

FY 2015 PHASE II AWARD WINNER

FIRM: Maine Fresh Sea Farms
256 Lower Round Pond Rd
Bristol, ME 04539

AWARD: \$399,999.00

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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Peter Arnold

TITLE OF PROJECT: The Development of Sustainable, Multi-seasonal, Multi-species, Marine Algal Aquaculture in Coastal Maine

SUBTOPIC NUMBER: 8.1.1F

TECHNICAL ABSTRACT:

Maine Fresh Sea Farms (MFSF) will build a multi-species, multi-season prototype farm with the goal of having crops of fresh sea vegetables available throughout the year. What isn't utilized fresh will be dried for longer-term storage and used in other products. Our team will gather data on water quality, nutrients, light levels, and hydrodynamics to assemble profiles of key parameters that determine optimum algal growth and evaluate factors that will be important for growing high quality sea vegetables. In addition to moving forward on the science of sea farming, we will build the necessary technology and expertise in handling, processing, and marketing to assure a clear path to commercialization. MFSF will continue our emphasis on sales of fresh sea vegetable to local and regional markets and more fully research these markets to identify all possible buyers and users. The results of this work will be requisite for the establishment of other farms.

SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED RESULTS:

The anticipated results of this Phase II effort will be a prototype farm producing multiple species of sea vegetables over a year round growing season. The work will entail the collection of information about key variables that affect growth and the final conditions of the sea plants before harvest, optimal harvest and holding strategies and the identification of factors that might limit production. Mariculture along the coast of Maine has a valid claim to being truly organic and we will pursue certification for our production. We will have a clear path to the production of a number of products and have the technology in hand to move to full scale commercialization.