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# Fishing And Environmental Groups Sue NOAA Over Gulf Fish Farming

By [TEGAN WENDLAND \(/PEOPLE/TEGAN-WENDLAND\)](#) • FEB 17, 2016

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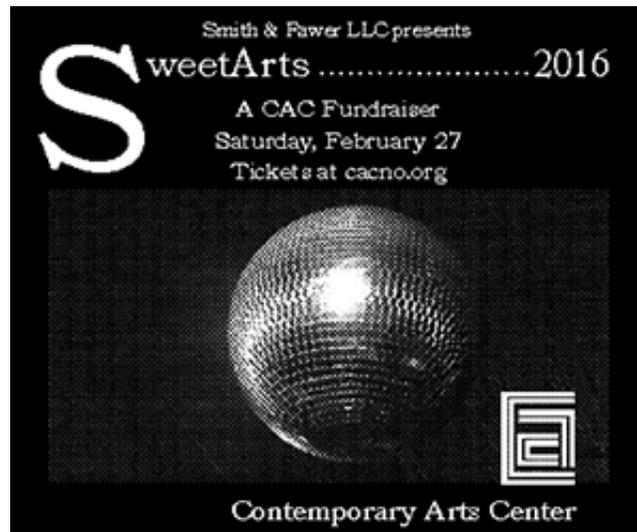
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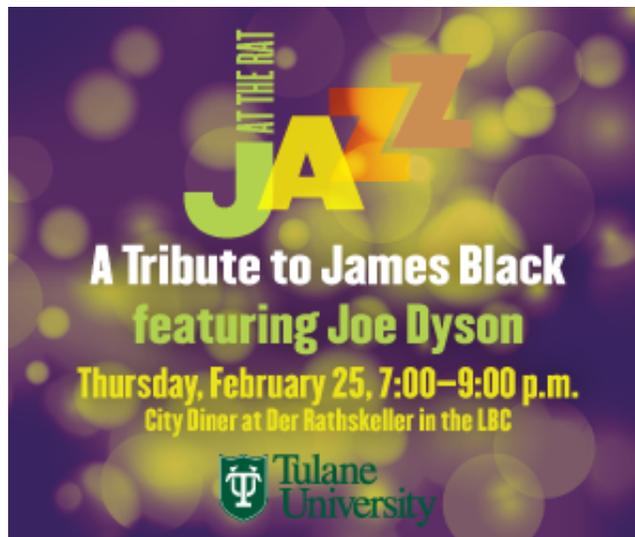
Royal Bream raises fish in a floating net in Marseille, France. This represents one type of farming technologies that could work in the Gulf.

NOAA, WITH PERMISSION FROM GILES LEMARCHAND.



Last month the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration opened the Gulf of Mexico for fish farming, or aquaculture. Now, some fishermen and environmentalists have filed a lawsuit against NOAA.





The Center for Food Safety filed the lawsuit on behalf of the Gulf Fishermen’s Association, Gulf Restoration Network, Charter Fisherman’s Association, Florida Wildlife Federation and others.

William Ward is a lawyer who represents many of the plaintiffs. He says they are upset about how raising fish in the Gulf will affect the environment and the fishing industry, and the problems it could cause.

There are unresolved “issues of pollution from feed, effluent, (and) antibiotics flowing out of the pens and into the wild species; parasites and other things.” Ward says. “This is the genie out of the bottle. Once the genie is out of the bottle, wild fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico will never be the same.”

Ward wants the rule thrown out or overseen by Congress. For now, it’ll stay in effect as the parties hash out the lawsuit.

NOAA included environmental safeguards in the new rule, but the lawsuit says it’s not enough. A representative for NOAA said the agency would not comment on ongoing litigation.

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**David L. Allison** • 15 hours ago

Great work by a committed coalition of fishermen and marine conservationists.

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**Dallas Weaver** • 17 hours ago

The parasites swing into action. It turns out that for many of these cases of government being sued, the lawyers get paid by the tax payers. A profitable racket.

