



University of  
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N.H. Sea Grant College Program

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

Dear Mr. Law and Mr. Rabinowitz,

July 20, 2017

[www.seagrant.unh.edu](http://www.seagrant.unh.edu)

I am Writing in support of the application submitted by Manna Fish Farms, Inc. for funding through Empire State Development: **Manna Fish Farms, Inc. – Grant #72899**. Manna Fish Farms will be the first offshore finfish farm on the East Coast of the United States. Their project plan is responsible, transparent and eco-friendly. In addition, it will boost our local economy, with an estimated 100+ jobs to be added over the next 3-4 years, while at the same time taking pressure off wild fish stocks, and revitalizing working waterfronts.

Currently the U.S. imports 91% of seafood consumed, a \$14 Billion dollar trade deficit. Ocean Farming of seafood is the future – The United Nations has projected that we must double our Aquaculture production by 2030, in order to maintain our current levels of seafood consumption. Where is this to occur? The ocean is the natural place where ocean currents swiftly move through submerged cages, without negative impact on the environment. Ocean farming is not an option – it is an imperative!

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](http://www.openblue.com)). This team approach brings relevant and proven aquaculture technologies to the table for the Northeast.

I strongly support Manna Fish Farm's proposal to increase seafood production in the US in a responsible manner. Please contact me at 603-862-3394 or [Michael.chambers@unh.edu](mailto:Michael.chambers@unh.edu) if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Chambers, Ph.D.  
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School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering  
NH Sea Grant and UNH Cooperative Extension  
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