FISHERMAN & FARMER
LOAN PROGRAM

Fishermen Loans
Supporting Louisiana Seafood is a goal that LA SAFE heard across the coast. Fishermen struggle with changing ecosystems, increasing risk to their equipment, and cheap imported competition. They often need boat repairs and upgrades prior to fishing season. Due to the seasonal nature of the industry, conventional loans do not always meet their needs. This program will provide low-interest loans with a flexible repayment schedule that matches the fishing season. By supporting fishermen, this program also supports the Louisiana seafood industry as a whole, a cornerstone of Louisiana economy and culture.

Citrus Farmer Loans
Citrus farming has been a staple of Plaquemines Parish’s economy and culture for several generations, as memorialized by the annual Orange Festival, dating back to 1947. These low interest loans will be made available to citrus farmers to support the industry.

PROPOSAL
This program provides technical assistance and loans of up to $50,000 to residents in the fishing or citrus farming industries who do not have access to traditional lines of credit. Fishermen may use these loans to improve or repair boats and equipment, diversify into charter service or tourism, implement approved best practices or invest in product quality enhancement equipment. Loans would be low-interest and borrowers may be eligible for flexible repayment options based on seasonal income.

Key Info
- LA SAFE Investment: Up to $3 million
- Estimated Project Cost: $3 million
- Partners: Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), Coastal Communities Consulting (CCC), local Credit Union, or local non-profit
- Location: All of Plaquemines Parish

Community Benefits
Loans can be used to retrofit vessels to travel further distances and protect the seafood industry’s supply chain.

Loans program would bolster economic resilience for vulnerable, yet vital, industries and provide adaptation support as environmental conditions change.

Loans could be used by boat owners to diversify their business activities into charter or tour businesses. Supporting citrus helps support the Orange Festival.