These blood suckers don't care about the aquaculture jobs being created in the US instead of the

rest of the world. Half of our imported seafood (most of our seafood is imported) is from aquaculture in other countries. Jobs for the educated elite lawyers, regulators and bureaucrats and none for Joe Median.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**David L. Allison** → Dallas Weaver • 15 hours ago

Ah, surprise, surprise, Dallas, the aquaculture consulting environmental law hater claims the high road and demeans everyone who does not buy his party line. He denies nothing in the plaintiff's positions in the litigation but whines about the conduct of the people whose livelihoods are based on the clean marine environment and the lawyers who defend them against the incursions of the oil and agriculture industries. Oh, wait. It is not a surprise at all.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Dallas Weaver** → David L. Allison • 2 hours ago

As there is zero real scientific evidence that the aquaculture net pens will have any measurable impacts outside the lease area, or any impact on "clean marine environments" outside the lease areas, we have to look to other motivations of the players. It isn't protecting the environment, so noting the self-interest of the fishermen (competitive interests) and lawyers (\$ interests) may be appropriate.

The environmentalist have been ignoring the huge impacts of the Gulf bottom trawlers on the marine ecology for decades. Where do you see them pointing out that bottom trawlers put more suspended solids (SS) pollution into the water column than all other man made sources of SS in the marine environment combined (dredge disposal, sewerage disposal, industrial waste, city runoff, etc.)? In the Gulf in the hypoxic zone area, which has high phosphorus sediments, the bottom trawlers put 10 times more nutrient phosphorous into the water column than the Mississippi river. It is these nutrients that create the dead zone.

For the environmental activists, going after the "small fishermen" isn't a good fund raising strategy anymore that going after the "small farmers" for their non-point source pollution is a good target. Going after the large corporate trawler fleet clear-cutting the seamounts or the open ocean tuna or the large agro-business corporations and factory farms is good for fund raising. Mentioning the small bottom trawlers clear cutting the entire gulf coast every year while not using the TED's to protect the turtles is not good politics.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**David L. Allison** → Dallas Weaver • an hour ago

I apologize to the readers for the lengthy response to a series of lies, misrepresentations and crafty but not accurate allegations. As to your first deception, Mr. Lobbyist: <http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=...> antimicrobial resistance is a significant issue which, alone, justifies the decision of the coalition to challenge the fish farms in the Gulf.

Your justification for factory farming of fish reads like a Clinton denial

Your justification for factory farming of non-foods like a Clinton denial, carefully crafted to deceive. "outside the lease area" ignores the damage to the marine habitat within the lease area which can extend well beyond the location of the pen itself. So it is not necessary to "look to other motivations" other than ocean health and sustainability, especially those you mention which are much more interests of industry (lawyer \$ and 'competitive interests'. Your comment implies that fishermen who oppose closure of the commons by private industry are somehow demeaned or diminished by fighting for their access to clean and unpolluted public marine resources. Lawyers are necessary for the defense of the public against agricultural and other industry theft of resources.

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see more

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**Dallas Weaver** → David L. Allison • 13 minutes ago

I do know that Oceana officially supported opening up Monterey Bay, Ca to bottom trawling just a few years ago (communications with Oceana at the time). I do know that NRDF tried to ban zebra fish research at Universities in California (they had lied to the University and the Fish and Game and I obtained and posed an internal email which described their real plans). I do know that the WWF decided to attack the shrimp farming industry, when it first started, and not spend resources going after the Gulf Coast Bottom trawlers that were killing turtles, without TED's at that time (a lecture by Dr. Clay).

I do know about the impact on SS pollution from bottom trawlers (you can even see it from space on google earth) and I do know about the details of the mass transfer of pollutants and nutrients in these millions of tons of sediments from these pollution plumes to the food chain, etc.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cms7...>

For those who want the details and models and calculations:

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