

# John Forster

Dear Sirs,

I just want to reaffirm my support for Cooke Aquaculture's application to grow sterile triploid Rainbow trout in their farms in Washington State instead of Atlantic salmon and I hope you will approve it. Not to do so will result in the extinction of an industry that has produced salmon in Puget Sound waters since the early 1980's, the loss of many jobs at a time when our economy can least afford it, and eliminate an industry that has enormous potential to grow in the years ahead.

For reference, I was the first General Manager of Stolt Sea Farm's salmon farming business in Port Angeles and their salmon hatchery in Rochester starting in 1984. I have worked in aquaculture since 1965 and seen it grow into an industry that now produces half of the world's seafood. It is inevitable that this growth will continue worldwide in the years ahead, providing healthful food and jobs for those who produce it. It would be a tragedy for Washington State to relinquish its leadership position in the U.S. aquaculture industry as a result of unsubstantiated claims by industry opponents.

John Forster BSc, PhD.