

# Joyce Ruiz

I am in support of Cooke Aquaculture Pacific's proposed plan to transition to raising all-female triploid Steelhead trout in the Washington State net pens. This is due to the change in Washington law requiring marine net pens to raise only native species of fish. Steelhead trout are a native species to Washington and triploids cannot reproduce. Raising sterile fish will minimize the risk of genetic interference to local Steelhead stocks. The all-female triploid Steelhead stocks do not mature and go into spawning mode and therefore have no instinct to reproduce themselves.

Port Angeles is in an area of the State where there is not a lot of family-wage employment and job opportunity. This new plan offers a good solution and allows Cooke Aquaculture Pacific to continue to be in business providing much needed jobs to our area as well as healthy and sustainable seafood products to consumers.

Allowing Washington State to produce its own seafood is also environmentally friendly.