

Aquacare Environment Inc

We support Cooke Pacific Aquaculture's efforts to convert their Atlantic salmon sea-cage grow-out sites to Steelhead trout. Aquaculture is an important industry in Washington and Cooke has invested heavily in it by buying the assets of another company who previously owned these cage sites. Cooke was in the process of replacing the failed cages at Cypress Island when the spill happened. That cage replacement was delayed by permitting delays. Now Cooke and the Department of Ecology have agreed on a plan to change to a native species and continue to grow this valuable industry in Washington. There is an incredibly talented team of Cooke employees in Washington dedicated to responsible, professional fish farming operations with modern equipment. We are confident that the change to Steelhead will be good for all. Over half the seafood consumed in the world is produced by aquaculture, and growing. Aquaculture helps takes pressure off of wild fisheries. Cooke should be allowed to convert their investment into Washington aquaculture to Steelhead.