abroad. This project represents an opportunity to bring domestic finfish production back home to the United States. Suffolk County looks forward to working with Manna Fish Farms in supporting local aquaculture industries that will help foster and resuscitate Long Island's culturally and economically significant fisheries industry.

Sincerely,

Steven Bellone  
Suffolk County Executive