**Project Goal**
Successful execution of the AquaFort project will lead to:

1. Increased investment and employment opportunities in coastal communities
2. Fresh, locally-produced seafood
3. Trade diversification for fishermen

**Local Participation**
The two-year Sea Grant funded AquaFort research project will recruit local fishermen and farmers from NH, ME, and MA to participate in workshops and daily operations of an integrated multi-trophic aquaculture farm.

During the project period, the AquaFort will be constructed and deployed, and two seasonal grow-out trials will be conducted. Participants will benefit from hands-on training and learn about:

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

**AquaFort Specs:**
The system is designed for two nets that are 20’ x 20’ x 15’ deep.

**Seasonal Grow-out:**

- Steelhead trout are stocked in October and harvested in June
- Kelp lines are seeded in December and harvested in May
- Mussels are collected from the wild and grown for 16 months

**seagrant.unh.edu/aquafort**

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).
Deployment Location:
University of New Hampshire’s permitted aquaculture research farm is located offshore New Castle, NH.

The AquaFort is robustly engineered for nearshore aquaculture and can be scaled to different sizes depending full-time or part-time farming efforts.

**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 produce nutrients to accelerate growth of blue mussels, kelp, and dulse. Nutrient uptake reduces Nitrogen input to the environment.