



July 25th, 2018

Empire State Development
Long Island Regional Office, 150 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, New York 11788

Attention: Ms. Cara Longworth, Long Island Regional Director

Reference: Manna Fish Farms, Inc. – Grant Application #82763 and Application #82810

The Ocean Stewards Institute would like to express their fullest support for Manna Fish Farm's applications for Round 8 Grants from Empire State Development through the LI Regional Economic Development Council. These grant applications will support the establishment of new and innovative IMTA aquaculture technology in Long Island waters, and revitalization and repair of Shinnecock Inlet Fish Dock to support our working waterfront community, as well as bringing 3-Phase electric power to Dune Road to be accessed by all Shinnecock Inlet businesses.

Manna Fish Farms will be the first offshore finfish farm on the East Coast of the United States. As a pioneering, innovative venture, in an industry where there is great need for expansion, both locally and globally, they deserve the fullest support of New York State.

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 farming experts such as Brian O'Hanlon, Founder of Open Blue cobia farm in Panama (www.openblue.com), and others of the Ocean Stewards Institute.

The Manna Fish Farms project plan is responsible, transparent and environmentally sound. It will boost 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 our working waterfront.

The future of seafood lies in farming: United Nations has projected that we must double our

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aquaculture production by 2030, in order to maintain our current levels of seafood consumption. The ocean is the natural place for this to occur: deep water, further offshore, in brisk ocean currents means that any potential negative impact on the environment is greatly diminished, or is even undetectable. (See NOAA citations in support of this, below¹)

Currently the U.S. imports 91% of seafood consumed, resulting in a \$14 Billion seafood trade deficit. Projects such as Manna Fish Farms can slow or even reverse this trend.

Each of these projects is critical to support Manna's leading role in this new industry. We must cultivate new technology development around aquaculture (IMTA), and at the same time, we must work to revitalize of our working waterfront, which supports both aquaculture and the commercial fishing community. Revitalization of the waterfront is integral to provide a safe work environment for all, repair deteriorated infrastructure, renovate to add support services of ICE, which requires an electrical upgrade and hook up to municipal water.

Three Phase Electric on Dune Road is a component of the working waterfront improvement application – Currently there is no three phase on Dune Road. Shinnecock is the second largest Port in New York State, and all commercial fishing, restaurants, and other operations in and around the port will benefit greatly from this essential upgrade

The United States has developed much of the technology for development of offshore aquaculture, but has lagged behind in the execution of this industry. We hope that this project will be the first step in reversing this sorry trend in New York State. .

Thank you, and aloha,



Neil Anthony Sims
Founding President
The Ocean Stewards Institute

P.S. About the Ocean Stewards: The Ocean Stewards Institute is a trade association that provides

¹ See Price, C.S., and J.A. Morris, Jr (2013) Marine Cage Culture and the Environment. NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS NCCOS 164. 172 pp. (Available at: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/pdfs/2013_PriceandMorris_MarineCageCultureandTheEnvironment%285%29.pdf), and

Rust, Michael B., Kevin H. Amos, April L. Bagwill, Walton W. Dickhoff, Lorenzo M. Juarez, Carol S. Price, James A. Morris Jr. & Michael C. Rubino (2014) Environmental Performance of Marine Net-Pen Aquaculture in the United States, Fisheries, 39:11, 508-524, DOI:[10.1080/03632415.2014.966818](https://doi.org/10.1080/03632415.2014.966818). (Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03632415.2014.966818>)

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leadership and reasoned advocacy for the best use and management of our open oceans. The Ocean Stewards assert that increased production of environmentally-sound, healthful, high quality seafood from open ocean waters is an environmental, economic and public health imperative. This opportunity must be balanced by strong protection of the ocean's fragile ecosystems. The Ocean Stewards recognize that we are operating within the public domain, and want to see this industry – and other uses of open ocean waters – develop in a way that meets the expectations of the community and the seafood consumer. The Ocean Stewards are the true revolutionaries of the Blue Revolution. More at www.oceanstewards.org

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