

Craig Lithgow

I am employed in commercial salmon aquaculture in coastal Maine. The growth of aquaculture here has provided many alternative jobs for coastal families as traditional fisheries such as sardines and ground fish have declined. It is one industry helping to keep the working waterfront alive here. As a food source, salmon is a healthful protein source. The feed input to product ratio of around 1 to 1 is much lower than it is for land raised mammals and poultry, making it environmentally friendly. Advances in feed production that have reduced fish ingredients with grains have increased the sustainability of farmed salmon. Net pen raised fish also have a relatively small carbon footprint since electricity use is low. As demand for food is increasing worldwide, alternative methods of food production should be encouraged. In considering the permitting of steelhead for commercial aquaculture. I ask you to consider these benefits. Thank you.