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Did you know that most forms of shellfish farming are a net gain to the overall health of surrounding ecosystems?

- Shellfish are filter feeders. They clean the water in which they live.
- Shellfish are broadcast spawners. They send billions of larvae into the water column; these larvae form the base of the food chain for a variety of marine species.
- Shellfish farmers do not add chemicals, foods or additives of any type to the ocean water.

The infrastructure of deep water shellfish farms creates artificial reefs that have been proven to rejuvenate the immediate ecosystems.

- The suspended trays become home to an abundance of species that provide food for juvenile fish.
- They also provide a safe haven from predators.

Recommendations – Standards for MPA activities

1. Include shellfish aquaculture as a permissible activity within the boundaries of an MPA. (Shellfish aquaculture does not threaten conservation objectives and may, in fact, enhance them.)
2. Place responsive and adaptive management of human activities at the *heart* of MPA standards, planning and management.
3. Ensure balance across performance measures and standards. If we break the category of “rock fish” into subspecies, the same level of detail must be applied to categories of human uses, such as “jobs”.
4. Incorporate enhancement into MPAs. If the breeding population of a species you trying to protect is insufficient, no amount of time will bring it back without some form of enhancement activity.
5. Take a phased approach to establish MPAs in small areas, rather than large areas. Evaluate results in each MPA, remain fluid in addressing issues and use lessons learned to modify uses and boundaries accordingly.