



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

March 20, 2019

Linda M. Morad, President  
Honorable Members of the New Bedford City Council  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Proposed Aquaculture Ordinance

Dear Council President Morad and Members of the New Bedford City Council:

I am submitting for your consideration a proposed ordinance that will allow the City of New Bedford to permit commercial aquaculture in its waters. Through the ordinance, the New Bedford Port Authority ("NBPA") will manage commercial aquaculture farmers as directed by a committee made up of city councilors, port personnel, industry members, and additional stakeholders.

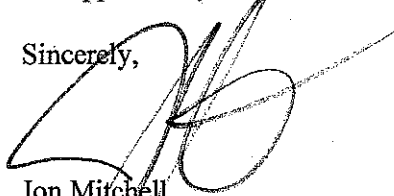
Management of commercial aquaculture fits into the NBPA's historical role within the City of New Bedford. The NBPA, through its enabling legislation, is responsible for the management of waterfront assets, such as piers and wharves and commercial activity within the watersheet, such as moorings and vessel transit.

It is the goal of the NBPA to keep New Bedford on top as the #1 United States fishing port, expand existing businesses and capitalize on new opportunities that will maximize the Port's potential as an economic engine to create jobs and strengthen the New Bedford economy.

As the aquaculture industry has successfully established itself along the United States East Coast in recent years, the NBPA has moved to position itself to effectively attract commercial aquaculture operations in New Bedford waters. In early 2018, the NBPA put out a Request for Information to parties interested in commercial aquaculture in New Bedford waters and received a significant number of responses. This measure creates a framework to allow the NBPA to pursue these opportunities with appropriate reporting and monitoring by the Council.

We appreciate your attention to this important initiative.

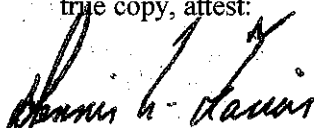
Sincerely,

  
Jon Mitchell  
Mayor  
Referred to the Committee on Ordinances.

IN CITY COUNCIL, March 28, 2019

Dennis W. Farias, City Clerk

true copy, attest:

  
City Clerk