

## **Clean Ocean Research Farm**

Clean Ocean's research farm would like to keep certain species found on the cable for research purposes and some of the species may be defined as "prohibited species." The Fishery Management Plan applies to the species listed in the "Final Rule" which are mostly shallow water species except for Black Corals (stony corals). It is to be assumed, the species attached to the cable will be of different variations due to the deeper depths. Most deep corals are not stony including black corals, which are widely agreed to be made of some type of protein (Unlike the hard skeletons of shallow water reef building coral, the black coral have flexible skeletons made of protein and chitin, the same material as insects shells, crabs and lobsters. As they grow they lay down new layers to help determine the age of the coral). One species of deep stony coral may exist (*Lophelia pertusa*, 200m to 1000m depths) which could be attached to the cable. Due to the uncertainty of the species attached to the cables and with consul, Clean Ocean will apply for and obtain a scientific/restoration permit prior to collection of any species for study at Clean Ocean research farm. Clean Ocean will consider the research as a "Fact Finding endeavor" and has applied for a scientific permit per Section 670.24 with NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Director.

### **Input and output requirements of the research farm**

Clean Ocean's research farm will be recirculating saltwater eliminating most of the waters for output. What excess waters are caused to be discharged will be dissipated on site in one of the many water tanks on Clean Ocean's site. No water will be discharged into the ocean or the surrounding environment.

Clean Ocean will not use seawater for use at it's coral research farm. Clean Ocean will simulate the ocean with fresh water tanks and not use any waters from the ocean in its research farm endeavor.