



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASMFC Awards Grants to Four Aquaculture Pilot Projects

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, with the support of \$575,000 from NOAA Fisheries, has selected four aquaculture pilot projects along the Atlantic coast to receive funding. NOAA Fisheries provided the funds as part of its efforts to foster responsible aquaculture and seafood security in the U.S. After rigorous reviews, which included an evaluation of the technical aspects of the proposals as well as their compliance with environmental laws, the following projects were selected. All four projects explore promising, but less commercially-developed, technologies for finfish and shellfish aquaculture, with projects ranging from flounder to seaweed aquaculture. The projects started in July and are scheduled for completion in 2021.

FY2020 Aquaculture Pilot Projects Grants	
Principal Investigator	Title
Acadia Aquafarms, LLC	Maine Sea Scallop Aquaculture: Developing and validating the economic sustainability of the developing sea scallop aquaculture industry using automated ear hanging equipment
University of Massachusetts - Boston	Create low-cost automated sensor to ensure integrity of seaweed aquaculture operations by indicating undue stress that would occur during system failure or a large animal entanglement
University of North Carolina at Wilmington	Gag grouper <i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i> : New candidate high-value marine finfish for intensive aquaculture in the US; establishing hatchery technology and evaluating growth of wild-caught juveniles on formulated diets
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami	Accelerating Growth of Sustainable Aquaculture in Atlantic States: Facilitating development and expansion of flounder aquaculture

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and diadromous species.