

An underwater photograph showing a large, dark, spherical fish farm cage filled with fish. A diver is visible in the background, swimming near a large, light-colored object. The water is a deep blue color.

## Food For Thought

### Offshore Fish Farming is a PROBLEM

Offshore fish farms harm public health, the environment, and communities that rely on the ocean. This factory farming business model centralizes corporate control and places profits above environmental protection, worker safety, animal welfare, and social responsibility. These floating Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations are supported by agribusiness-corporations.

Farmed fish are fed a mix of forage fish with corn and soy. Removing forage fish from the ocean is ecologically unsustainable, while the corn and soy may be genetically modified. Some marine wildlife see fish farms as a dining buffet. However, they can become entangled in the nets or ropes and die.

Antibiotics used to treat sea lice and other parasites lead to antibiotic resistance, just as we have seen in land-based agriculture. Antifoulants and pesticides are often carcinogenic and toxic to marine life, the fish themselves, and the consumer. These toxins, plus untreated fish waste, are discharged into the marine environment.

Offshore fish farms require huge amounts of capital. They will not create jobs; instead, they will cause a loss of jobs in coastal communities, as wild fish populations are harmed and marine ecosystems are contaminated.

## What is the SOLUTION?

Sustainable wild-caught seafood and fish farming practices that are embedded in social, economic, and environmental values. Whether the seafood is wild caught or farmed, scale and management practices are crucial to sustainability.

The seafood system must be protected through local investment and smart development with conservation and environmental awareness as key priorities.



- Prioritize species that are low-input and low-impact,
- Ensure policies are in place to protect the oceans from being carved into parcels that funnel money away from coastal communities.
- Scale appropriately so aquaculture does not harm marine ecosystems, wild fish populations, or water quality.
- Provide the local community with nutritional and economic benefits.
- Do not use genetically modified organisms in the fish or for fish feed.
- Owned and operated by people embedded in the community.

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**Don't Cage Our Oceans** fights to keep our oceans free from industrial fish farms. We are a coalition of diverse organizations and businesses working together to stop the development of offshore finfish farming in the US through federal law, policies, and coalition building. DCO2 uplifts values-based seafood systems led by local communities.



By working together, we can protect our oceans from industrial fish farming. Help lift up values-based aquaculture that supports local communities and the natural environment.

***Learn More  
Today!***