



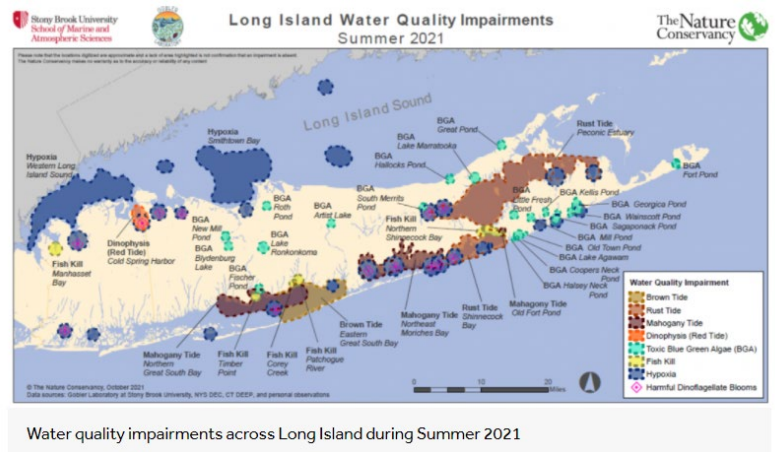
Shinnecock Kelp Farmers' Cooperative

(Instagram: @shinnecockkelfarmers) is a multi-generation collective of six women who are enrolled members of the Shinnecock Indian Nation. The group has created a business that leverages their 10,000+ year old traditional relationship with the sea and with seaweed to capture carbon and nitrogen that has poisoned the waters of Shinnecock Bay and beyond. All while

laying the groundwork for green jobs on the East End.

Traditionally, Shinnecock people have used seaweed for cooking up incredible in-ground clambakes, for sheathing houses, insulation, and natural fertilizer. High in iodine, potash and alkali, seaweed can be used to produce soap and in glass making. It was often stolen by Southampton colonists and those thefts created case law that prohibited colonists from stealing the seaweed. That case law reinforced Shinnecock sovereignty and indigenous birthright to seaweed.

The benefits of growing sugar kelp along the coastline are many-fold, for the six women Water Protectors they are growing it for its ability to save the shellfish subsistence of their people and to protect their culture ways. With the 99% die off of shellfish documented by the **Stony Brook School of Marine and Atmospheric Science**, kelp will be crucial in efforts to revive dead zones as it removes excess nitrogen as well as sequestering carbon. New research from Stony Brook University reveals 10,000 pounds of kelp removed thirty-six pounds of nitrogen from Long Island surface waters. Based on peer-reviewed research using data from kelp grown on GreenWave network farms, a thriving 25-farm Regenerative Reef has the capacity to sequester 247 tons (494,000 lbs.) of CO₂ and 8.25 tons (16,500 lbs.) of nitrogen annually.



"You have to realize you can do something besides complain or throw up your hands. You can do everything but surrender. Every individual has the power to help this planet, even if it's just literally in your backyard."

"We get to participate in something that's really essential, and that's a beautiful thing, and something to be proud of."

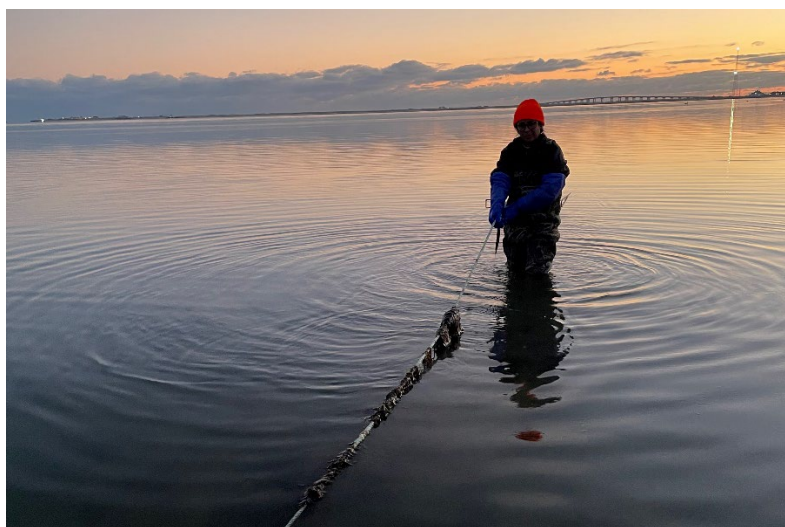
- Becky Genia

This regenerative aquaculture cooperative is in partnership with the **Sisters of Saint Joseph** and Connecticut-based **GreenWave Ocean Farmers** and have established the first indigenous-owned kelp hatchery in the Northeast and have successfully seeded Shinnecock Bay.



Shinnecock attorney, tribal member, activist and Shinnecock Kelp Farmer Cooperative Director Tela Troge said in a recent conversation with Felicity Broennan in **Women of Algae** that with this kelp co-op they aim to create sustainable jobs for their people. They plan to harvest and sell the kelp for use as soil amendment and therefore reduce runoff into the bay. Kelp farms also offer coastline protection from erosion by

protecting against storm surges while creating conditions for shellfish to thrive, further purifying the water.



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Shinnecockkelfarmers@gmail.com

Instagram: **@shinnecockkelfarmers**

On Facebook as Shinnecock Kelp Famers