

## **The Domestic Seafood Production Act (DSPA)**

Addresses a variety of needs faced by our domestic seafood supply chain, especially in low-income communities where fishing and other forms of ocean and coastal resource use are imperative to a robust local economy, food security, and livelihoods. Through competitive grants, the Act would fund a variety of eligible community development projects to support seafood and mariculture processing. It focuses on uplifting low-income communities and seafood harvesting practices that would benefit local fishing and mariculture producers from those communities, and address their processing needs to provide healthy seafood to local and regional markets.

To ensure the health of the marine ecosystem, this Act would not allow Federal agencies to permit, authorize, or facilitate offshore aquaculture in U.S. Federal waters in the absence of Congressional authorization. Additionally, NOAA may not award financial assistance of any kind for the purposes of facilitating offshore aquaculture. Already outlawed in the states of Alaska and Washington, finfish aquaculture would have a variety of harmful impacts on communities as well as the ecosystem. Modern-day examples include pollution from fish farm chemicals contributing to harmful algal blooms; high fish density cages contributing to disease and parasite spread—both within fish farms and spilling out to affect wild populations; fish farm gear contributing to increased marine wildlife entanglements; the unsustainable harvesting of “forage” wild fish to convert into fish pellets to feed farmed fish (contributing to overfishing); and large farm buffer zones that would limit and displace commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, and other recreational uses.