

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-**

**22**

**OFFERED BY MS. MACE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

At the end of title XII, add the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOANS AND**  
2 **GRANTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING AND**  
3 **FISH PROCESSING BUSINESSES.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS OF FARMER AND FARMING.—Sec-  
5 tion 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-  
6 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “farming.”  
8 and inserting “farming, commercial fishing, or fish  
9 processing.”;

10 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “farming.”  
11 and inserting “farming, commercial fishing, and fish  
12 processing.”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(14) COMMERCIAL FISHING.—The term ‘com-  
15 mercial fishing’ means fishing (as defined in section  
16 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation  
17 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) in which  
18 the fish harvested, either in whole or in part, are in-

1 tended to enter commerce or enter commerce  
2 through sale, barter, or trade.

3 “(15) COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL.—The  
4 term ‘commercial fishing vessel’ means a fishing ves-  
5 sel and a fish processing vessel (as those terms are  
6 defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States  
7 Code).

8 “(16) FISH.—The term ‘fish’ has the meaning  
9 given the term in section 2101 of title 46, United  
10 States Code.

11 “(17) FISH PROCESSING.—The term ‘fish proc-  
12 essing’ means the processing of fish for commercial  
13 use or consumption.

14 “(18) FISH PROCESSING FACILITY.—The term  
15 ‘fish processing facility’ means a facility or vessel,  
16 boat, ship, or other craft used or equipped for fish  
17 processing.”.

18 (b) FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.—

19 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 302(a) of such Act  
20 (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended by adding at the end  
21 the following:

22 “(3) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND  
23 SHELLFISH.—Notwithstanding any other provision  
24 of this Act, for purposes of direct and guaranteed  
25 farm loans under this subtitle—

1           “(A) the terms ‘farmer’ and ‘rancher’ shall  
2 include an individual or entity engaged in com-  
3 mercial fishing or fish processing; and

4           “(B) the terms ‘farm’ and ‘ranch’ shall in-  
5 clude—

6                   “(i) a commercial fishing vessel; and

7                   “(ii) a fish processing facility.”.

8           (2) PURPOSES.—Section 303(a) of such Act (7  
9 U.S.C. 1923(a)) is amended by adding at the end  
10 the following:

11           “(3) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS;  
12 FISH PROCESSORS.—

13                   “(A) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICI-  
14 PANTS.—An individual or entity engaged in  
15 commercial fishing may only use a direct or  
16 guaranteed loan under this subtitle for—

17                           “(i) acquiring a commercial fishing  
18 permit;

19                           “(ii) acquiring a commercial fishing  
20 vessel; and

21                           “(iii) making capital improvements to  
22 a commercial fishing vessel.

23                   “(B) FISH PROCESSORS.—An individual or  
24 entity engaged in fish processing may use a di-  
25 rect or guaranteed loan under this subtitle for

1           acquiring or making capital improvements to a  
2           fish processing facility.”.

3       (c) FARM OPERATING LOANS.—

4           (1) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 311(a) of such Act  
5       (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended by adding at the end  
6       the following:

7           “(3) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND  
8       SHELLFISH.—Notwithstanding any other provision  
9       of this Act, for purposes of direct and guaranteed  
10      farm loans under this subtitle—

11           “(A) the terms ‘farmer’ and ‘rancher’ shall  
12      include an individual or entity engaged in com-  
13      mercial fishing or fish processing; and

14           “(B) the terms ‘farm’ and ‘ranch’ shall in-  
15      clude—

16           “(i) a commercial fishing vessel; and

17           “(ii) a fish processing facility.”.

18           (2) PURPOSES.—Section 312 of such Act (7  
19      U.S.C. 1942) is amended by adding at the end the  
20      following:

21      “(f) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS; FISH  
22      PROCESSORS.—

23           “(1) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS.—  
24      An individual or entity engaged in commercial fish-  
25      ing may only use a direct or guaranteed loan under

1       this subtitle for the costs associated with operating  
2       and maintaining a commercial fishing vessel.

3               “(2) FISH PROCESSORS.—An individual or enti-  
4       ty engaged in fish processing may use a direct or  
5       guaranteed loan under this subtitle for the costs as-  
6       sociated with operating and maintaining a fish proc-  
7       essing facility.”.

8       (d) IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION.—

9               (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
10       the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
11       shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure  
12       the successful and effective integration of individuals  
13       and entities in the commercial fishing industry, in-  
14       cluding those engaged in commercial fishing or fish  
15       processing (as those terms are defined in section  
16       343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-  
17       opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))), into each program  
18       of the Department of Agriculture for which those in-  
19       dividuals and entities are made eligible under the  
20       amendments made by this section.

21               (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE.—

22       In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

23               (A) provide outreach and technical assist-  
24       ance to participants in the commercial fishing  
25       industry, including through cooperative agree-

1           ments and public-private and other partner-  
2           ships, to promote awareness of and access to  
3           relevant programs;

4           (B) provide guidance and training to rel-  
5           evant agency personnel of the Department, in-  
6           cluding through cooperative agreements and  
7           public-private and other partnerships, to ensure  
8           program services are effectively delivered to the  
9           commercial fishing industry; and

10          (C) coordinate, as appropriate, with the  
11          National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-  
12          tion and other relevant Federal and State agen-  
13          cies to implement the amendments made by this  
14          section.

