




SUPPORT THE KEEP FINFISH FREE ACT (H.R. 274)

Protect our oceans and wild fisheries.

The federal government is working toward permitting industrial ocean fish farms in federal ocean waters without explicit Congressional authorization. The Keep Finfish Free Act (H.R. 274) simply provides the opportunity for Congress to weigh in before allowing federal agencies to issue commercial permits.

-  Industrial ocean fish farming, or offshore finfish aquaculture, is the mass cultivation of captive finfish in net pens, pods, and cages. These are essentially underwater factory farms in the ocean with devastating environmental and socio-economic impacts.
-  Floating factory farms routinely cause massive farmed fish spills – like the August 2017 spill of more than 260,000 non-native Atlantic salmon into Puget Sound – which threaten wild fish stocks by spreading pests and disease, and increasing competition for food, habitat, and reproduction. Facilities also directly discharge a slew of toxins like untreated fish waste and pharmaceuticals; attract and entangle marine mammals and seabirds; and marginalize wild-capture fisheries and coastal economies.
-  These floating feedlots could devastate our wild-capture fishing communities and harm other marine-reliant industries by privatizing public waterways. Our federal ocean waters should be used to naturally grow and harvest wild fish stocks, not turned into industrial fish farms.

The Keep Finfish Free Act (H.R. 274) takes a common-sense approach to underhanded – and potentially unlawful – activity by prohibiting federal agencies from issuing commercial permits to marine finfish aquaculture facilities in federal ocean waters, unless and until Congress passes a future law authorizing such action.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Support the Keep Finfish Free Act (H.R. 274)!

For more information contact **Hallie Templeton**, Senior Oceans Campaigner, at htempleton@foe.org



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H. R. 274

To prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone except in accordance with a law authorizing such action.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2021

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone except in accordance with a law authorizing such action.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Keep Finfish Free Act

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1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AUTHORIZING FINFISH AQUA-**
2 **CULTURE IN THE EEZ.**

3 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither
4 the Secretary of the Interior nor the Secretary of Com-
5 merce may issue any permit or in any other way authorize
6 any person to conduct commercial finfish aquaculture op-
7 erations in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United
8 States (as established by Proclamation Numbered 5030,
9 dated March 10, 1983), except in accordance with a law
10 authorizing such action that is enacted after the date of
11 the enactment of this Act.

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