

VICKIE MORANG

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for Cooke Aquaculture Steelhead Trout farming. It is my understanding that Cooke Aquaculture Pacific has applied for permits to transition to raising all-female triploid steelhead trout in its Washington state net pens.

Steelhead trout are a native species to Washington and Triploid organisms are normally sterile as their lack of homologous chromosomes prevents pairing during meiosis cannot reproduce, therefore mitigating any opportunity for wild-farmed fish interactions.

Raising sterile fish will minimize the risk of genetic interference to local Steelhead stocks.. This is a scientifically proven solution and would allow Cooke Aquaculture Pacific to continue to provide healthy and sustainable seafood products to their West Coast customers, while at the same time creating employment and business opportunities for Americans in the communities in which they operate.

The United States imports over 90% of the seafood it consumes. There is no reason we could not be producing more of our own seafood domestically.

Cooke Aquaculture, a family owned company, has been operating in rural coastal communities of Maine, for almost two decades. The company has proven itself in creating local job opportunities, and contributing to local economic activity in the communities where they farm.

Living in Eastport (population 1200), Maine where aquaculture is the heart of the city we are able to earn a living while living in our hometowns.

Thank you for allowing me to give my input

Vicki Morang