

# Conrad Mahnken

I am Conrad Mahnken, a long-time resident of Bainbridge Island. I am writing in support of the Cooke Pacific Aquaculture request to culture sterile all-female triploid rainbow trout/steelhead rather than Atlantic Salmon at their net pen sites.

I am a retired NOAA Fisheries scientist with a PhD in fisheries science from the University of Washington. I retired from NOAA Fisheries after 20 years as Director of the NOAA Fisheries Manchester Laboratory which was involved in the development of aquaculture for a number of native and non-native, freshwater and marine species, as well as the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered Pacific salmon. Much of the original research on marine and freshwater net-pen culture occurred at Manchester; we were instrumental in development of technology for net pen culture of both Pacific and Atlantic salmon.

Prior to my retirement I also served as the first NOAA National Aquaculture Coordinator in Washington, D. C. Once retired, I served as a Commissioner on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission for a period of eleven years, from 2005 to 2016.

The Cooke proposal to change species should be approved as there is an overwhelming body of peer-reviewed scientific research demonstrating that the impact from properly located and operated net pen facilities is minimal. The concerns that have been raised are over-stated and not based on scientific fact.