To all who contributed to my FREES award,

Thanks to your generosity, I have been able to continue to pursue my interests in sustainable seafood. With the funds you have donated, I have been able to free up time to refine chapters of my thesis on integrated multitrophic aquaculture (IMTA), a form of sustainable aquaculture that recycles waste from multiple species for culture. Additionally, I dive more deeply into the feasibility of aquaculture at the small-scale, artisanal level. In graduate school, I would like to continue my work with integrated aquaculture with the idea that it can be taken to the level that it is most needed: smaller fishing communities that have lost their ability to fish due to overfishing and climate change.

When their pilot operation of an offshore multitrophic aquaculture raft begins in November, I intend to also use some of the funds to join UNH in helping to maintain and collect data for the operation. This raft project is consistent with my ideas for small-scale aquaculture in coastal developing regions, because it is cheap and easy to construct with limited external materials. I look forward to this partnership. Until then, I will continue to research advancements in small-scale aquaculture. In January, I will begin my anthropological and ecological studies in Vancouver, Canada to study small-scale aquaculture and resource management with First Nations with Fulbright Canada. Then, I hope to continue to graduate school next Fall to obtain my doctorate. Without your contribution, I would not be able to devote the time that I need to prepare for both endeavors.

All the best,

Nicky Roberts