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Commercial Atlantic salmon production has generated revenue and jobs in coastal Washington State communities for 40 years. The future of those industry contributions is in jeopardy as recent statewide litigation has banned production of non-native species, including Atlantic salmon, in Washington State. Steelhead trout are native to Washington State, thus are exempt from the non-native species ban. Production of sterile triploid steelhead is a viable and responsible alternative. I fully support the proposal to allow Cooke Aquaculture to produce sterile triploid steelhead in Puget Sound.

Reasons to support:

- 1) Continued provision of jobs and revenue for rural coastal communities in Washington State
- 2) Reduce the US reliance on foreign imports for
- 3) Sterility prevents introgression of commercial stocks with wild stocks.