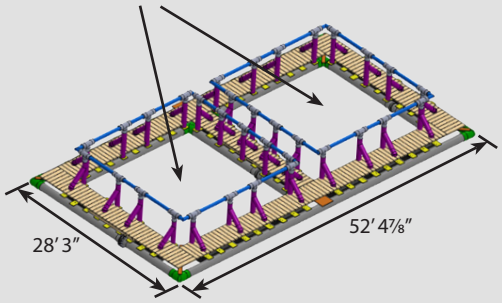
Sea Grant New Hampshire | NH Extension

AquaFort

New Hampshire Sea Grant's **AquaFort** will serve as a offshore aquaculture training platform and research site.

AquaFort Specs:
The system is designed for two nets that are 20' x 20' x 40' deep.

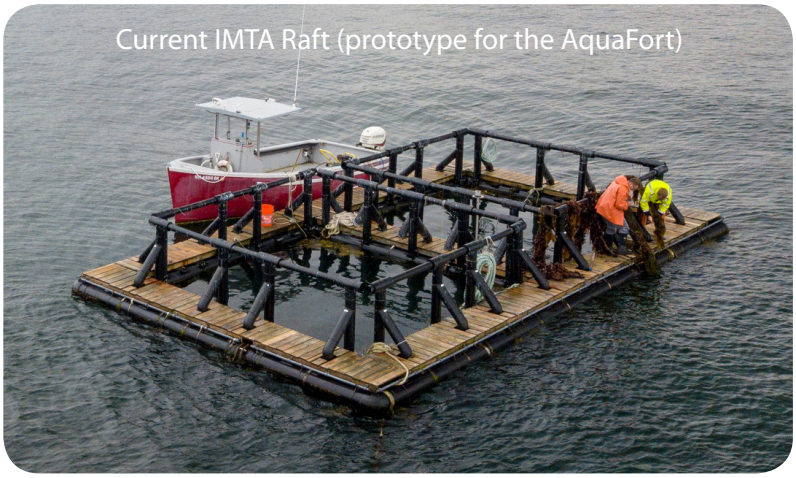


Potential Production (per year):
20-ton (40,000 lb) production capacity
30,000 lbs of fish (steelhead trout)
10,000 lbs of shellfish (blue mussels)

Local Participation:

The two-year **AquaFort** research program will recruit local fishermen and farmers from NH, ME, and MA to participate in workshops and daily operations of an offshore aquaculture farm. During this period (2018-2020) the AquaFort will be constructed and deployed, and two seasonal grow-out trials will be conducted. Participants will benefit from hands-on training in:

- Site selection and permitting
- Cage construction and deployment
- Fingerling acclimation to seawater and transport
- Aquaculture of steelhead trout, mussels, and kelp
- Farm maintenance
- Harvest and transport to market
- Economic analysis of farming the AquaFort
- Aquaculture business planning


Current IMTA Raft (prototype for the AquaFort)

Our Goal:

Successful execution of the **AquaFort** program will lead to (1) increased investment and employment opportunities in offshore aquaculture, (2) the production of fresh, local seafood, and (3) reduced reliance on seafood imports.

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AquaFort is funded thanks to an aquaculture research grant from the National Sea Grant College Program, which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

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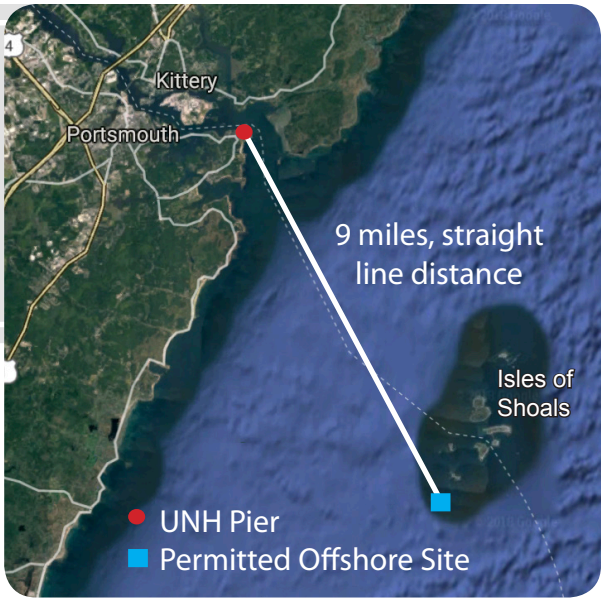
Deployment Location:
University of New Hampshire's permitted offshore aquaculture site; ~1 mile south of the Isles of Shoals

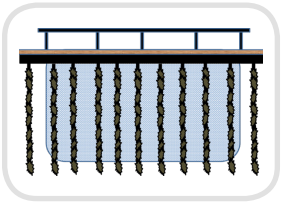
Based on the current IMTA prototype, the **AquaFort** is robustly engineered for the open ocean and scaled at a commercial size for full-time or part-time farming.



What is IMTA?

Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) is a self-contained aquaculture system that allows multiple species to grow at the same time within a single floating structure.

"Multi-trophic" refers to levels of a food web. Each of the different species in the IMTA system provides a benefit to the others: steelhead trout, blue mussels, kelp and dulse.



Side Profile View

Blue Mussels
Seeded strings of mussels hang vertically around the IMTA raft and fish netting.

Steelhead Trout
from a hatchery in Ossipee, NH is raised within netting deployed inside the IMTA raft.

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Questions? Please contact us!

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